

# Labyrinths



**Labyrinths II.**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2018

Acrylic on canvas

120 x 190 cm

The current exhibition in the offices of White & Case presents a selection of works by Kateřina Štenclová, a representative of the post-Revolution generation and one of the few Czech artists who has systematically and consistently focused on abstract painting.

This marks already the tenth installment in a series of art installations at the Prague office of the international law firm White & Case. The project places the works of contemporary Czech artists in the context of office premises that, owing to their unique architecture, transcend their designation as mere office space. The objective is to create a showcase for works of art by established as well as up-and-coming contemporary authors from the broader spectrum of the local artistic community, and thus to contribute to a broader awareness of what today's Czech visual art scene has to offer – and to do so outside the narrow confines of galleries and private collections.



**To Blue**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2016

Acrylic on canvas

135 x 150 cm

# Kateřina Štenclová

**Kateřina Štenclová** (\*1959) is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (1982-1988). Already in her early creative period she was drawn to non-figurative painting, to abstraction, which provides the author with the creative freedom and space to explore and express the diversity of the world, despite the original lack of understanding on the part of local artistic circles at the time, which tended towards symbolic programs and narrative content. In the artist's own words: *"... I need to feel colors, I live inside my emotions a lot ... and to express myself freely, without constraints, and that's perhaps why I chose abstract painting, without a great deal of contemplation and sorting."* (Interview for ČT24, 1/16/2013).





**Dynamic**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2008

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 160 cm

She has been exhibiting her work in solo and group exhibitions in renowned galleries in the Czech Republic and abroad regularly since the early 1990s, and her works are represented in the collections of the National Gallery Prague and many other public institutions and private collections. The painter came to the attention of art experts and the general public with her first large solo exhibition, "Light of Color", in Prague's Nova sin (1994), where she exhibited her work with monochrome color surfaces and the construction of painted objects, whereby she would place paintings to hang flush with each other at various heights in a groundbreaking site-specific installation. She further developed this line with her exhibition "Boundaries of the Event" at the National Gallery Trade Fair Palace (1999), which she prepared together with curator Tomáš Pospiszył, with whom she collaborates to this day.



**Flying**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2012

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm



Her other key exhibitions include "Picture-to-Picture - becoming Picture" at the XXL Gallery in Louny (2008), where the author first presented her innovative technique of drip painting on plastic tarpaulins, and where she began to pay greater attention to color details and the involvement of shapes and strokes in her paintings, and to the final composition in various color scales. Gradually, more painterly expressions, spontaneity and interest in layering and working with the structure of the painting appeared in her work - for example, the exhibitions "Je peins donc je suis - I paint, so I am" at the French Institute (2015), and "Light of Color II" at the Gallery of Modern Art in Roudnice nad Labem (2017), where the author purposefully returned to the basic theme of the study of light and color from her groundbreaking exhibition in Nova sin in 1994.



**Labyrinths I.**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2018

Acrylic on canvas

190 x 120 cm



**White Detail III.**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2008

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 145 cm

For many years, Kateřina Štenclová's creative endeavors have been characterized by her focused, recurrent, yet constantly slightly shifting exploration of the inner world and its subsequent translation into a painting by means of masterly painting technique. Her paintings do not feature the traditional abstraction of outside reality (e.g. nature and objects), but rather attention on an abstract depiction of the state of the human mind and the very essence of our own existence – our inner world, which informs our actions in the outside world. The artist, undaunted, revisits her eternal themes (colors, light, planes, boundaries, structures and layering), which lend meaning to her paintings even on this very abstract level.

Kateřina Štenclová's artistic daring and commitment to working outside the easily recognizable and describable is apparent from her latest exhibitions: "*Limits of My Speech*" at Galerie Topičův salón in Prague (2019), and in particular at her recent "*Retro*" exhibition at Galerie Klatovy Klenová (in the fall of 2020), where she presented a retrospective of her work.



**Eco-Insight**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2020

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 105 cm

The paintings we are exhibiting at White & Case represent works from the past ten years. We can see her treatment of color details (e.g. in paintings from 2008, White detail I. and III., Dynamic), the transition to greater expressiveness (paintings Nocturno and Flying from 2012), and work with color layering and surface structuring with the resulting achievement of internal depth and plasticity of the image (Obsolete from 2015, To Blue and Light from 2016, or the Principle of Neutrality from 2017).

The most recent period is represented by the paintings Eco-Insight (2020) and Labyrinths I and II. (2018), where the layering element is transformed into an examination of vertical and horizontal lines and surfaces and their mutual penetration and demarcation. As curator Tomáš Pospiszyl summarizes it: *"... Her paintings thus return to the themes of borders, limits and delimitations. They do not bring restlessness and tension, but rather moments of dynamic harmony, underlining the author's painting experience."* (Introductory text to the catalog of the exhibition 'Limits of My Speech', Topičův salon, Prague, 2019).





**Insights III.**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
85 x 75 cm



**White Detail I**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2008  
Acrylic on canvas  
160 x 145 cm

Kateřina Štenclová named several of her most recent paintings very aptly 'Labyrinths'. A labyrinth is a space that, unlike a maze, has a given entrance and a single pathway to its center, with no dead ends. Although there is only one route to the goal in the labyrinth, it is rather complex, unrecognizable at first glance or attempt, and it is certainly not straightforward.

Taking a walk through a labyrinth, which helps a person calm down and reflect, has been used since ancient times in meditation and group ritual, and is currently used in psychotherapy, for example. Therefore, a suitable comparison with the paintings of Kateřina Štenclová is offered, whose visual labyrinths based on the abstractly expressed author's emotions, experiences and thoughts may also be incomprehensible at first glance. However, once the viewer decides to enter the labyrinths of her paintings and be guided on the path to their imaginary center, they can perceive and discover their own inner world in the course of this journey.



**Light**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2016

Acrylic on canvas

135 x 160 cm



**Principle of Neutrality**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2017

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 120 cm

*"It's about meditation, and also a little about opening up a bit in contemplation, when you are able to perceive colors, shapes, strokes, compositions, just like that, for yourself, not because they are supposed to hint at something, or carry a message: it's about a sort of relaxation that ought to flow, or border on the physical ... so that people can pause and open up, rather than see this or that or that in the pictures." (Interview for ČT24, 1/16/2013).*





**Nocturne**

*Kateřina Štenclová*

2012

Acrylic on canvas

80 x 76 cm



Other paintings by Kateřina Štenclová can be found  
in the following areas:

**Striped**

2015

Acrylic on canvas

135 x 110 cm

Conference room no. 6, 8th floor

**Structural Detail**

2018

Acrylic on canvas

135 x 110 cm

Conference room no. 7, 8th floor

**Obsolete**

2015

Acrylic on canvas

135 x 160 cm

Conference room no. 4, 9th floor

Selection, presentation and sale of works by ARTWORKs

Email: [hunt@artworks.cz](mailto:hunt@artworks.cz), [stein@artworks.cz](mailto:stein@artworks.cz) | Tel: (420) 603 525 294, (420) 777 350 429