

CURATED BY
Viktoryia Sheuka

EXHIBITION BY
Jakub Matušek

OPENING
23 February, 2026, 6 pm

EXHIBITION DURATION
24. 2. – 5. 4. 2026

Expectation is rarely perceived as an active state. It is more often associated with pause, uncertainty and temporary immobility. In Jakub Matušek's works, however, expectation appears as a form of collective life in which the structures of society and established patterns of communication are subtly manifested.

At first glance, the artist's compositions appear calm and almost harmonious. Dozens of miniature figures form orderly configurations: folding into rhythmic lines, handing objects to each other or patiently remaining in place. This visual order can simultaneously reassure and evoke a subtle unease. What we have before us is not a chaotic world, but a disciplined version of it in which coordination and repetitiveness become the norm.

The artist approaches the subject from the position of an observer. The experience of migration during his studies allowed him to look at the familiar social world from a distance, as if "from the outside". This shift in perspective reveals mechanisms that otherwise remain invisible: the way in which collective structures shape our gestures, decisions and even ways of waiting.

In the works presented here, order can be seen as a reflection of mutual support. In these compositions, one can feel the attraction of the aligned world and at the same time its fragility. The motif of expectation that runs throughout the exhibition is therefore not only focused on passivity. Rather, it recalls a moment when change is possible but postponed, and determination gives way to cautious waiting.

The scene of the waiting room conveys this tension: each figure carries its own emotional charge, but at the same time fits perfectly into the overall structure, as if it already knows its role in advance. A subtle social construct also appears in the image of the figures devouring the green grass: a visual allusion to the belief that "the grass is always greener elsewhere". While their attention is fixed on the idea of a better place, something important is happening back where they came from.

The diminished scale of the figures creates a specific optic of perception: the figures turn into parts of a pulsating organism. The line of figurines, reminiscent of the pheromone trails of ants, forces us to consider the nature of collective movement: are we guided by our own choices, or are we inadvertently adopting an already set rhythm?

The exhibition opens a space for attentive perception. In these perfectly arranged scenes, one can discover one's own strategies of adaptation, a desire for stability and an almost imperceptible willingness to trust the existing order. It is in this tension between calm and hidden anxiety that the central question is born: is the social order of which we are a part the result of conscious consent, or a sign of how inherently natural the anticipation itself has become to us.

JAKUB MATUŠEK is a graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Brno University of Technology. In his work he is primarily concerned with figurative sculpture and the object. He combines 3D printed small-scale figurines into a strictly structured composition. He has had several exhibitions in Brno (2022, 2023, 2024), Prostějov (2023), Hodonín (2025). Can We Fare Well? is the first solo exhibition in his native Trnava and also the first in Slovakia.

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