

Layering



ZOOM

Mirek Kaufman

2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

170 x 190 cm

The current exhibition in the offices of White & Case presents a selection of works by Mirek Kaufman, a representative of the post-Revolution generation, who has consistently been inspired by and depicted turbulent landscapes - those that surround us, those that are hidden under layers about to burst through and those which are reflected in us, in our thoughts and etched on our faces.

This represents the eleventh 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.



BIVAK

Mirek Kaufman

2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

120 x 100 cm

Mirek Kaufman

Mirek Kaufman studied from 1983-1989 at the Academy of Fine Arts (AVU) in Prague and at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris with several study stays in France and Switzerland over the course of the 1990s. These experiences formed his close relationship to French culture and history; he is a francophone and calls France his second home.



THE POWER OF MOUNTAIN

Mirek Kaufman

2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

150 x 130 cm

Kaufman devotes himself primarily to painting but also works with photography and his approach to the two media are similar – the photos as the paintings play with layers, depths, reflections and have been described as painterly. He characterizes his work both in paintings and photographs “...as a projection surface where the inner and outer multiple-exposed images overlap, permeate and spill over.” He also works on graphic design projects and artists’ books. And besides his own creative pursuits, Kaufman has also led workshops to develop the creative skills of others, namely with the Jamming project for people with mental disabilities at the Dox Center for Contemporary Art.



HIGH MOUNTAIN

Mirek Kaufman

2019

Acrylic on canvas

140 x 70 cm

Mirek Kaufman's creations consist of sweeping pictorial cycles finding inspiration in the limitlessness of cosmology, the micro worlds of nature which are replicated in the macro and the turbulent changes in our environment..... "a confrontation of everyday moments with phenomena and events that transcend us" is how the artist further describes his work.



BREATHE

Mirek Kaufman

2015 – 2016
Acrylic and oil on canvas
140 x 100 cm



MELANCHOLIC ÉTUDE 3

Mirek Kaufman

2019
Acrylic and oil on canvas
60 x 50 cm

Kaufman's paintings are a depiction of the physical but also the imaginings of other dimensions. Formally, the images are a mix of precise, sharply demarcated areas and vague, unclear yet organically formed shapes. The paintings thus oscillate on the border of abstraction and figuration, and their design leaves much room for our imagination. The characteristic 'liquidity' of his painting highlights feelings of instability and flux drawing a parallel with today's fast pace of change and increasing uncertainties. His painting process is complex with the paint slowly blending and drying in layers, the flood of diluted paint creating a microscopic structure as it dries, leaving subtle contours and borders.



inEXTREMIS 1

Mirek Kaufman

2018 – 2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

80 x 70 cm

Most of the works shown at White & Case come from three exhibitions in 2019 - In extremis from Topičův salon, Observation Fields from Petr Novotný gallery and Mixed Emotions from Prostor 228 in Liberec. While the first two focus on landscapes, Mixed Emotions presented a series of faces, and the emotions Kaufman fleetingly captures on these faces he describes as analogous to nature "the intention is not to illustrate or document individual emotions - rather it is a matter of essence, where individual shades of feelings and moods overlap and intertwine. ... it is a process with a high degree of elasticity, times of apparent harmony or, conversely, corrosive restlessness... Nothing happens at once, but in layers, by gradual re-tuning. For the incomprehensibility and ephemerality of human emotions, I find an analogy in nature, with its dramatic and limitless ability to transform."



MIXED EMOTIONS 2

Mirek Kaufman

2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

60 x 50 cm



EMPTY CONTOUR

Mirek Kaufman

2018

Acrylic and oil on canvas

60 x 50 cm



BELOW THE SURFACE

Mirek Kaufman

2019
acrylic and oil on canvas
150 x 130 cm



PROFILE – PERSPECTIVE

Mirek Kaufman

2019

Acrylic and oil on canvas

70 x 60 cm



INCLINE

Mirek Kaufman

2018

Acrylic and oil on canvas

140 x 100 cm

Other paintings by Mirek Kaufman can be found in the following areas:

BROKEN HORIZON, 2019, acrylic and oil on canvas 120 x 100 cm, conference room no. 6, 8th floor

PRIMORDIAL MOUNTAINS, 2019, acrylic and oil on canvas 120 x 100 cm, conference room no. 7, 8th floor

ACTIVATION, 2018, acrylic and oil on canvas, 150 x 130 cm, conference room no. 4, 9th floor

WARNING, 2019, acrylic and oil on canvas, 170 x 190, wall opposite elevators, 7th floor

FATA MORGANA, 2019, acrylic and oil on canvas, 170 x 150, 7th floor

STAGED LANDSCAPE 2, 2019, acrylic and oil on canvas, 70 x 60 cm, 9th floor

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