**David Hanvald / Conceptual Spring in Aesthetic Prague**

4 May to 14 July 2018

Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář

Salvátorská 6, Prague 1, CZ

Tuesday to Saturday from 1 pm to 6 pm

[www.zdeneksklenar.com](http://www.zdeneksklenar.cz)

**PRESS RELEASE**

2 May 2018

**Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář has the pleasure of presenting *Conceptual Spring in Aesthetic Prague* – an exhibition by the young painter David Hanvald – at its gallery space in Salvátorská Street. Similarly, as is the case with the artist’s other works, Hanvald’s new cycle of three-dimensional paintings, this time with a motif of children’s building blocks, is based on his distinctive way of confronting space, order and geometry with an unrestrained colour palette. The series of paintings in the current installation contains references to specific chapters in art history as well as reflections about the mission of architecture. Here, Hanvald works with a cycle of motifs of children’s building blocks. He refers to, for instance, the reflections of the Finnish architecture theoretician Juhani Pallasmaa, whose book *The Eyes of the Skin* elaborates the idea that architecture need not be of a high quality in and of itself, but that it depends on the context of the environment within which it is set.**

Hanvald paints frames, shadows, partitions, and parts of images, using geometric lines to depict visible constructions and spatial 3D effects, which he transfers to the two-dimensional surface of the painting, and, working in the other direction, he transforms two-dimensional motifs and puts them on a three-dimensional canvas. He uses works from art history, which he subsequently interprets within new contexts, portraying them in a new way. A starting point for him may be, for example, an object by the American artist Bruce Nauman, one of Luis Kahn’s unrealised architectural designs, or a still life photograph by Josef Sudek. In his artworks, David Hanvald (born in 1980 in Liberec) expands on and interprets the artistic legacy of a number of key personae from various periods, ranging from painters and sculptors to architectural theorists. He works with the principles of the construction and deconstruction of an image, alluding to the language of modern art, and is interested in the relationship between space and surface, for example how a spatial object – an image – may be expressed on a surface.

David Hanvald, inspired by the gallery’s exhibition space, installed his artworks himself, and the design, just like his art, is permeated with the fascination of dimensionality and the visual interpretation of objects. “*For me, a painting is a visual affair, the result of a construction of thoughts and ideological development, which, at the same time, has aesthetic qualities. I do not primarily think of it as a work of art, but rather as the birth of something which is linked to a certain degree of professional skill and rational thinking. And this combination gives rise to a result that may be called a painting*,” says the artist. “*The ideological motif of this work is the visual language of children’s building blocks, which I use to record structural elements. Using a bold painterly gesture I portray the simple, geometric motif of a block, a child’s toy, which I transfer from the 3D environment to the two-dimensional surface of the canvas, yet the portrayed object*

*does not lose any of its spatial properties. By playing with scale and shifting the field of vision, I create visual objects and explore the question of what the current painting might personify,”* concludes Hanvald.

The exhibition at Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář – Salvátorská includes originals in which Hanvald tracks how images are adjusted, and how one works with a canvas within the context of space. His new objects are a continuation of the other paintings with a motif of children’s building blocks.

**Guided tours with the artist:**

**Tuesday, 22 May** from **6 pm**

**Tuesday, 19 June** from **6 pm**

Please confirm your participation by sending an email to: galerie@zdeneksklenar.cz

[Click here to download print quality photographs.](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/puuu3ji97nfgaqd/AAB7B5zr8A75nE5qFVQI2aIza?dl=0)

A series of posters, numbered 1/100 to 100/100 and signed by David Hanvald and Zdeněk Ziegler, has been produced to accompany the exhibition.

For more information about the exhibition, please contact Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář**:**

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[www.zdeneksklenar.cz](http://www.zdeneksklenar.cz/)

[www.instagram.com/galerie\_zdenek\_sklenar/](http://www.instagram.com/galerie_zdenek_sklenar/)

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22 March to 27 May 5. 2018

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