

Martin Salajka / Bushmeat

Martin Salajka's new series of paintings (1981) loosely relates to his recent trip to equatorial Africa. Its title also refers to it. The English word bushmeat refers to the meat of wild animals hunted in tropical areas for subsistence or profit. At the same time, it is difficult to find a term that would better concentrate the main problems (and not only) of this area, whether they relate to health, ecological or environmental issues, which in the next phase include cultural or economic aspects of the entire world. For Martin Salajka, however, it is primarily an expressive semantic-emotional abbreviation that acts as a condensed visual energy. So even though his new paintings define specific strong experiences, whether it is an uncontrollable forest fire or an ancient riverbed cutting through the jungle, they are not primarily built on a motif, but on an expression. In other words, an even wilder handwriting, pastes spread directly with fingers and heightened colors. Váchalov's demonic nature, which previously invoked civilizational darkness, is now evoked from original sources that are now foreign to Europe, and its indefinable power corresponds to this.

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