



Gabriela Kopecká - "Mucha-Style Posters"

Embassy of the Czech Republic

October 3 - 31, 2011

The Embassy of the Czech Republic presents the exhibition "Mucha-Style Posters" by Gabriela Kopecká, a leading contemporary Czech designer and typographer. Kopecká's exhibition was inspired by renowned Czech artist Alfons Mucha. As Antonín Dvořák was inspired by the sounds of America and produced some of his best work during his stay on American soil, Art Nouveau artist Alfons Mucha also found support for his work while in America. Mucha was best known for producing posters depicting beautiful women clad in flowing robes. His designs gained him followers all over the world and also provoked periodic revivals of his style throughout time. Coincidentally, Mucha never created posters for the premiere of Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka* in Prague (1901). Thus, Gabriela Kopecká took on this task and depicted four Czech sopranos, celebrated internationally, in the opera's roles: Ema Destinová as Rusalka (Water Nymph), Jarmila Novotná as the Wood Sprite, Eva Urbanová as the Foreign Princess, and Dagmar Pecková as the Witch.



Gabriela Kopecká, art director, graphic designer, and typographer, was born in 1965 in Partizánské, Slovakia. She studied at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague, concentrating on public advertising and poster design, under the direction of Professor Z. Ziegler. Gabriela Kopecká has produced a broad body of work for magazines (ex.: *Financial Magazine* and *Cinema*) and films, including *The Ride (Jízda)* and *Dark Blue World (Tmavomodrý svět)*. She has worked for many Czech companies such as Czech Savings Bank, Czech Radio-telecommunications, and Albatros. Furthermore, she

has served as a graphic designer on a number of projects with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, including exhibitions, calendars, cards, and more. Kopecká was awarded for the best book design of 1991. She has carried a number of authors exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad, namely *100 years of book at Umprum (Sto let knihy na Umprum)* in 2001 in Prague or *Czech book of the 90's (Česká kniha 90. let)* in Hamburg, Germany, also in 2001.

The exhibitions will be on view Monday through Thursday (10 am-4 pm) and Friday (10-2 pm). Please call 202/274-9105 to schedule an appointment.



The *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011 - Antonín Dvořák* runs from September 8, 2011, commemorating the 170th anniversary of the birth of the composer, and ends on October 28, 2011, Czech National Day. The festival features more than 500 local and international artists, 30 concerts and events, and a dozen prestigious venues in the Washington, DC, community. The festival is spearheaded by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures. For more information about the festival, please visit www.mutualinspirations.org.