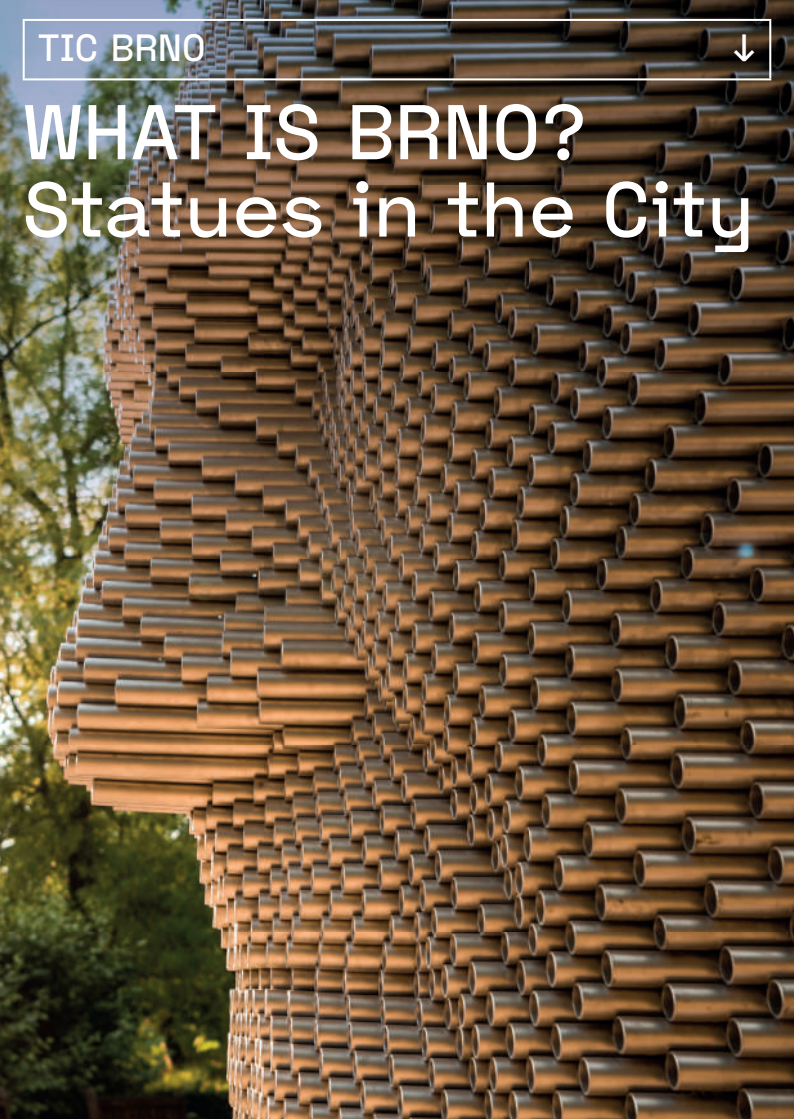


TIC BRNO



# WHAT IS BRNO? Statues in the City



# WHAT IS BRNO?

## Statues in the City

There are many sculptures, not only monuments and plaques, within Brno which represent evidence of events that have been inscribed in the city's history or which inadvertently illustrate the city's development with their presence. Similarly, important individuals have their actions commemorated by monuments, both conspicuous and not, which can be used to tell the stories connected to their actions. In December 2005, city leaders approved the Sochy pro Brno

(Statues for Brno) project, which has further expanded the scope of these memorial sculptures. In 2016, the Jan Skácel Memorial was unveiled as the latest result of this long-term strategy. Works were chosen for this guide to help present the city and its institutions to visitors and even residents and to include both emblematic works and those unjustly forgotten.

01	Parnas Fountain (Kašna Parnas)
02	Old Town Hall portal (Portál Staré radnice)
03	Statue dedicated to W. A. Mozart (Socha věnovaná Mozartovi)
04	Courage / Jobst of Moravia (Odvaha / Jošt Lucemburský)
05	Justice (Spravedlnost)
06	Multifunctional timepiece – Brno Clock (Multifunkční hodinový stroj)
07	Tribute to Edison (Pocta Edisonovi)
08	Memorial to the Poet Jan Skácel (Památník básníka Jana Skácela)
09	Pint Pea (Pulihrášek)
10	Disappearance of Maria Bartošová into the Brno Underground (Zmizení M. Bartošové v brněnském podzemí)
11	Birds (Ptáci)
12	Cunning Little Vixen (Liška Bystrouška)
13	Atlases (Atlanti)
14	Trade and Tolerance (Obchod a Tolerance)

15	Bears (Medvědi)
16	Reindeer Hunter (Lovec sobů)
17	Memorial to the Red Ar- my's Victory over Fascism (Památník vítězství Rudé armády nad fašismem)
18	New Age (Nový věk)
19	Memorial to the Victory over Fascism (Památník vítězství nad fašismem)
20	Memorial to the Founding of the Worker Movement (Památník založení dělnického hnutí)
21	Decorative Wall for Concrete Prefabs (Dekorativní stěna z betonových prefabrikátů)
22	Satellite / Five Circle Segments (Družice / Pět segmentů kruhu)

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ŽABOVŘESKY

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STRÁNICE

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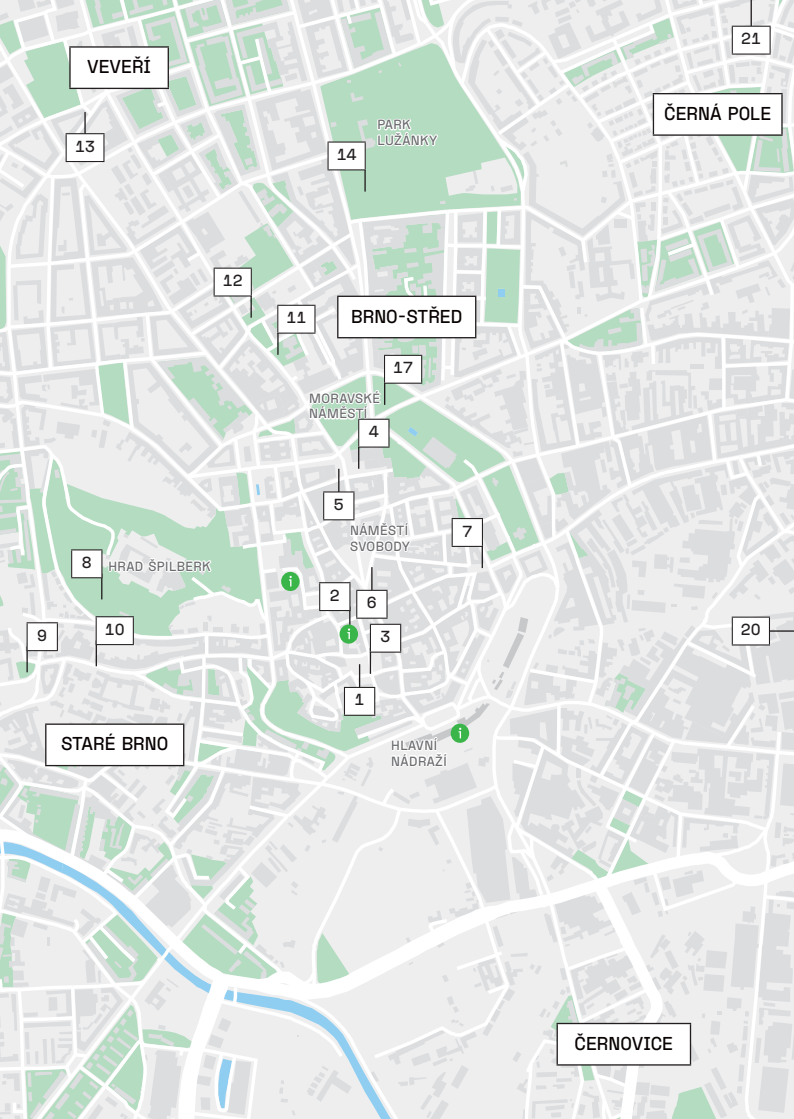
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BRNĚNSKÉ  
VÝSTAVIŠTĚ

ŠTYŘICE

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VEVEŘÍ

ČERNÁ POLE

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PARK  
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BRNO-STŘED

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MORAVSKÉ  
NÁMĚSTÍ

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HRAD ŠPILBERK

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STARÉ BRNO

HLAVNÍ  
NÁDRAŽÍ

ČERNOVICE



J. B. FISCHER VON ERLACH WITH T. KRACKER AND A. RIGA (CREATED 1690–1696)

# Parnas Fountain

The Parnas Fountain on Zelný trh (Vegetable Market) was initiated by the Brno City Council based on a design by the Austrian architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, who was contracted to make it in 1690, though it was not finished until six years later. Its central themes are the battle between good and evil, the victory of order over chaos, and, in a broader sense, an expression of the city's loyalty to the Habsburg emperor. The sculpture is shaped as cliffs with a cave. On top stands an allegory of Europe symbolizing the Holy Roman

Empire and Christianity. Inside the recess stands the figure of Hercules holding the three-headed dog Cerberus, guard of the underworld. On the sides of the cave stand three figures representing Greece, Persia, and Babylon. According to Greek mythology, Mount Parnassus, which sits above the Greek city of Delphi, was sacred to Apollo and the home of the Muses. Tradition states that the fountain's name comes from an incorrect interpretation, wherein triumphant Europe was taken for Apollo and the figures of the ancient empires for the Muses.

Zelný trh (Vegetable Market)



ANTON PILGRAM (CREATED 1510–1511)

# Old Town Hall portal

The late Gothic Old Town Hall portal was made by the sculptor and architect Anton Pilgram, who was apparently a Brno native. He participated in such projects as St. James' Church and gained the greatest fame for leading construction at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, where he is credited with the richly decorated pulpit and where he left behind a self-portrait. The Brno portal is a late Gothic pointed arch with pinnacles growing up from the ribbing in which there are figures of burghers and heralds. The composition is crowned by an allegory

of Lady Justice with her typical attributes of a sword and a balance. This is a more recent version of the original from 1660. The withering pinnacle above Lady Justice is not an act of spite by the sculptor, but an expression of the late Gothic style inspired by organic forms and natural themes.



KURT GEBAUER (CREATED 2006–2007, UNVEILED IN 2008)

## Statue dedicated to W. A. Mozart

During an epidemic of smallpox in Vienna in October 1767, Leopold Mozart feared his kids would get infected and so brought them to Moravia. But his young composer son didn't manage to avoid infection and had to undergo treatment in Olomouc. He soon recovered and spent Christmas and New Year's with his family in Brno, where the 11-year-old Wolfgang and his sister Nannerl held a concert on 30 December in what is now Reduta Theatre. When at the end of 2005 the Brno City Council

decided to commemorate famous people connected to the city through art installations, the first choice was W. A. Mozart. The competition announced in 2006 was won by a design by the Prague sculptor and university professor Kurt Gebauer for a statue dedicated to the composer as the body of a child with an adult face balancing on a clavichord that looks like it's sliding off a five-metre-tall column.





JAROSLAV RÓNA (CREATED 2015)

# Courage / Jobst of Moravia

The placement of this monumental equestrian statue in front of the Governor's Palace in 2015 represented the culmination of Moravské náměstí (Moravian Square) renovations, which were based on plans by the Brno architect Petr Hruša. The statue symbolizing courage, by the Prague sculptor Jaroslav Róna, completed the three elements which the architect intended to be reminiscent of the four cardinal virtues which, according to Plato, a well-run city must have. In addition to bravery, these

are prudence (represented by a model of the city as it looked in 1645 when it defended itself from the Swedes), justice (a statue by Marius Kotrba depicting a figure taking justice into its own hands), and temperance (symbolized by a fountain). The public reacted ambivalently because courage is personified in Margrave Jobst of Moravia, who from 1381 to 1405 fought a protracted war in Moravia for power with his brother Prokop.

Moravské náměstí (Moravian Square)



MARIUS KOTRBA (UNVEILED IN 2010)

# Justice

This statute has lain in front of the Supreme Court on Moravské náměstí (Moravian Square) since 2010. It's one of the four dominating features (Justice, Courage, Temperance, and Prudence) through which architect Petr Hruša intended to unify the space of Moravské náměstí (Moravian Square). The bronze statue depicts a man lifting a heavy block. It's a reflection on

burdens and the fight for justice, which should maintain balance in society. The artist expressed the theme through a heavy load lightened by a stream of water.

Moravské náměstí (Moravian Square)



OLDŘICH RUJBR, PETR KAMENÍK (UNVEILED IN 2010)

# Multifunctional timepiece – Brno Clock

This polished granite work has been on náměstí Svobody (Freedom Square) since 2010. The unique object stands almost six metres high and its shape is meant to evoke a gigantic bullet. According to its creators, it should remind us of the heroic defence of the city against the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. The clock itself is in the machine's two highest rotating segments.

Even with instructions for how to tell the time placed close at hand, it's a relatively difficult task. But it's easy to tell when 11:00 is approaching. When the clock strikes 11, it's possible to catch a glass ball in one of the four holes in the side. On special occasions, the machine gives out balls every hour.

náměstí Svobody (Freedom Square)



TOMÁŠ MEDEK (CREATED 2008)

# Tribute to Edison

The stainless steel statue Pocta Edisonovi was the second work to be made within the Sochy pro Brno (Statues for Brno) project, which aims to commemorate important people connected to the city. The first work was a statue dedicated to Mozart by the Prague sculptor Kurt Gebauer which in 2008 was placed in

front of Reduta Theatre on Zelný trh (Vegetable Market). In creating this statue, Tomáš Medek used the repeated motif of a light bulb as a reminder that what is now Mahen Theatre, which opened in 1882, was the first theatre in Europe with electric lighting.

Malinovského náměstí (Malinovsky Square)



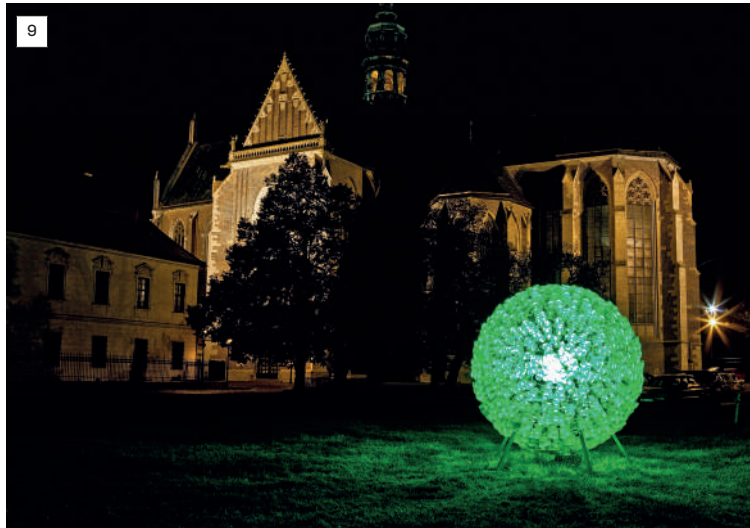
JIŘÍ SOBOTKA (CREATED 2016)

# Memorial to the Poet Jan Skácel

The memorial dedicated to the Brno poet Jan Skácel (1922–1989) is the result of a competition announced by the Brno City Municipality in 2015. A total of 44 projects were evaluated, and the design by Brno sculptor Jiří Sobotka was selected for completion. This proposal presented the sculpture as a large-format

stylized portrait of the poet formed by 4,500 stainless steel tubes welded together. The sculpture was ceremoniously unveiled in October 2016. Since 2006, poetry by Jan Skácel has adorned both the small and large fountains on náměstí Svobody (Freedom Square).

park Špilberk (Špilberk Park)



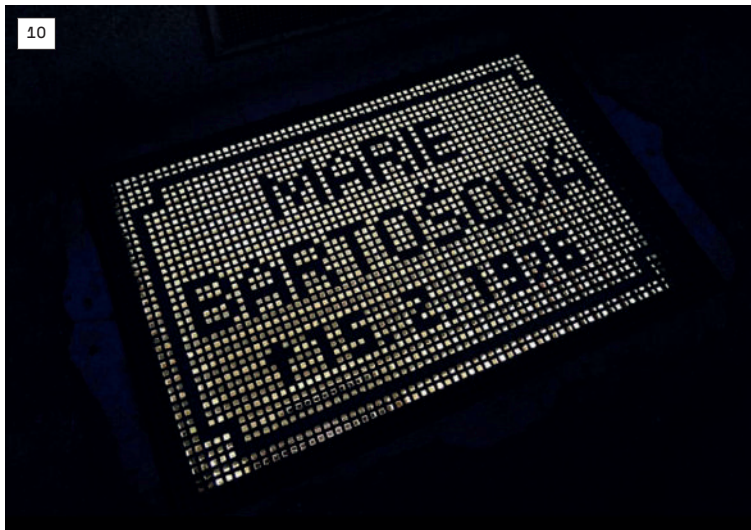
NATALIE CHALCARZOVÁ, TOGETHER WITH VÁCLAV KOČIÁN (CREATED 2013)

# Pint Pea

The seasonal installation Pulihrášek is the winning design from a student competition for art made from old pint glasses announced by the Starobrno brewery when presenting their new pint glasses. In addition to fulfilling the competition requirements – recycling old glasses and enlivening the public space – the installation, which shines green during summer

evenings, is also a reminder that in the nearby Augustinian abbey from 1856 to 1863 the founder of modern genetics Johann Gregor Mendel conducted his famous experiments with cross breeding peas.

Mendlovo náměstí (Mendel Square)



JIŘÍ ČERNICKÝ (CREATED 2013)

# Disappearance of Maria Bartošová into the Brno Underground

This inconspicuous cast-iron grid, installed in the pavement on Pekařská Street by Jiří Černický as part of Brno Art Open 2013, is a reminder of the absurd tragedy that took place on 14 February 1976 when a traffic island fell from under a man standing at the tram stop into a hole washed out by water. Rushing to help the drowning man, Maria Bartošová

got caught in the current and disappeared into the mud. Although her body was never found, she was declared dead after 10 years. The tragic death of Maria Bartošová, which is noted on the plaque, resulted in the start of a systematic survey of the extensive Brno underground for fear of a similar event occurring again.



OLBRAM ZOUBEK (CREATED 1964, PLACED IN 1967)

## Birds

This concrete sculpture depicting stylized figures of birds was installed as part of the comprehensive artistic decoration of the international Hotel Continental (Zdeněk Řihák and others, 1961–1964), which is one of the best examples of the Brussels style and was built in connection with the reopening of the Brno Exhibition Centre in 1955. The hotel was

constructed on land where there had previously been a stonemason operation run by Adolf Loos Sr, and after his death in 1879 his widow Marie. The birthplace of this sculptor's son, the world-famous architect Adolf Loos (1870–1933), is commemorated with a plaque on a column in front of the entrance made in 1968 by the sculptor Jiří Marek.





JIŘÍ MAREK (CREATED 1982, PLACED IN 1993)

## Cunning Little Vixen

It is no accident that this bronze statue inspired by the famous opera by Leoš Janáček is located near a former organ school in the garden house where the composer lived from 1910 to 1928. That is why it might be surprising to learn that the work was originally designed for an uncompleted part of the Kohoutovice housing estate in Brno with the central

theme of music, which can still be seen in the street names and the themes of the sculptures decorating the exteriors. A suitable place for the statue was found in 1993, which is almost 10 years after it was created. The work's unconventional concept seems to directly invite frequent vandalism.

Janáčkovo náměstí (Janáček Square)



VÁCLAV HÝNEK MACH (CREATED 1923)

# Atlases

Václav Hýnek Mach is the most significant interwar Brno sculptor who found work in architecture. Although the position of monumental art was considerably weakened during the period of unornamental functionalism, the extent of Mach's works is far from insignificant. His main collaborators included the Brno architects Vladimír Fišer and Jindřich Kumpošt, who entrusted Mach with the facade for the District Health Fund at the corner of Nerudova and Zahradníková streets. The entire building of what is now a polyclinic is a noteworthy

work by one person – in 1928, based on plans by Kumpošt, a wing was added with clinics and surgeries in a purely functionalist style, unlike the neighbouring health insurance building. The sculptor completed the monumental facade in 1923 with seven figures of Atlas resting on the pillars framing the entrance. Mach's sister was the organizer of society events and director of the Vesna Women's Educational Society Eliška Machová (1858–1926).



ANTONÍN BŘENEK (CREATED 1892)

# Trade and Tolerance

The allegorical female figures depicting Trade and Tolerance were originally part of a memorial to Joseph II that until 1919 lay in the park in front of the German House on what is now Moravské náměstí (Moravian Square). The monument was ceremoniously unveiled in 1892, but after the declaration of Czechoslovak independence it was pulled down and demolished by Czech nationalists as a symbol of German culture. In 1947, the damaged statue of Joseph II was found buried in a slaughterhouse on Křenová Street. In

1988, it was placed in the park within the Psychiatric Hospital in Černovice. Until 2003, the statues Trade and Tolerance sat in the park in the Denisovy sady (Denis Gardens), after which they were moved to their current location. The attributes of Trade are an anchor and a scroll. The allegorical figure of Tolerance holds a burning torch and a shield with the inscription "concordia religionum", a reminder of the Patent of Toleration issued in 1781 by Joseph II to institute religious acceptance.



SYLVA LACINOVÁ (CREATED 1957)

# Bears

These two sculptures of playing bear cubs, which since 2016 can be found in the lower grassy area next to the swimming pool at Kraví hora, were moved to their current location from the nursery school on Tučkova Street, where they had been a part of a fountain. Although they were created during the period of socialist realism, the sculptor Sylva Lacinová did not adhere to the dogma of the new style and instead of promoting communist ideology chose an

unpolitical theme closer to the audience of children. A visit to the statues with patinas acquired over half a century of children's games offers one of the most beautiful panoramic views of the city.

Kraví hora (Cow Hill)



ANTONÍN ŠIRŮČEK (CREATED 1961)

# Reindeer Hunter

This figural sculpture depicting a reindeer hunter depicting a reindeer hunter in action was installed as an addition to the Pavilon Anthropos (Anthropos Pavilion) run by the Moravské zemské muzeum (Moravian Museum), which is dedicated to presenting the history of the oldest settlements in Moravia. The exhibition's focal point is a 3.5-metre-tall mammoth from 1963. The first replica of a life-sized mammoth was completed in the 1920s by paleontologist Karel Absolon.

Tomáš Baťa paid for it to be made, and the prehistoric animal became the main attraction of the “Man and His Tribe” exhibit at the Exhibition of Contemporary Culture in 1928, which was the reason the Brno Exhibition Centre was built. President Masaryk supposedly declared in Zlín on 24 June 1928, “Wherever you go today, there is Baťa. I recently tried this at an exhibition in Brno. They showed me some 30,000-year-old beast, and on it – Baťa.”



V. MAKOVSKÝ WITH ING. ARCH. A. KURIAL AND ING. ARCH. B. FUCHS (CREATED 1955)

# Memorial to the Red Army's Victory over Fascism

The artist behind the monumental memorial commemorating the Red Army's liberation of Brno on 1945 is the sculptor and teacher Vincenc Makovský. Although it reaches an imposing 12 metres in height, the figure of an unarmed soldier giving the order to stop shooting is not at all threatening. The statue came from a competition announced at the end of 1952 with the aim of incorporating a plinth from 1948 by the

architect Antonín Kurial already on the site. Makovský did not submit an entry to the completion, but none of the 32 submissions were chosen for implementation, so the commission invited him to participate in the second round, which he won together with the architect Bohuslav Fuchs. The resulting work was ceremoniously unveiled on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the freeing of the city from fascism.



VINCENC MAKOVSKÝ (CREATED 1958)

## New Age

Although the bronze sculpture *Nový věk* has greeted visitors to the Brno Exhibition Centre for more than half a century, it was originally made for the Czechoslovak pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair in 1958 where it won many awards. After the fair ended, the work was transferred to Brno and given a permanent place in front of the main gate to the Brno Exhibition Centre, which was reopened in 1955 as part of the first Exhibition of Czechoslovak

Engineering, beginning a long tradition of engineering trade fairs in Brno. A second cast of the sculpture was placed in front of the National Assembly in Prague on *Václavském náměstí* (Wenceslas Square). Formally, it falls within late socialist realism. The central scene is formed by sun beams symbolizing a new world falling on an allegory of agriculture, in the form of women holding bowls of fruit, and the figure of a man representing science.



JIŘÍ MAREK, FRANTIŠEK CHMELAŘ (CREATED 1975)

# Memorial to the Victory over Fascism

Work on this memorial, which was unveiled in 1976 within the Kounic Hall of Residence, was initiated by the National Committee of Brno in 1974. In addition to the sculptors Jiří Marek and František Chmelař, who was responsible for the graphic design of the text with the names of World War II battles and Nazi concentration camps, the architects Jaroslav Hlavsa, Jaromír Ryška, and Antonín Hladík also contributed to the work of art. Count Robert Václav of Kounic is responsible for the building, which was

designed by the architect and teacher Karel Hugo Kepka. The hall of residence was used by university students between 1923 and 1939, after which it was taken over by the Gestapo and used as a prison through which nearly 35,000 people passed to be transported to concentration camps. During the war, 800 prisoners were executed in the prison. The hall was restored for use as a residence shortly after the end of the war on 13 November 1945.





LADISLAV MARTÍNEK, TOGETHER WITH JIŘÍ AUERMÜLLER (CREATED 1967)

# Memorial to the Founding of the Worker Movement

In 1967, a monumental concrete memorial was placed at the top of Bilá hora (White Hill) over Juliánov, replacing an older simple monument. From the top of this hill, which apparently gets its name from its limestone subsoil, there is an excellent view of the city. There are still clear signs that the German army used this advantage during World War II for its military observation posts. Between 1951 and 1992, the hill was officially called Hybešova hora. It got this name from

the Brno social democrat Josef Hybeš, who organized strikes of textile workers in Brno at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the largest of which took place in 1893 on Bilá hora. At the end of the 1980s, Miloš Axman created a statue of Hybeš for park Lužánky (Lužánky Park) which was removed in 1990 for being politically unsuitable.



ČESTMÍR KAFKA, TOGETHER WITH VIKTOR RUDIŠ (CREATED 1966–1967)

# Decorative Wall for Concrete Prefabs

The construction of the Lesná housing estate (1962–1970), was the largest investment of the time not only in Brno, but in all of post-war Czechoslovakia. The head architect František Zounek, focused on the types of housing stock. Today, nearly 30 works of art decorate Lesná exteriors. Credit for their placement goes to another of the estate's architects, Viktor Rudiš, who in the mid

1960s reached out to related artists with an offer to cooperate. A typical feature of Lesná is the series of artfully designed walls, which are intended to enliven public spaces and also practically separate the children's playground from the surrounding space. Its timeless urban solution has led to the estate being proposed as a city monument zone.



DALIBOR CHATRNÝ (CREATED 1982)

# Satellite / Five Circle Segments

This monumental work by the conceptual artist Dalibor Chatrný is made of five concrete discs which look as if a fall from height has driven them into a soft pad. In reality, the objects were made directly on the site by casting concrete within wooden moulds. Their current orange coating reflects the original colour of the corresponding model. The theme of celestial bodies was not chosen at random. The

art planned for the neighbouring Kamený Vrch residential complex was also to have the unified motif of outer space, but time constraints prevented this from being completed – the requirement to invest in art as a part of building housing ended with the fall of communism just after 1989.

Text: TIC BRNO, p.o.

Cover photo: Pocket media, s.r.o.

Photo: Pocket media s.r.o.,  
Pavel Gabzdyl, Michaela Dvořáková

TIC BRNO, p.o. is financially supported  
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