

TELEGRAPH

PRESS RELEASE
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Concentrated Provocation: British Artist Jake Chapman Exhibits at Telegraph Gallery

What will remain on Earth without people? One of the most controversial contemporary British artists, Jake Chapman, is exhibiting remnants of a lost civilisation at the Telegraph Gallery in Olomouc. Returning to the Czech Republic after eleven years, this time with his solo show *Flotsam & Jetsam*. Nearly 50 works, including a smoking Trabant, biting paintings, and primitive totems, are on display at Telegraph Gallery until 21 November 2024. Additionally, on the weekend of 7–8 September, there was an exclusive pop-up installation by the Chapman Brothers.

The term 'Flotsam & Jetsam' refers in English to debris or 'Flotsam' found in the sea that was not deliberately thrown overboard, often as the result of a shipwreck or accident, and debris 'Jetsam' that was deliberately thrown overboard by a crew of a ship in distress, most often to lighten the ship's load. A sense of distress and cultural off-loading is the central tenant in the current offering at the Telegraph Gallery by world-famous British artist Jake Chapman at Telegraph Gallery in Olomouc. The curator of the exhibition is Mark Sanders.

Jake Chapman delves into the theme of a future without humans. What would an alien anthropologist find on Earth? Only scattered debris. „Such thoughts play a central role in Jake Chapman's practice, an artist who over the past few decades, has never shied away from challenging our comfortable ways of viewing. In this latest body of work, the artist points to an Accelerationist theory of the future. Accelerationism foresees a time when an alternative intelligence holds sway. Where the evolutionary logic of late Capitalism, the integration of technology with capital, ultimately leads to our eventual extinction and demise. A time of domination by alternative intelligence is approaching,” explains the exhibition curator, Mark Sanders.

In the centre of the gallery stands a Soviet car Trabant, its engine running idle at set times during the day and there is a little melodrama taking place within it. Two mannequins committing suicide, endlessly, forever, and ever. Embellished with quantum diagrams, this emblem of the 'masses' is surrounded by détourned May '68 posters and modified smiley banners alongside a series of new Yoga inspired paintings, wood carvings featuring Neo-Liberalithic Era deities, and totem masks. Watching all this is a mutilated snowman.

“They are totemic in a fallacious way. They are covered in cowrie shells, hippy beads, gluten-free pasta, and various wooden spoons, the spoon being the most mundane human object ever conceived. Carving wood is probably the most masochistic activity I could engage in. But authenticity here is the difference between a hoverfly and a wasp. These sculptures are hoverflies. They mimic wasps. You might consider them to be honest and sincere. But they are pointless, and without stings. Or are they?” says British artist Jake Chapman.

Working in collaboration with his brother Dinos Chapman from the 1990s, the duo made a series of iconic and provocative works that subvert social norms. Including, for example, large fibreglass models of deformed children, détourned original etchings by Francisco Goya and William Hogarth,

a series of 'improved' Adolf Hitler watercolours, and a giant rendition of Hell with modified and mutilated toy soldiers, described by art critic Brian Sewell as the first great artwork of the twenty-first century. Since 2020, the brothers have gone their separate ways. In 2013, the brothers had a successful show at Prague's Rudolfinum Gallery. The then exhibition's curator, Otto Urban, will lead a guided tour at the Telegraph Gallery in Olomouc.

Exclusive side event programme

An exclusive part of the side event was a pop-up installation by Chapman Brothers in the Telegraph LOFT. Brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman exhibited several collaborative works over the weekend of 7 and 8 September (Saturday 2–7 pm, Sunday 2–6 pm). The pop-up exhibition was for those who wanted to get beneath the surface of seemingly shocking scenes. The film *Accelerate or Die* was screened at the Telegraph Cinema on 4 September at 6 pm. It answers questions about why it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism.

Additionally, the November program will feature a guided tour and the launch of the exhibition catalog on November 13, led by art historian and curator Otto M. Urban. The program will culminate in a closing event on November 22, offering a unique combination of yoga with Jake Chapman and Mark Sanders.

Useful information

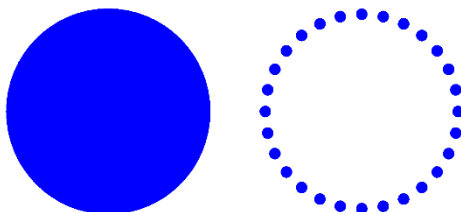
The Telegraph Gallery is open Tuesday to Thursday from 9 am to 7 pm, Friday from 9 am to 9 pm, and Saturday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Entrance to the exhibition is 50 CZK. Members of the TLG CLUB loyalty programme can visit the exhibition for free and enjoy other benefits.

Contact

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JAKE CHAPMAN: FLOTSAM & JETSAM

09/05 – 11/21/2024 (opening 09/05/2024 at 6 pm)
Curator: Mark Sanders



TELEGRAPH GALLERY
Jungmannova 4, Olomouc
www.telegraph.cz/en

Opening hours Tuesday–Thursday 9 am – 7 pm, Friday 9 am – 9 pm, Saturday–Sunday 10 am – 6 pm
Entrance 50 CZK, free for TLG CLUB members.

Telegraph Gallery regularly presents exhibitions of contemporary art from the Czech Republic and abroad. On 350 m² displays the work of well-known and also overlooked artists of all ages. It also hosts workshops; art courses and offers residencies to Czech and international artists. For more information visit <https://telegraph.cz/en/gallery>.

TLG CLUB

The Telegraph Gallery offers membership in the TLG CLUB loyalty programme. Members receive free entry to exhibitions, discounts on publications, and a range of other benefits. Memberships can be purchased at the Telegraph's reception desk or online. For details on the loyalty program, visit <https://telegraph.cz/en/tlgrphclub>.

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