

Creativity, Vision and Abstraction in Art and Science
Czech Ceramists in the *Galerie Marianne Heller*, Heidelberg,
25 June to 30 July 2000

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor and pleasure to be here with you, and open the exhibition of the ten Czech ceramists. There is not often that art exhibition is opened by scientist, but is quiet common that art is in fact presented at many scientific meetings.

Let me explain. Art is indeed present at many scientific meetings either in the form of a master pieces or in some other form. Ideas presented to lecture room audiences possess those artistic elements in the form of a vision, creativity and abstraction - all elements which bridge the two institutions of science and art.

Historically, art and science have had common roots. The evidence is persisting when many famous artists achieved a formal education first in the field of exact science and later on they switched to the art. Despite the fact that during many centuries both activities were separated and crossed the paths only in the Renaissance, recent discoveries in modern biology, genetic, telecommunications, have canonized science to being a specific kind of art. There is not wonder that working in science, in the molecular biology and genetic fields, or study the mass particle, one deals with virtual reality similar to artistic transformation of the emotion, or impression, into the three-dimensional object. Such scientists, just like artists, share vision, creativity and abstract ideas. Solid, apprehensible reality has vanished. They have become metaphors of relativity and connection. Under this framework the world is imagined as an abstract art.

Everybody knows that it would be a mistake to ascribe creative power to an inborn talent. *Creation* begins with vision - to look at everything as though seeing it for the first time, like a child. However, the creation is mostly understood as the only artist's true function. Creativity may be nothing more than an unusual juxtaposition of two very dissimilar things, leading from a treatment for one disease to a cure for another very different condition. It may be an artist combining totally unrelated elements in an artistic piece like ceramic example before us, to challenge the thinking of viewers.

In realm of scientific activity the most revolutionary ideas were born when untraditional approaches were taken to come up with the whole new concept. An artist, as well as a scientist, takes from our surroundings everything that can nourish his or her internal *vision*. The artist enriches himself internally with all the forms he has mastered in past, and set this background to a new rhythm. It is in the expression of this rhythm that the artist's work becomes really creative. The scientist enriches himself or herself internally with the inherited knowledge from the past extended by self study, social milieu and the passion for discovery. To create means to express what we possess within ourselves.

Although art can be viewed as a more emotional expression and science a more rational one, both have in common the unlimited horizon and unfinished process of searching for new solutions. Great love is needed to achieve this - a love capable of inspiring and sustaining that patient yearning towards truth and analytic profundity that accompanies the birth of any work of art and science. Only great masterpieces and discoveries survive today and accompanying us as a milestones along the evolution of creative of the mankind.

Culture is a core part of our identities as human beings, connected to our root assumption about life and the world, to our ancestors, and to the fundamental text of our social world. That is a basic platform from which presented masterpieces of ten Czech artists originate. Both ceramic and porcelain could be categorized as an Earth Art, using the clay as a tool for artist's interpretation of the essence of nature rather than exact duplication of nature. The great variety of styles, topics, feelings, state of the souls and skills are in front of you, which due to this diversity I call portfolio. Every piece is asking for your attention. Here is sweet, ironical view on the faulty human behavior. The next is reminiscence on the past, either holiday or historical memory. The abstract forms are experimental approaches to test the material on its capacity to express the most sensitive state of the mind and soul.

The art has not final determination, the fixed is only start point but final destination is up to you. The start point is piece of the art, his interpretation depends on your experiences, state of the mind, spiritual sensitivity and your fantasy. Everything is worthy of your attention, each piece will do imprint into your internal life and brings you to happiness.

“Only Spirit when breath in the clay, may create the Man”
(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

June 15, 2000
Dr. Michal Giboda