



H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States Ivan Korčok together with H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States Đerd Matković request the pleasure of your company at the opening of the exhibition

Slovak Naive Art from Serbia
Collection of Gallery Babka Kovačica

followed by a concert of the vocal music ensemble "Serbiana" and a reception

October 18th, 2018
from 7:30 pm–9:30 pm

Embassy of the Slovak Republic
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Washington, D.C. 20008

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Ambasada Srbije u Vašingtonu organizovala je izložbu slika slovačke naivne likovne umetnosti, iz kolekcije Galerije „Babka“ iz Kovačice, u prostorijama slovačke Ambasade 18. oktobra.

Izložbu je svečano otvorio ambasador Srbije u SAD Djerđ Matković, koji je istakao značaj koji Srbija, kao multietnička i multikulturalna država, pridaje nacionalnim manjinama kao mostovima prijateljstva između nacija. Uz kratak istorijat postojanja slovačke nacionalne manjine u našoj zemlji, podsetio je prisutne da je, 2012. godine, slovačka naivna likovna umetnost uvrštena na listu nematerijalnog kulturnog nasleđa Srbije. U zaključku je podvukao da ovaj, kao i slični događaji koji se širom sveta organizuju u saradnji slovačkog i srpskog naroda, predstavlja potvrdu dobrih i prijateljskih odnosa naših dveju zemalja.

History of Slovaks in Serbia

The town of Kovačica was founded in the beginning of the 19th century. Pavol Babka was born in Kovačica as the fifth generation of founding immigrants. His ancestors migrated from the northernmost part to the southernmost part of the Pannonian Plain 215 years ago. They arrived at invitation of the Austro-Hungarian emperor to guard the border between two great empires-the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire, and have lived there until the present day. Today, about 52,750 Slovaks live in Serbia (compared to 59,021 in 2002, 66,798 in 1991, and 77,837 in 1961). Most Slovaks (94%) live in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

History of naïve painting in Europe

The first exhibition of naïve painting in Europe was arranged in Paris in 1928, when Wilhelm Uhde introduced five giants at the Paris Gallery of Des Quatre Cheminis, consisting of Louis Vivin, Séraphine Louis, Camille Bombois, André Bauchant and Henri Rousseau, known collectively as Les Peintres du Coeur sacré – painters of the Sacret Heart.

History of Naïve Arts of Slovak in Serbia

The first exhibition of naïve art in Kovačica took place in 1952 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Kovačica. Since then, the exhibition has been arranged annually. The Babka Kovačica Gallery was founded on October 1, 1991 and the Babka Kovačica Foundation was founded on August 25, 2005 by a decision of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia. As proposed by the Babka Kovačica Foundation, the Republic of Serbia recorded the Slovak naïve paintings in the National List of Immaterial Cultural Heritage of Serbia. There are 63 painters on record, and their common denominator is that everyone was born in Serbia and their mother tongue was Slovak. The oldest painter Vladimír Boboš was born in 1906 and the youngest artist is Sana Stvorcová, born in 1992.

Pavel Babka, *founder of the Babka Kovačica Galleries and Foundation*



[Pavel Babka: Naïve Arts of Slovaks in Serbia](#)