



Jaroslava Votrubová

Oh, This Love!

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FIELD INSPECTION AND OTHER LITTLE FINDINGS

All these pictures were created gradually during almost 15 years. Some of them I do not have anymore. The text is apart from illustrations accompanied by photographs of engravings on flashed glass - lithophane. Flashed glass is produced using an old technology, like the so-called cathedral glass (there are two glass factories in Europe, covering the needs of European cathedrals).

This glass is blown into large cylindrical forms. If it is to have more layers of colour, the new glass layer is added onto the basis just like with any other flashed glass products. Once blown, the cylinder is trimmed on both sides. It is cut along the side, too, then unrolled in the furnace and let lay down.

I then engrave the thin layer of glass, about 1millimeter thick, using small wheels on an engraving machine. The engravings are set into metal frames with stands. This complex framing is done by my husband, Antonin Votruba.

Eternal topic

I am searching for small laws, recurring regularities in human behaviour. I am trying to capture them artistically in the simplest way possible. To point out the important and emphasize the typical. There are many, and many of them relate to love in a certain way. Let's start with man-woman attraction. Asymmetrical polarity, as I have named it, can be found in it three times! The fact that I can create compositions that are at the same time figural and abstract has thrilled me. There are two triangles or two semi-spheres that are attracted – there is magnetic force between them.

Fig. 1 Courtship dance. Men dance in a different manner than women – they are rather defining the boundaries – they spike out into the space. Women are squirming in graceful curves. Even the actual male forms are more square-shaped and female forms are rounded. In psychological tests the round curves are assigned to women and square shapes are assigned to men. And not to forget: Here I need to draw your attention to the birds that are flying here.

Fig. 2 Great drumming to the action. Here the birds have already moved.

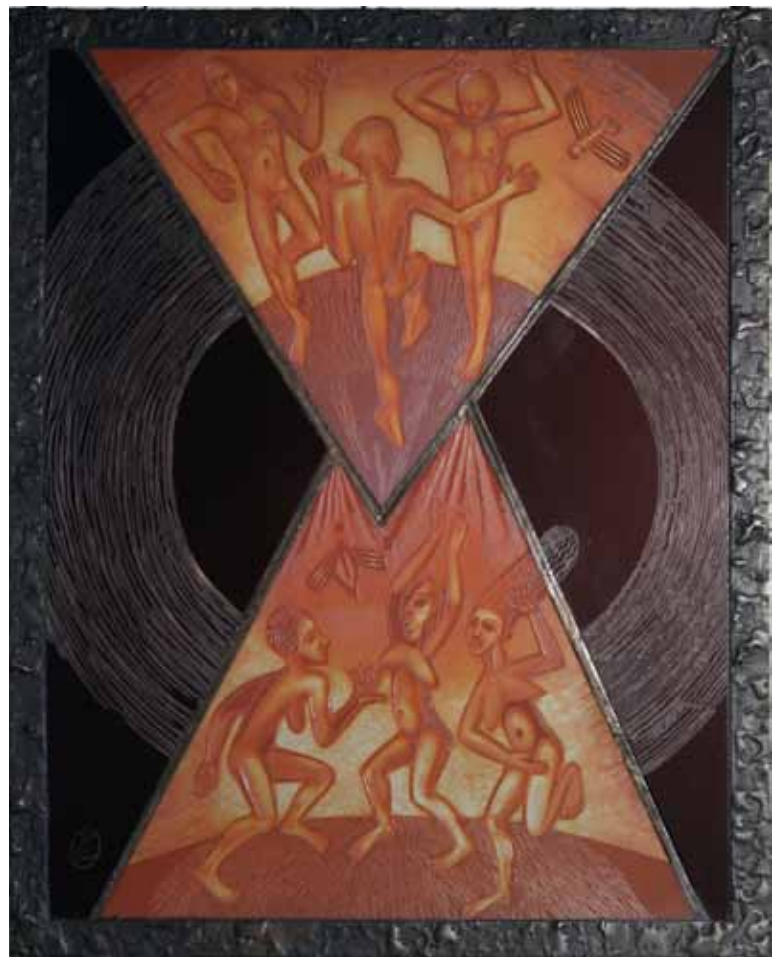


Fig. 1, 2 a 3 Litophany Dimensions including metal.
Asymmetric Polarity I., - 47 x 37 x 12,5 cm 2000
Asymmetric Polarity II., 52 x 39 x 11,5 a Asymmetric Polarity III.



Fig. 3 Crowd of male and female possibilities – tasks in different stages of life. It is about the fertilisation, continuity of the family. The egg symbolising the Sun of new life as well as Our Lady’s halo. I am particularly proud of this idea; I am not aware that anyone else has explored it.

However, the next subject is very familiar, used ever since the ancient era. Judgement of Paris is the first known beauty pageant, even though on a divine level. Just as any other beauty contest, it is basically a battle; that is why it is made on red. Zeus let the poor Paris decide here. All of them were beautiful, but the question also was, what did they offer?

Hera says: “Remember, if you decide I am the most beautiful, I shall make you the lord of Asia, and the richest of men.”

Pallas Athena encourages him: “Listen, Paris, if you’re smart enough to give the apple to me, I’ll make you the winner of all battles and the most handsome and wise of all men.”

Aphrodite promised the most beautiful woman in the world. I suppose one could say he chose the most peaceful solution, but he did know that she is married and to whom! And it resulted in the Trojan War.



Fig. 4 Beauty Competition - Judgement of Paris, 39 x 23 x 8 cm Litophany 2006



Those are the dangers of divine. Beauty pageants and kidnaps of married women happen still today.

Pitfalls of nature are also noteworthy: amorousness is a state similar to being on drugs, a strong cocktail of hormones is flushed into the blood. It lasts between 6 months and 2 years. The early phase of courtship, or the sexual wheedler. He is like an angel and devil at the same time. What he wants the most is to try physically, how this sex works. On top of that, he often is not in love, and he is just trying it everywhere. Girls pretend to be passive, but in fact they are going to do any-

Fig. 5 Tempting , Litophany 32 x 21 x 8,5 cm 2003



Fig. 6 King, 41 x 29 x 12 cm, Litophany 1997

thing to draw attention. They fall in love madly and the wreath is alarmingly tilted.

Fig. 6 The King is an institution and the Queen is bored a little. The jester prefers to amuse the Queen's horse. If I am correct, the sexual appetite of men is at its best shortly before their twenty years of age,



whereas for women it's around thirty. Nature seems to be unfair here!

Sometimes it looks like what we see in Fig. 7 – there is a horrifying lion in the darkness!

There are also substitute targets, e.g. status – you must occupy the chair, you must get the job! Fig 8 Fig. 9 Even melancholic dreams are in place. Night and starry sky are most convenient for that.

Fig. 10 Courtship games have many disguises: Wolf and rabbit – hunter and prey, two birds in a courtship dance. And Platonic love, which is too much of an adoration to be fulfilled.

Fig. 9 Night, 34 x 25 x 8,5 cm Litophany 2003



Fig. 7 Clown, 39,5 x 33,5 x 10 cm Litophany 1998

Fig. 8 You must! 37,5 x 30 x 12,5 cm Litophany 1997



**Fig. 10 Courtship games ,
35 x 20 x 11,5 cm
Litophany 1996**



**Fig. 11 Symbolic depiction of
a woman, suspended by her
genitals in darkness.
Graphics „On Trapeze“ (mezzo-
tinta),
35,3 x 23,5 cm**



Egyptian night captures waiting for the lover inspired by Jan Zrzavy's Kleopatra – and yet it is so different. And hence the question: Is this five thousand years ago or today?

**Fig. 12 Egyptian night,
64,5 x 41 x 12 cm
Litophany 2001**





Fig. 13 Dance, 38,5 x 19 x 7 cm, Litophany 2002

Fig. 14 Carnival, 41,5 x 56 x 12 cm, Litophany 1997

Fig. 15 detail of Carnival



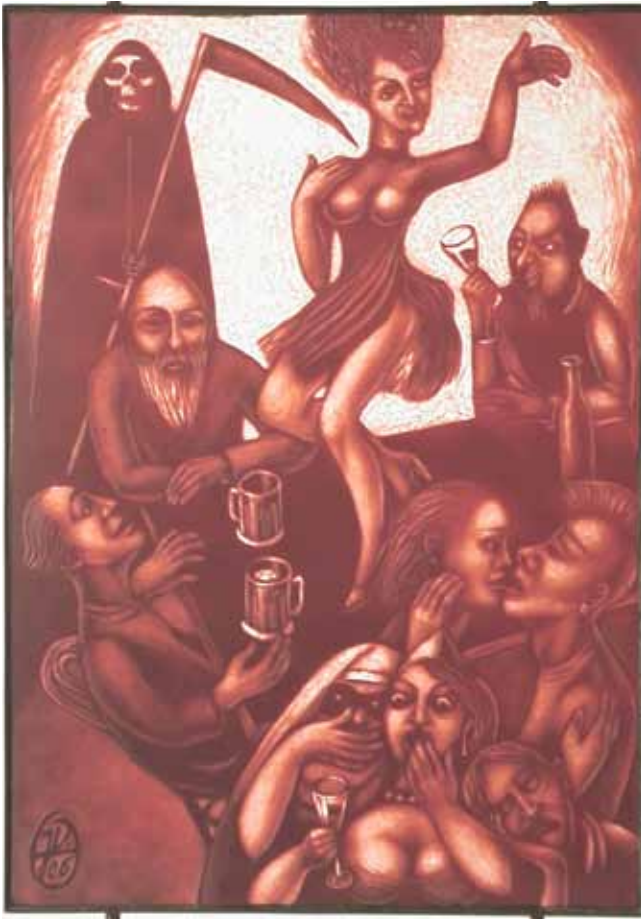


Fig. 16 Climax – Ecstasy, 38,5 x 27 x 10 cm, Litophany 2002

If things are going well, the whole world is in bloom. In the classic works, there are usually naked women and dressed men. Since we have emancipation now, I dared to try it the other way round.

Life is one big carnival, where the mask hides the real nature of people. Sometimes it seems that men and women are different species.

Fig. 16 Climax – Ecstasy. Pink glass dyed with gold – “golden ruby”, underneath there is opal, and the engraving that lightens the stars around our couple is definitely not purposeless.



Carnival of life in another form – it is important to enjoy oneself. However, everything in life is confronted with its finality.

Below you can see slander, it is immortal. This monster is inspired by a character in Greek mythology; it has thousands of eyes and thousands of malicious tongues. I even managed to create snakes to the tongues.

On one side there is amorousness, on the other true love. We know from neurology how they differ. Falling in love is a state of euphoria induced by activation of all possible hormones, it is a state when for a certain period the person lights up. The word for love in Czech, *láska*, covers both options. Spanish distinguishes the two, there are two words: *amore* and *cariño*. The basis of the lasting, “true” love stems from the strength of intimacy of fa-

Fig. 17 Carnival of life, Litophany 2006

Fig. 18 Lady Slander, 35 x 36,5 x 8,5 cm Litophany 2003



mily relationships. Its purpose is to strengthen the family able to ensure the continuation of species. The basis here is maternal love. And the picture „In Arms“.

During pregnancy the cuddle hormone is released in higher amounts – it is the hormone oxytocin. Actually, everyone has it, but the pregnant have a lot more. Mother and the child mutually stimulate its releasing and they develop their relationship. This love is gained through giving; it is connected to a bodily feeling. We have to tune into it. It warms the heart. Nature has found a genial way that is hard to

Fig. 19 Well being, 25,7 x 23,5 cm, Vitrography

Fig. 20 In Arms, 41,5 x 45 x 8 cm, Litophany 2001



avoid it. Lack of maternal love is a difficult social problem. The debt stretches over many generations. Mankind has hurt itself so much already. We face this every day in the school.

Insert for teachers:

In the picture „In thoms“ I managed to connect the external with the internal. Scars of many harms and blames are like thorns inside the human. Thorns that continually threaten him from inside and he still struggles, reacts to everything that makes these thorns inside him sound.



Fig. 21 In Thoms, 47,5 x 30 x 9 cm Litophany 2003



Fig. 22 Love expecting
34 x 28 x 8,5 cm
Litophany 2003

Fig. 22 Depression
50 x 33,3 x 10 cm
Litophany 2000

People say that “he that has a great nose thinks everybody is speaking of it. “ Once you arrive at a painful topic, they start to be suspicious. How they react depends on the attitude of the person, how courageous they are. They can attack directly, from behind, they can even run away, but because they carry their problems with them, the problems will always catch them. They suffer, cannot focus on things. Feelings of guilt, threat and lack of maternal love enable better command of people. There will probably never be interest in examining these simple laws.

People who cannot build relationships are almost as without hands. Not for nothing is the hormone oxytocin called the cuddle hormone. Instead of establishing relationships, they often rather gaze into the sky, to make themselves warmer with the beams of distant suns.

Another option. Depression. It would have been even better to capture the character how it shuts itself into a



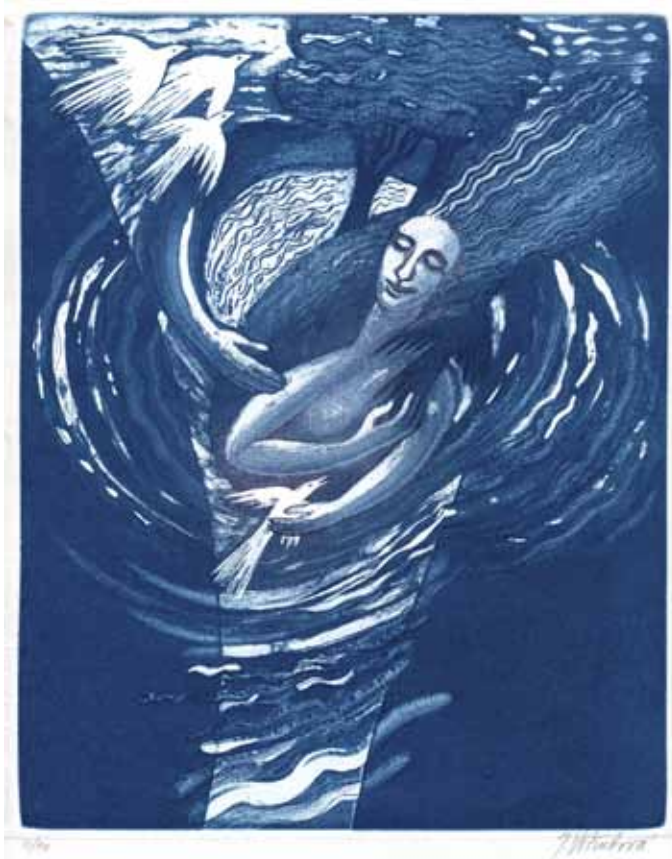


Fig. 23 Fusion, 24 x 19,5 cm, Vitrography

Fig. 24 With Friend, 25 x 33 x 8,5 cm, Litophany 2003

Fig. 25 Pink Morning, 23 x 37 cm, Litophany 2003

dustbin, while it is beautiful outside. At the same time the character is yelling: "No one likes me, leave me alone, the world is ugly."

Bogeys and *bête noires* are easy to depict. They are more credible, because everyone knows them. In arts in recent years, they don't believe in love and beauty, supposedly because the utopic ideas of modern arts have failed, and postmodernism came with





Fig. 26 Paradise, 53,5 x 54 x 12 cm Litophany 2008

its scepticism. Love is in fact a mood just like depression; it is just as real and just as illusive. It gives trust in Life, but watch out!

There is risk of abuse! It is tempting bait that is excellent for catching prey!

This part about love includes merging with Nature. If it is not devouring you, you can enjoy its beautiful parts. The next subject "Ruzoverano" is self-explanatory.

Nature is our Garden of Eden and needs our love. It is devouring us at a few places only; people have found ways to tame it.

Let us not carry the taming too far!

Human family includes also animals. We can understand them, we love them! We take part of beeing and loving by many ways.

When I was small girl, I imaged forest full of animals. You can see it on picture 27.

Fig. 27 Mysterious Wood, 44 x 30 x 8 cm, Litophany 1999



For the end just a poem!



Dream

Timelessness of dream like depths of water
Streams of fantasies infatuated with fertile passion
Whirling like golden rain dancing
In rhythms of bodies' memories
In landscapes of entrails
Where in distance
On the horizon
A
Warrior
Is towering and rising,
An underwater volcano erect with blood of magma
Scrambles, floods and penetrates ocean's womb
In delightful craving of risings and ebbing
Endures the Great Unity of our Living
Being in concord; concord in beating.
Rhythm of hearts; heart in rhythm.
Fire in us, water in us as
Memory of embryos
Is seeping into
Dreams.
Dream
It
Knows
That Death,
Ashes returning to ashes
Is but crumbling; defoliation of old skin.
Nothing shall come to ruin, all shall be used again.
No might is capable of stopping the power of creative creating.
Good and evil play the same piece they both weave the same difficult pattern.

