

SHOTBY.US: Space of Desire
Exhibition of the Czech Grand Design Awards 2024 finalists
07 02 2025–10 03 2025

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Lukáš Šmejkal

ARTISTS Lenka Glisníková, Karolína Matušková (SHOTBY.US)
SOUND DESIGN Filip Kopecký

LIST OF FINALISTS

Adrián Gubrica, Aleš Hnátek, Atelier SAD, Bomma, BUDU, Dick Wolf, FABINI,
Filip Blažek, Ivo Jedlička, JanskyDundera & kolem hlíny, Jan Černý, Janja Prokić,
Jiří Krejčířík, Jiří Pelcl, Karolína Kučerová, Kateřina Handlová, Klára Kudláček,
Lena Knappová, Linda Kudrnovská, Lucie Lučanská, LAFORMELA, LLEV,
Magdalena Štastníková, Master & Master, Michaela Kukovičová, Michal Bačák,
Mowshe, Natálie Navrátilová, Palma de Alma, Rückl, Sklárna Harrachov,
Studio zetzetzet, Tereza Mundilová

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SHOTBY.US

Space of Desire



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English

This unique exhibition project straddles the border between contemporary design and visual art, spilling out from the established formats of gallery presentation. The artistic duo SHOTBY.US (Lenka Glisníková and Karolína Matušková) is known for its expressive and playful approach to the photographic medium and its ability to formulate visual narratives. They have transformed the space of the Kunsthalle Praha into a multilayered installation which platforms the works of the finalists of this year's Czech Grand Design Awards.

The exhibition explores the emotions of desire and critically reflects our relationship to objects and the ways they are represented in contemporary visual culture. Drawing inspiration from the work of theorist Beatriz Colomina, the SHOTBY.US artist duo explores the ways in which modern subjectivity is produced through décor, and the ways domestic space becomes a stage for the public audience. They come to the conclusion that we are no longer the creators of the world we had once produced, but rather that the world has come to define us – private space becomes a proscenium where people play out the tension between authenticity and styling.

The exhibition develops along three spatial vectors: the public space of the street, the commercial space of the shop window, and an intimate apartment turned into a showroom. These spaces are inhabited by original objects – beings existing on the threshold between a mannequin and a chair which serve as mediators between the audience and the exhibited designer artefacts. Visitors thus become the last active link in the chain of this living composition; they transform into actors for a performance where the limits between the audience and the exhibit, between the authentic and the staged, gradually dissolve.

The exhibition thus exceeds the standard format of a design showcase, providing artistic testimony to the ways we inhabit, present, and consume our living spaces. Through theatrical arrangement and by adopting a unique, surrealist aesthetic, it exposes the mechanisms of desire and representation which inform our contemporary visual culture and our relationship to the material world around us.

SHOTBY.US comprises artists Lenka Glisníková and Karolína Matušková. Their work is notable for its unique and personal approach to the medium of photography, creating expressive image compositions at the intersection between playfulness and conceptualism. Building on their artistic education, they approach photography as a creative laboratory, and their research leads to the creation of engaging visual narratives. Their style is notable for its characteristic use of expressive colour schemes, imaginative compositions, and non-conventional concepts which often play with humour and visual mystification.

The Czech Grand Design Awards are the most prestigious awards given to Czech makers and designers. They have been awarded by the Czech Design Academy since 2006, and their goal is to judge and medialize exceptional works as well as foster awareness among the wider public, thus helping people orient themselves in the world of Czech design. The awards are given to the most outstanding works of the past year in eight categories: product design, fashion, jewellery, graphic design, photography, illustration, producer, and discovery of the year. The winners are selected by the Czech Design Academy, headed by expert juries which comprise curators, gallerists, experts, editors-in-chief, and journalists focusing on design. The juries decide in a three-round voting process, and no application fee is required. The absolute winner is selected by the Preparatory Committee across all the categories, and is awarded the title of Grand Designer. Every year, one eminent figure is also inaugurated into the Hall of Fame for their life's work in the field of design.

The awards ceremony for the Czech Grand Design Awards 2024 will take place during a gala evening at the Estates Theatre in Prague on 3 March 2025, and will be televised live on ČTart and iVysílání.



List of Finalists

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

- A **JanskyDundera & kolehlíny:** around table
- B **Kateřina Handlová:** Unreality collection of vases (Rückl), Flare lighting (Bomma), and medals for the 2024 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship
- C **Jiří Krejčířík:** Fold-able table and chair (BUDU), Scene21 modular kitchen (with Futuro Studio and Towárna), Bor21 office desk, and YKB commode

FASHION DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

- D **Jan Černý:** opening ceremony outfits for the 2024 Czech Olympic and Paralympic Teams
- E **Aleš Hnátek:** Wardrobe 1 collection
- F **LAFORMELA:** CAMPAIGN FILM MAINLINE 24 and MAINLINE 24/25 collection

JEWELLERY DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

- G **Dick Wolf:** Kolekce 34 collection
- H **Janja Prokić:** Amor Fati collection
- I **Magdalena Štastníková:** Tender Tendrils collection and Drape jewellery for Tomáš Němec's cruise24 collection

GRAPHIC DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

- J **Filip Blažek, Linda Kudrnovská, and Mowshe studio:** Identity – The Story of Czech Graphic Design
- K **Adrián Gubrica:** The Interactive Dictionary of Free Speech project
- L **Studio zetzetzet (Mikuláš Macháček, Anna Macháčková, and Šárka Zíková):** Museum of Prague's visual identity

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

- M **Lena Knappová:** work for Blue Paper and Circ Magazine, backstage for Ann Demeulemeester and Rick Owens
- N **Klára Kudláček:** campaign for Ondřej Stára
- O **Tereza Mundilová:** Snow Strippers editorial and portraits of Sega Bodega for 032c, cover story with Franz Rogowski, and portraits of Olivia Rodrigo for ZEITmagazin and Florentina Holzinger for ZEIT

ILLUSTRATOR OF THE YEAR

- P **Michal Bačák:** intarsia for the Forbina bar (with zeitgeist.limited)
- Q **Michaela Kukovičová:** illustrations for the original books Dívej, ulice (Baobab) and Kniha roku (with Magdalena Rutová, Baobab)
- R **Lucie Lučanská:** the mural We Should Have a Talk and illustrations for the book Dentro Da Tenda (Planeta Tangerina)

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

- S **FABINI:** Boldi stainless steel cutlery set (Natalie Navrátilová)
- T **Master & Master:** Oasis flower table (Jiří Pelcl), Log armchair and sofa (Jiří Pelcl), SAD dinner and office table (Atelier SAD), Dalmatian table collection (Palma de Alma)
- U **Sklárna Harrachov:** Honey, Hush and Dot collections (LLEV)

DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR

- V **Ivo Jedlička:** Cooking the Craft project and kitchenware collection
- W **Karolína Kučerová:** Soft Intentions (Křehký), Empathy and Essence vase collections, the Enigma II vase
- X **Natalie Navrátilová:** Boldi stainless steel cutlery set (FABINI) and Office collection of office supplies