

Press release for the exhibition

**František Skála: Abstractio per naturam**

**6. 6. – 20. 7. 2025**

**Curator: Tomáš Pospiszyl**

**Trafo Gallery invites you to the exhibition of painter, sculptor and performer František Skála (\* 1956), who will present his current work in the Trafo Gallery, in which he combines natural materials, playfulness and distinctive aesthetics with his own ease. The opening will take place on Thursday 5 June 2025 at 19:00. The exhibition will be accompanied by a bilingual publication in graphic design by Jana Vahalíková. For more information, please visit www.trafogallery.cz.**

The exhibition Abstractio per naturam presents the exceptional face of František Skála - works whose simplicity and distinctive aesthetics border on abstraction or minimalism. The author does not deviate from his established creative path, he only brings his processes and their results to a formally and contentally refined essence. In fact, terms such as abstraction or minimalism can only serve as a tool to describe the transparent purity of the Skála distillate that the exhibited artworks represent.

In the series entitled Folded Industry, František Skála deliberately limits his own painterly handwriting. He allows the sparse paint to infuse itself into the offered, variously folded ground material. At first glance, however, this almost conceptual approach leads to products that bear an unmistakable authorial expression. The final canvases are transformed into letters, floor plans or framed fields for our imaginations.

The painting cycle Circles is defined by circular or elliptical pads and natural pigments. The artist uses them to create concentric colour chords and such a minimal creative language bears the imprint of his aesthetics. The sediments of colour harmony have the power of a hypnotic window into another dimension of being, and their titles sometimes push them towards poetic or, conversely, earthly playful meanings.

The sculptural series Models of Monuments (Momo) benefits not only from the material used (hollows used in the textile industry), but above all from its intimate scale. It is easy to imagine the tiny and translucent shapes as scaled-down modernist works for public space, but also to reverse-dream of miniature cityscapes in which these sculptures would find their final application. The exhibition at Trafo Gallery will include a site-specific installation in a room dimension.

Under the cosmopolitan title Stones and Bones lies a series of tiny bone sculptures on slate plinths. These are monuments designed for various world capitals, which are still awaiting realisation.

František Skála's work often impresses his viewers with its lightness, giving the impression that the artist miraculously finds his works in his surroundings. But simplicity does not mean ease; in fact, it requires demanding work, perhaps only sometimes crowned with a happy accident. The current exhibition at Trafo Gallery is thus above all the result of the artist's many years of experience with the natural world and with human material production.

**Thanks to the partners of Trafo Gallery:** Magistrát hlavního města Prahy, Canadian Medical, Skupina ČEZ, Hospodářské noviny, Art District 7, Art Revue, Radio 1, Wine4You a M0ST Nápoje / Beverages s.r.o.

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Trafo Gallery, Hala 14, Pražská tržnice, Bubenské nábřeží 306/13, Praha 7, tram 1, 12, 14, 25, metro Vltavská (300 m), open Tue–Sun 15–19 h, Sat 10–19 h, www.trafogallery.cz, IG: trafo\_gallery,
FB: trafogalerie.

**Trafo Gallery has been chosen Gallery of the Year by the Czech Academy of Visual Arts. Thank you!**