

Wall Piece

2006/2008

Mural painting, Usti Nad Labem, Czech Republic

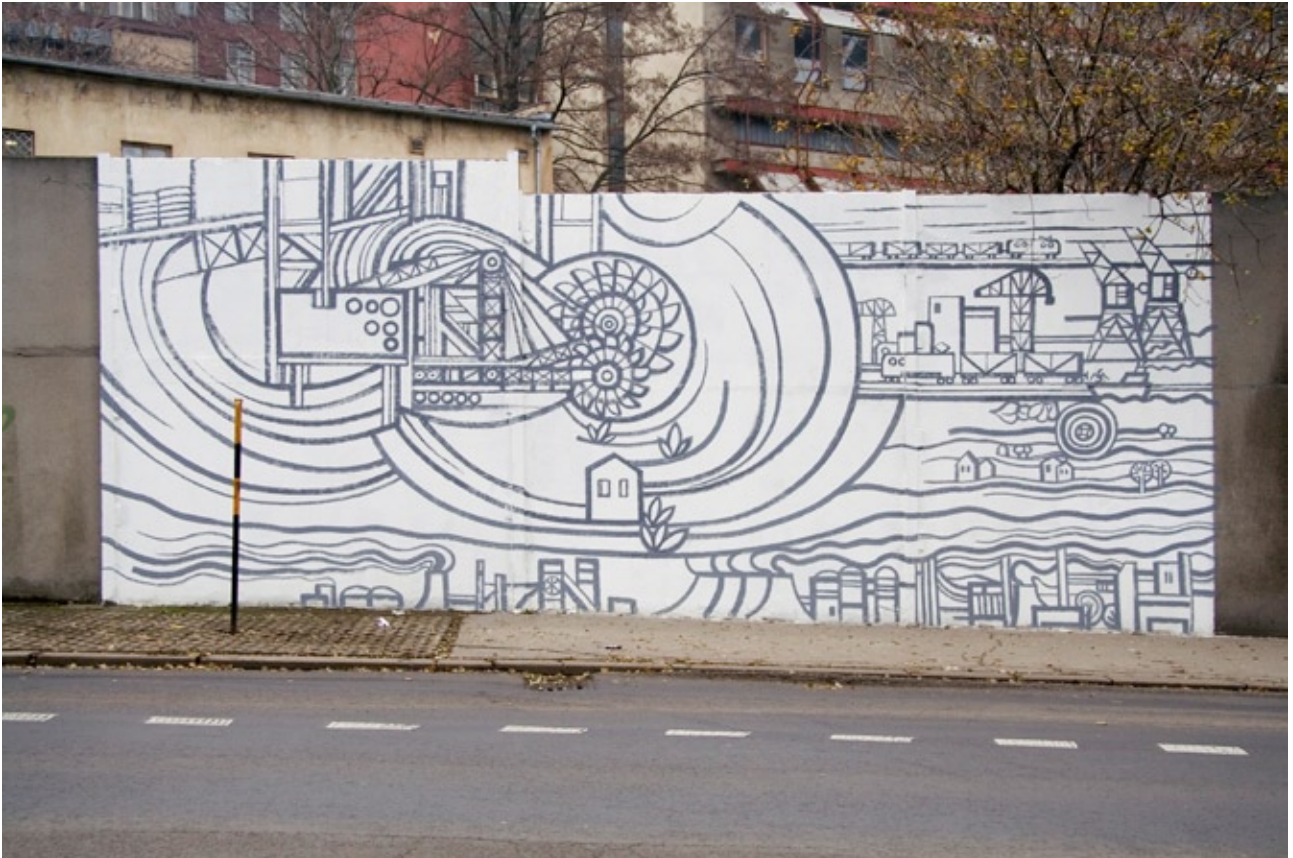
Usti nad Labem is an industrial city in northern Bohemia in the Czech Republic. Until the Second World War the population was mainly Sudeten German, after the war they were almost completely banished from the city. During the communist era a new, Czech population, settled. Still, today, marks and signs of the complex history of the town are visible in many ways in the urban landscape.

The pieces of art in public space in Usti nad Labem produced throughout the communist period are in a permanent process of being re-edited, replaced, taken away or simply hidden behind commercial banners. Also Miroslav Houras mosaic on the building of the regional government on the main square from 1982 was reedited with the artists consent after 1989, when an excerpt from the communist manifest was replaced with an image of a single-family house. Miroslav Houra worked on several assignments for the regime until 1989, before he died in the 1990ies.

Wall Piece“ is a mural painting depicting a fragment of the cityscape as it appears behind the marching people on Houras mosaic. This image of the city has not lost its relevance, many of the urban situations and industrial areas depicted in the mosaic still define the city and it's surrounding today. Issues such as the local chemical factory in the center of the city and whether it should be closed or not, or the possible opening of new open mine pits are central discussions in the region, as are also the environmental effects of the industries in the town.

The painting was painted in 2006, grey lines on white. Two years later, in 2008, the grey lines were overpainted with the same white as originally used for the background. The fresh white lines leave a white shadow on a background, that has become grey from time and weather and the pollution generated by the same industries depicted in the mosaic and in the painting.





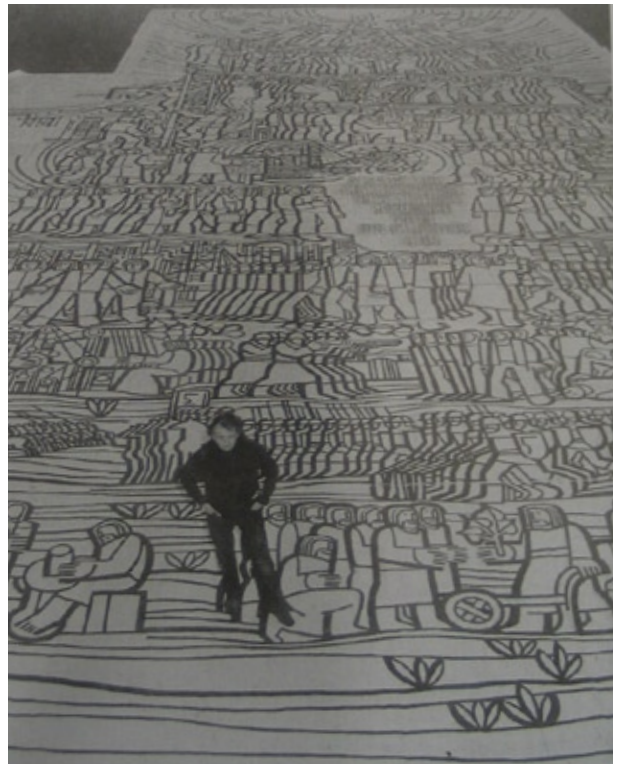
Wall Piece
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The mosaic on the main square, 2006



Miroslav Houra standing on the full scale sketch for the Mosaic in the first version with the text excerpt.