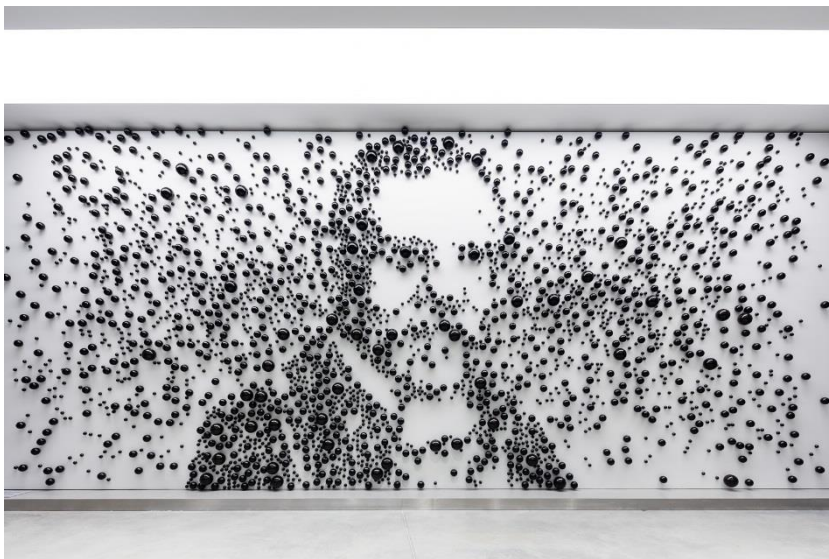


LASVIT

THE BUTTERFLY OFFICE COMPLEX IN KARLÍN IS NOW COMPLETE WITH LASVIT'S GLASS BUBBLE PORTRAITS OF FOUR OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S MOST FAMOUS PATRONS.

Prague - Just inside each of the Butterfly's four lobbies are four unique installations made by LASVIT – The Czech company's creative director, Maxim Velčovský, has



created glass portraits of four people who have had lasting influence on the face of Karlín, one of the most iconic, colorful and vibrant of Prague's neighborhoods.

“Using basic outlines, I composed the portraits of four famous people

who contributed to Karlín's unique spirit. Formally, I was interested in that moment when an abstract cluster of individual components starts to congeal in one's mind into a coherent whole,” explains Velčovský. Over three thousand glass bubbles had to be made for the making of each portrait. They were then placed on the interior walls, and assembled into a seemingly random constellation of dots which, upon closer look, show a concrete image.

Hard Mathematics and Gentle Handiwork

These “glass paintings” show the faces of the Austrian Empress consort Caroline Augusta of Bavaria, the inventor František Křižík, the legendary Czech industrialist Emil Kolben and the actress Olga Scheinpfluge. It was in honor of the Empress that the neighborhood of Karlín received its name in 1817, while Kolben's famous

industrial compound used to stand at the place where we can now visit the Karlín Palác and Forum. The metro station ‘Křižíkova’ now stands at the former location of the famous inventor’s, the so-called “Czech Edison’s,” bustling enterprise. And Olga Scheinpfluge was inspired on the streets of Karlín to write her novel *A Karlín Ballad*.

The portraits were created through the marriage of exact mathematical calculation and diligent manual work – the installations were first carefully assembled based on a formal computer-generated blueprint, but it was



then necessary to manually fine-tune the initial design, so that the viewer’s brain could really perceive the bubbled constellation as a portrait.

Velčovský has been creating sculptures and light installations from similar glass bubbles in the past, and LASVIT has used the material for projects such as the Diver installation in South Korea’s Lotte World Tower, or the unique three-part sculpture of the Horse, Lion and Shoe in Prague’s Quadrio shopping center.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT LASVIT

LASVIT is a creative hub of glassmaking talents, fresh ideas, and daring designs. This young, progressive Czech glassmaking and design company inspires the world with its breathtaking custom-made installations exhibited all over the world, as well as with their unique lighting and glassware collections made from hand-blown glass. The founder of Lasvit, Leon Jakimič, steers the company with the utmost respect for the Czech glassmaking tradition, but also with a boundless optimism for modern technologies and cutting-edge design.

In past years, Lasvit has attracted many renowned designers and artists who wanted to collaborate with an unconventional Czech company. In cooperation with Lasvit, many stars such as the Campana Brothers, Kengo Kuma, Yabu Pushelberg, Nendo or Ross Lovegrove, have created some of their most unforgettable glass collections. Ever since 2007, Lasvit has been on a mission: to bring beauty, happiness, and a piece of the Bohemian soul to clients worldwide, and thus change the world for the better. Let Lasvit in, let the changes begin.

#LasvitDesign #LasvitCollections

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