
PRESS RELEASE

An exhibition of the renowned Slovak painter and educator.

Artist, exhibition title: Ján Berger: Painting II
Venue: Záhorie Gallery of Ján Mudroch in Senica, Sadová 619/3
Curator: Xénia Bergerová
Opening: **September 5, 2025 (Friday) at 5:00 p.m.**
Opening remarks: Ľudovít Hološka, academic painter
Musical guest at the opening: Xénia Jarová — piano
Duration of the exhibition: September 5 (Friday) – October 12, 2025 (Sunday)

The exhibition opening is part of the European Heritage Days 2025.

An exhibition of Ján Berger's work is taking place for the second time in Senica – the first took place thirty years ago (1995), also at the Záhorie Gallery. The current selection is dominated by works created after 2000. Conceived as a retrospective, the exhibition presents larger-format paintings such as *Mythical Scenes*. The curator of the exhibition *Continuum* at the Bratislava City Gallery, Xénia Lettrichová, noted that these works embody the essential qualities and building blocks of Berger's art. She emphasized color, about which she said: "Color in his hands is a changeable state of matter, ranging from an autonomous phenomenon to a representational medium."

Berger's work often includes stand-alone pieces, several of which are featured in this selection. Among them are larger paintings such as *Such a World*, *Duo*, and *Under the Angel*, as well as the nearly self-portrait-like *Brass Plaque*. The body of work reveals a rich spectrum of complex themes and interwoven motifs. As Ján Abelovský once remarked in a review of Berger's exhibition, the painter is a "lavish magician." It is also important to note that Berger's painting never strays far from the natural world—whether landscapes both near as well as far and transformed, or human and animal figuration in their varied formal guises.

In the catalogue of Berger's monographic exhibition at the Slovak National Gallery in 2018, curator Nina Gažovičová delved deeper into the uniqueness of his work. She wrote: "...As if invention and imagination had become a despised and outdated state in the 20th and 21st centuries. As if the power of pure painterly expression, which for centuries preserved for humanity seemingly trivial yet intensely meaningful moments, had been forgotten. Berger (1944), even today, in the post-internet era, embodies what keeps painting alive. He proves that even now it can awaken in people the desire to partake in the mediated beauty of life and the world..."

Xénia Bergerová

Ján Berger (1944) was born in Třinec. He studied at the Secondary School of Applied Arts and, beginning in 1962, at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (in the studio of Prof. Ján Mudroch). At the end of 1968 he became a teacher, first at the Bratislava School of Applied Arts, later continuing his teaching career at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design. In 1974 he had his first solo exhibition at the Nitra State Gallery, later exhibiting in Bratislava, Nitra, Senica, Trenčín, Banská Bystrica, Martin, and in 2000 he held his first retrospective at the Bratislava City Gallery. Beyond Slovakia, he exhibited in Antwerp, Mexico, Padua, Monfalcone, New York, London, Brussels... His works are held in the collections of the Slovak National Gallery and most Slovak galleries, and abroad, for instance in the Museum of Fine Arts in Rio de Janeiro and in the collection of the European Parliament in Brussels. He lives and works in Bratislava.

source: webumenia.sk