

Press release: exhibition invitation

Jakub Špaňhel: Venesia

27 November 2024 – 8 January 2025

Curator: Radek Wohlmuth



Trafó Gallery cordially invites you to an exhibition of paintings by Jakub Špaňhel (*1976) entitled Venesia. The exhibition features work created in Venice, where the artist has been living for some time. Unlike his earlier canvases, in these more recent paintings Špaňhel gets closer to the genius loci of this important artistic centre and conveys a more spiritually profound view of it. The exhibition opening will take place on Tuesday 26 November 11 at 7pm at Trafó Gallery, with a guided tour on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 6pm. For more information, please visit www.trafogallery.cz.

Jakub Špaňhel (*1976) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts under Jiří David and Milan Knížák. While still a student he aroused the keen interest of collectors, and this has only increased over recent years. He combines what at first glance is recognisable as an “expressionist” style with baroque elements such as gold accents, spectacular work with light, and the subject matter itself, which ranges from sacred architecture to crystal chandeliers. No wonder, then, that he has fallen under the spell of Venice, Italy, a major Renaissance and Baroque art centre, where two years ago he set up his own studio in a 15th-century building.

The exhibition Venesia will offer the viewer a representative selection of Špaňhel’s most recent work, which, according to curator Radek Wohlmuth, captures the place “*where [Jakub Špaňhel] can paint whatever his eyes alight on for the rest of his life. In other words, he has begun to live in his paintings.*” And so the artist brings Venetian side streets, hidden facades, dusty portals and old Madonnas from church interiors to light in his work and contrasts them with the more familiar views of a tourist he had worked on in earlier years.

Join us in celebrating the work of one of the most sought-after contemporary Czech painters and become acquainted with the “city on water” from an unusual perspective, a less familiar one that that captured by such masters as Tintoretto, Canaletto or, closer to home, Jan Zrzavý.

On Wednesday 11 December at 6pm, Trafó Gallery will host the official launch of the exhibition catalogue.

We would like to thank the partners of Trafó Gallery: Prague City Hall, Canadian Medical, the ČEZ Group, Hospodářské noviny, Seznam.cz, Prague Public Transit Company, Art District 7, Art Revue, Radio 1, Wine4You and MOSŤ Nápoje / Beverages s.r.o.

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Trafó Gallery, Hala 14, Pražská tržnice, Bubenské nábřeží 306/13, Prague 7, trams 1, 12, 14, 25, metro Vltavská (300 m), open Tue–Sun 3–7pm, Sat 10am–7pm, www.trafogallery.cz, IG: [trafo_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/trafo_gallery), FB: [trafogalerie](https://www.facebook.com/trafogalerie)