

# *Dateky !!!*



*The Art in the eyes of the great masters*

*Led by Diana Rachmuth*

# THE WORD OF THE AUTHOR



**Audrey Molliet**

This summer, the second edition of art workshops for mentally disabled people took place in Brno, Czech Republic. They were animated by swiss artists or people active in the artistic domain.

The workshop was led by Diana Rachmuth, who has an architect's formation and now teaches children about art and history of art. She is also my god-mother and a good friend of mine. She brought me with her as a photographer and help through this adventure.

Adventure because it really was one for me. Not because of the long travel by night train or the fact of visiting a new country. I am talking about experiencing a new vision of life. This was my first contact with disabled people so far and I cannot deny I was a little bit anxious about that. But I was truely

mistaken to be afraid.

Thanks to their kindness, simplicity and candour, the participants opened my eyes. They reminded to me that good people still exist. People who heard during their whole life that they were different, who are conscious they are different, but who are happy. Because the people I met this summer surely were happy. They laughed and made jokes about everything, with a child-like simplicity. And they made us laugh with them.

These young persons made me realize that, though we were not really built the same way, our hearts are similar. They showed tolerance, love and thruth. What I learned from this contact was that we need to enhance the diffenrences we have with other people. In order to gain a new vision of the world. This is how we can grow up!

## CONTENT



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**P. 6 - 7:** about History of Art and the creating process.



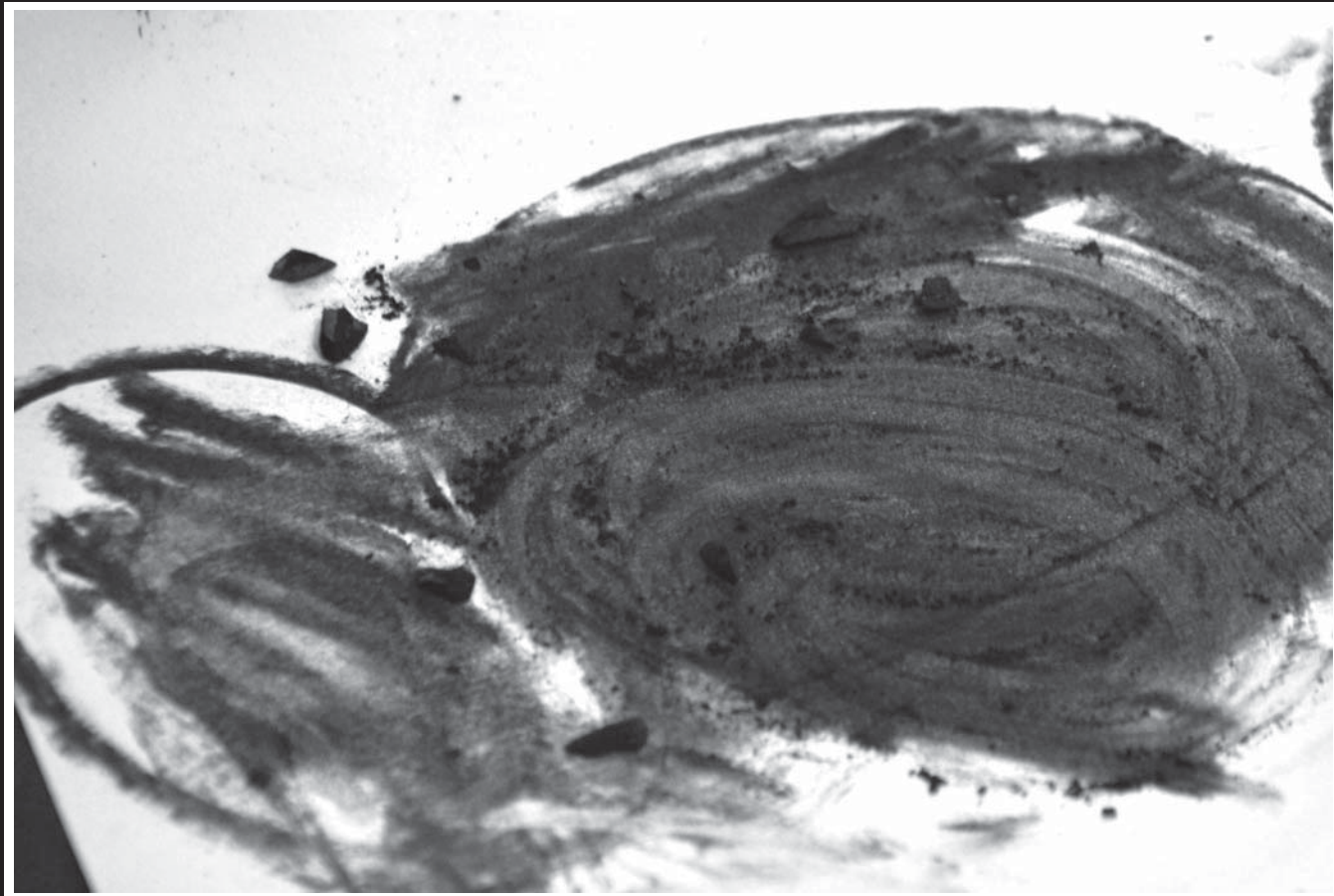
**P. 8 - 9:** about one's sensibility and creation.

**P. 10 - 11:** about being observed and observe.



**P. 12 - 13:** about the breaks, which were also an important part of the day.

# INTRODUCTION



The students experienced many media, including charcoal. In which they found a very expressive way of drawing.

**T**his booklet is what we can call a summary or a report about the workshop Doteky III, set up by Kunstat pro futuro, directed by Zdena Popelkova.

I collected my best pictures in order to make an account of this week of creation.

The theme of the workshop was “Art in

the eyes of the great masters”. Diana Rachmuth’s point was to start a reflection in her student’s mind about art and what use art does really have. «We need to eat or to breathe, otherwise we die. But what purpose does art have? It is not a vital function.»

So, why did men begin to doodle on cavern’s walls, why did they represent their kings on mosaics, why had they to paint

beautiful goddesses inside of shells? The students had to find their own answer by observing paintings and other works in Brno Moravian Gallery.

Every student had its proper way to draw, observe and create. Some were more cautious and perfectionist. Other were more free and intuitive.

Let us take a tour of this creative week!

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The team preparing a new project. From left to right: Marek, Diana, Martin, Pavlina.

Many persons were here to accompany the students and to help Diana. There was Petr, Sasha, Pavlina and many others.

As Pavlina spoke German, such as Diana and I, she had the role of a translator. She helped us to communicate with the students because we aren't able to speak Czech.

The students were really receptive about the directives Diana gave them. She often explain many times with a lot of gestures, so they could get precisely what she wanted. Pavlina then translated the directives into Czech and sometimes simplified them in order to help the students understand them.





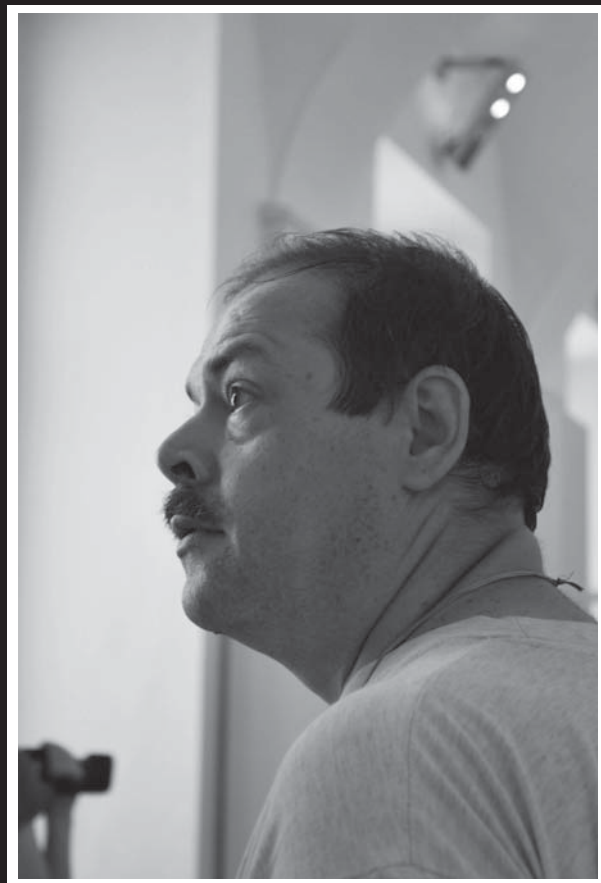
Petr and Martin (from left to right).



Petra had a quick and intuitive way of drawing.

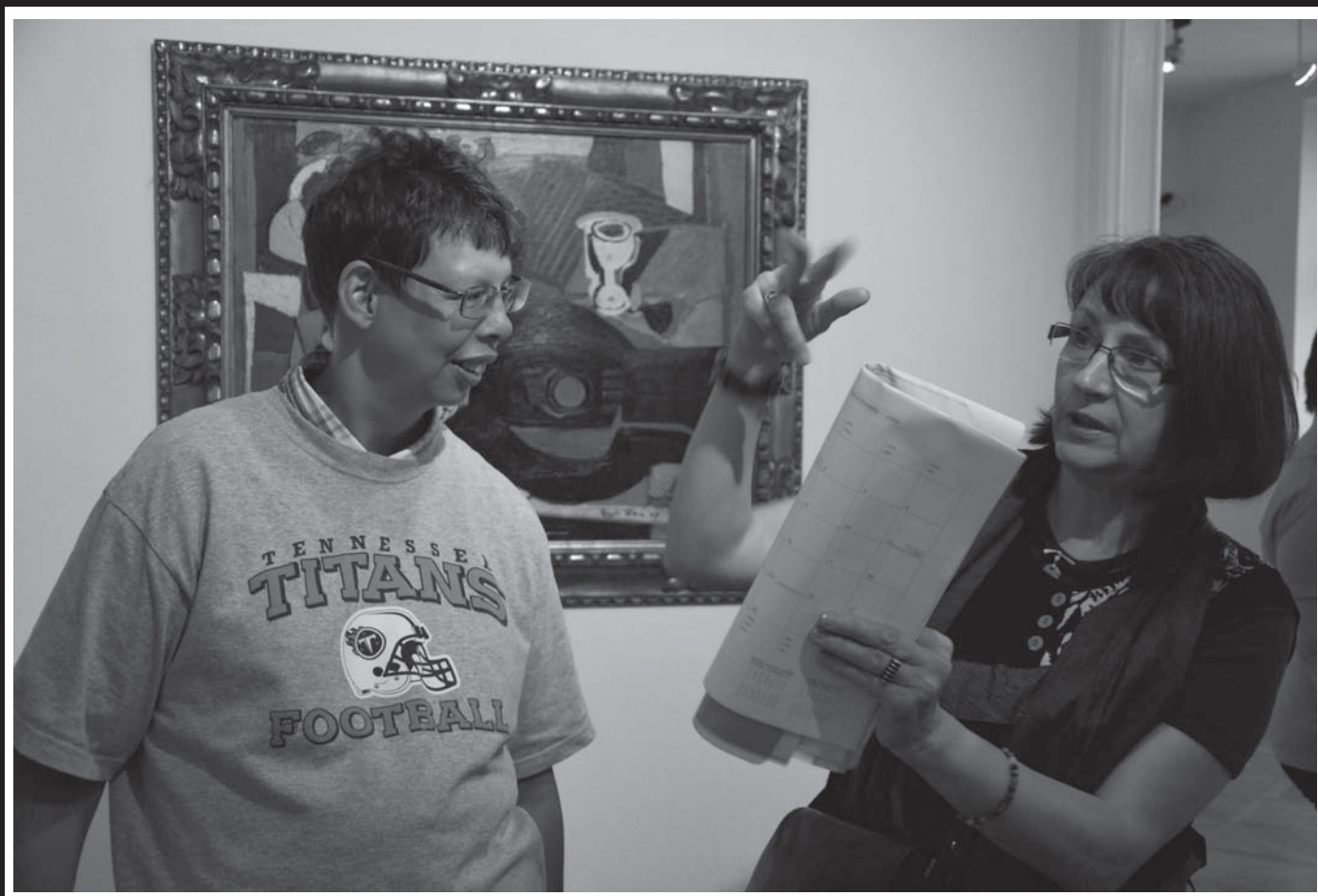
Diana is helping Pavel, who was very meticulous and perfectionist in his work.





Up: Petra (left) and Martin (right) in a rather contemplative way. / Down: Ludmila talking to Martin and Pavel.





Diana is speaking with Marek about the picture he liked the best.

Usually, we went to the Moravian Gallery for some History of Art lessons.

Diana would talk about a chosen themes such as portrait, self-portrait or still living. The students had to make a reflection about the theme. They could wander into the small museum (we stayed at the same floor) and spot the works that reflected what we had talked about.

One day, they had to chose portraits that reminded them of some member of their family. This day was rich in emotion because a student was reminded of her recently dead father, which caused her much sadness.

Another day, we went to another section of the Moravian Gallery, which contains a lot of classical art and religious art. There, Ludmila led the History of Art course. She made the students sensible about why painters drew Jesus and Maria, why they would represent holy subjects. This was also a rich day. Some of the students were really astonished about the voluptuous baroque paintings of naked Danaes or other nymphs.

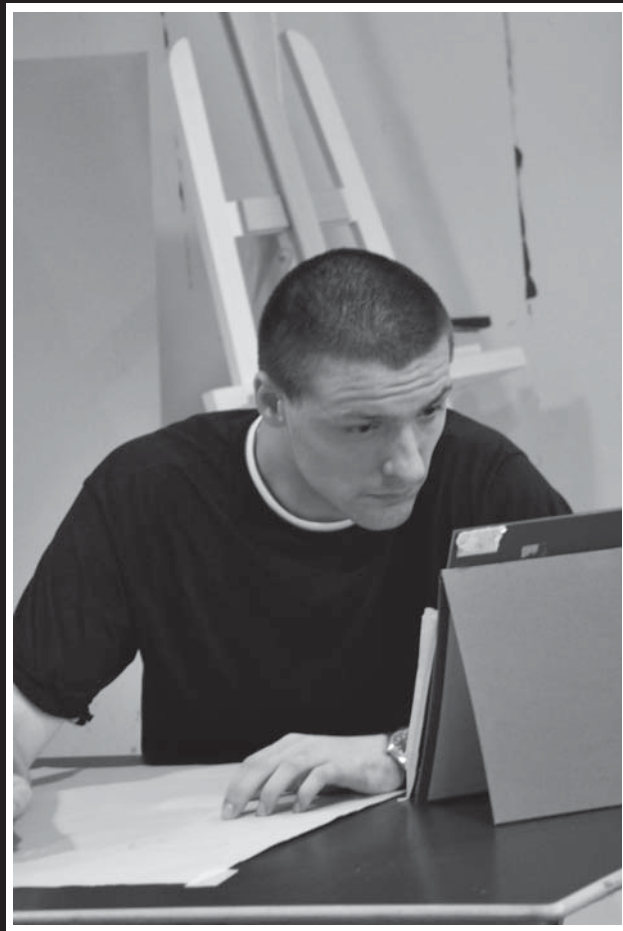
Generally speaking, everybody was really receptive about the lessons and participated a lot, asking questions or making remarks. The students shew a particularly keen interest in portraits and group portraits. Diana explained to them that it was a way of representing

the everyday life before photography existed. She said that, from the invention of photography, painters were able to develop their own styles and sensibilities, as they weren't bid to represent the reality anymore. That gave way to style such as impressionism or cubism. The participants were able to express their own styles as well, when painting or drawing with charcoal per example.

Some of the students liked cubism or abstract art. Some weren't. They were quite talkative about that, telling us why they liked a picture or not. Some works made them laugh, others admorative. It was interesting to observe their personal reactions towards the works.



With charcoal's erasers, one can do more than erase.



Pavel is observing himself in order to draw his portrait.



One of Marek's colourful works.

Many medias were used during this week, from classic acrylic paint to charcoal.

This last media was quite new to almost all students. And very quick, it was diverted into many other ways than its original purpose. Some drew tribal-like paints on their faces, other curved masterworks out of the malleable charcoal erasers.

Another interesting activity was self-portrait (upper right picture). The participants had to look at themselves into a mirror and draw «what they see and not what they think!» as Diana directed.

On the whole, all of them were quite taken into the various exercises.





Petra is discovering the blackening power of coal.



One of Ivana's works. Expressive and lively.



Marek, deeply taken in his work.





During this week, we had many visitors and the students were a great lot observed. Many persons follow the course, either to learn from Diana's methods or because they knew people taking part in this workshop.

Two journalists from a local newspaper were her one day and another, we even had the local television. They wanted to talk about what the association.

Other persons were also here to help or take share in the course. Pavlina's

daughter (left image below) came to take some pictures of the lesson. Olga, a young illustrator (left upper photo on the other page) was here to help and she also sketched the participants. Her friend, Anna (at the computer), also helped in preparing the material or with the students.

They also were two trainees, who were Sasha and Cristina. They prepared the media the student's needed and they sometimes helped us understand or fulfill Diana's directives.



**Photos' captions:**

Left page: left, Olga - right, Iva - down: the television filming the students  
Right page: right, Olga & Anna - down, left, Pavlina's daughter - right, Ivana.







The breaks were also an important part of the day because they often were the theater of interesting events.

Indeed, they were the moment for the participants and the persons who took care of them to get to know each other.

Ludmila, Zdena and Anton (who often drove us to Brno and showed us some

beautiful exhibition or so) would often come at the coffee break or during the lunch break to meet us and talk about the day.

These moments were precious for us and for the students. There were lot of laughs and good food. Altogether, they gave way to treasurable memories, which would follow every-one of us for ever.

#### Photos' captions:

**Left page** - upper picture: Sasha, a trainee, who always had a smile for everyone. / Picture at the bottom: Iva and Ludmila talking.

**Right page** - upper left picture: Ludmila, Martin, Iva and Petra during the break. / Pictures at the bottom: left, celebrating with czech sparkling wine. Right, Ivana and Anton.







*The end*