

FRANTIŠEK DYMÁČEK

(1929 - 2003)

The drawings of František Dymáček are a solitary revisioning of the world. It is obvious that in order to make these drawings, in order to allow the intricate imagery to manifest on the page he had to let go and surrender to his stream of consciousness. There are both dark and light elements in these drawings, spirits both benevolent and more worrisome.

He had made some of the basic outlines of the drawings early on and stored them carefully. Later, after retirement he began to fill them in. He drew in a cottage he owned, but an ongoing dispute about ownership of the land made this period of his life uneasy. He died at the age of 74 without anyone in the art world having seen his drawings.

"It could be said that Dymáček was creating out of defiance to himself. As if an irrational, emotional component of a personality that was otherwise entirely pedantic, orderly, and in every sense reasonable, needed to find an outlet and to reveal itself. A man who, all his life, had professed tidiness and order and above all required factual verification, found himself disorientated by his own sudden rush of creativity. He felt like a split personality and confided with apprehension to his wife that it is not normal. What is this normality in any case? And can it ever possibly be compatible with creativity? Creative talent calls for singularity, which pre-supposes a deviation from the normal, from the average. The words spoken by Jean Dubuffet: How can the act of artistic creation with the same stress it generates, with its concomitant high fever-be normal? The whole concept of normal art is a contradiction in terms!, he asserted, at the same time concurring with Nietzsche, who was convinced that if we request good health, we inhibit genius."

-From the catalog essay "The mental contours of František Dymáček," by Terezie Zemánková in Art Brut: František Dymáček, 2011, produced by Museum Montanelli.