

J.H.KOCMAN

ART ACTIVITIES 1970-1979



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In 2015 the Moravian Gallery in Brno acquired a portfolio of conceptual activities of J.H.Kocman that had started to take shape in the early 1970s, and the acquisition gave rise to this book. In many aspects, it is rooted in J.H.Kocman's brochure My Activities 1965–73 prepared by the artist for his samizdat SP Edition and issued in spring 1974. Apart from an introductory text by Jiří Valoch and overview of the artist's exhibition and publishing activities, J.H.Kocman presented there, for the first time, a list of his artworks. He divided them into circles that he then compartmentalized into "activities". This monograph is based on the same principle, and the selection and sequence of the pieces have been authorized by J.H.Kocman. The monograph is exclusively devoted to the 1970s and only contains works that could be reproduced in black and white. With Jiří Valoch's texts, the editors followed the original, Bauhaus-inspired style of writing in lower-case type, i.e. without the use of capitals. As J.H.Kocman has provided his activities with English titles since the beginning of his art career, the editors decided not to back-translate them into Czech and to approach the publication as primarily English; only articles at the end appear in both languages. In addition, the editors excluded the category of books-objects that J.H.Kocman started to produce as early as 1970 and that have made up the core of his work to this day. However, this omission is compensated with a retrospective catalogue of the exhibition J.H.Kocman: Artists' Books and Papers, published by Prague's Galerie Rudolfinum in 1997.

Together with Jiří Valoch and Dalibor Chatrný, J.H.Kocman counts among the leading protagonists of Czech conceptual art whose life and work are closely linked with Brno. Paradoxically, the conceptual part of Kocman's oeuvre has been displayed and published abroad more often than in the Czech Republic; this gap is now filled with the Moravian Gallery's monograph. It is the first in a newly-established series Edice Jugoslávská 46a named symbolically after Jiří Valoch's postal address that will map the phenomenon of new art after 1945.

Ondřej Chrobák – Jana Písaříková

V roce 2015 získala Moravská galerie v Brně do sbírek autorské portfolio konceptuálních aktivit J.H.Kocmana, které vznikaly od počátku sedmé dekády 20. století. Tato akvizice se stala impulzem k realizaci předkládané publikace. Vychází z brožury J.H.Kocman My Activities 1965–73, kterou autor připravil pro vlastní samizdatovou edici SP Edition a vydal na jaře 1974. Vedle úvodního textu Jiřího Valocha a rekapitulace vlastní výstavní a publikační činnosti zde poprvé prezentuje soupis svého stávajícího výtvarného díla. Roztřídil je do okruhů, které pak kategorizoval jako „aktivita“. Na tomto principu je koncipována i předkládaná monografie. Výběr a řazení publikovaných prací je autorizováno J.H.Kocmanem. Monografie je zaměřena výhradně na sedmdesátá léta a zahrnuje pouze práce, které lze reprodukovat černobíle. Při publikování textů Jiřího Valocha jsme se rozhodli zachovat původní, Bauhausem inspirovaný způsob psaní malopisem, tedy nepoužívání verzálek. J.H.Kocman od počátku dával svým aktivitám výhradně anglické názvy, proto jsme se rozhodli je expost nepřekládat a publikaci uspořádat jako primárně anglickou, pouze delší texty jsou uvedeny rovněž v češtině. Zcela jsme vyloučili významnou oblast tvorby knih-objektů, jimiž se J.H.Kocman zabýval již od roku 1970 a které tvoří nosnou linii jeho práce dodnes. Tuto cezuru však kompenzuje retrospektivní katalog výstavy J.H.Kocman: Autorské knihy a papíry, publikovaný pražskou Galeríí Rudolfinum u příležitosti takto koncipované výstavy v roce 1997.

J.H.Kocman patří spolu s Jiřím Valochem a Daliborem Chatrným ke klíčovým protagonistům konceptuálního umění, jejichž život a dílo jsou úzce propojeny s městem Brnem. Paradoxně byla dosud právě konceptuální linie jeho díla častěji prezentována a publikována v zahraničí než v českém prostředí. Moravská galerie vydáním předkládané monografie zaplňuje tuto faktografickou mezeru. Publikace vychází jako první svazek nově založené ediční řady Edice Jugoslávská 46a, nazvané symbolicky podle poštovní i faktické adresy Jiřího Valocha, která bude průběžně dokumentovat fenomén nového umění po roce 1945.

Ondřej Chrobák – Jana Písaříková

Demarcation of aesthetic natural reservation, 1971
Photograph, 24 × 16 cm



this page was touched
by the fingers
of j. h. kocman

YES
NO

copies of all your stamps send to
JHK'S STAMP CARD REGISTER



WHITE

yes, i am j. h. kocman

LOVE is my
art activity

remember me!

this art-work by j. h. kocman
is dedicated
to 

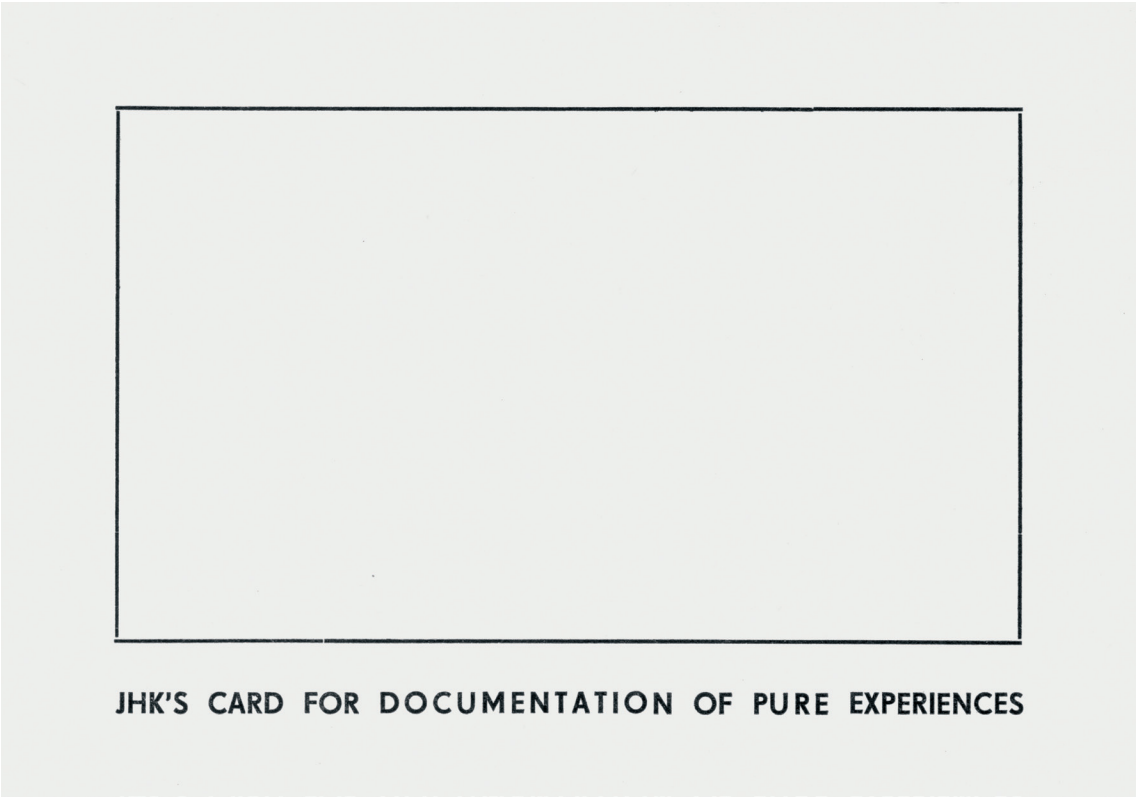
all written on this page
is a poem by
j. h. kocman

my ideas only on format
13 x 18 cm



Stamps on paper, 1970–1972

JHK's card for documentation of pure experiences, 1971–1974
Print on paper, 10.5 × 15 cm



NOT INCLUDED
1970s activities not included in this book

Object activity
Spoons (1970)
Comb (1970)
Artifact archives (1970)
Poem activity
4-code-poems for Amelia (1970)
3M pour Jiří Valoch (1970)
Material-for-poem-activity (1971)
Touch activity
Touch archives (1971)
Palpatio hepatis (1971)
Ben activity
Book for Ben (1972)
Report activity
Dactyloscopic report (1970)
In blue envelope – blue letter (1976)
Stamp activity
JHK’s Stamp Monograph (1973)
Stamp Activity – first international rubber stamp anthology (1972)
Sorry, I don’t make stamps anymore (1978)
Documentation activity
JHK’s Monograph (1973)
Dokumentační kartotéční systém A6 (1976)
Ecological activity
JHK’s ecological study (1971)
Ecologocal mapping (1972–73)
Micro/Macro Issue (1972–74)
Supplement-commentary to M. M. I. (1975)
Entomological activity
Collection of butterflies (1970)
Butterflies-Locations (1975)
Butterfly-Environment Series (1976)
Book object activity
Chromatographic Book (1970)
Non-Chromatographic Book (1970)

Continuous Dripping Book (1970)
Prepared Book (1970)
Partitura pro J. Koláře (1970)
Book for Documentation of Pure Experiences (1971)
Dactyloscopic Book for Milan Grygar (1971)
Capillarity Book for Václav Boštík (1971)
Book for Dalibor Chatrný (1972)
Minimal Book (1972)
Book-Sculpture (1970–73)
Sterile Books-Sterile Gloves (1974)
First-Hand-Sewn Book (1977)
Books-Concepts (1977)
One-End-Paper Book (1977)
Black-Red (1977)
Marbling Experiences of Three Days (1977)
Marbling Books (1977)
In sectione aurea (1978)
Dimension of the Book (1978)
Restorated Books (1978)
Constructed/Reconstructed Books (1978)
Vakár’s Book (1979)
Recovered Books (1979)
Vertical Book (1979)
One Sheet as One Book (1979)
First-Paper-Re-Making Book (1979)
Dispersed Books - Floating Poems (1979)
Ingres-Paper-Re-Making Book (1979)

Paper activity
JHK: O papíru / About Paper Sensibility, 1976
Tea Paper, 1979
Paper as Poetry, 1979
Paper-Re-Making Papers, 1979
One Week, 1979

This monograph does not include books-objects that J.H.Kocman started to produce as early as 1970 and that have made up the core of his work to this day. However, this omission is compensated with a retrospective catalogue of the exhibition J.H.Kocman: Artists’ Books and Papers, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague 1997.

V této monografii není zahrnuta oblast knih-objektů, jimiž se J.H.Kocman zabývá již od roku 1970 a které tvoří nosnou linii jeho práce dodnes. Tuto cezuru však kompenzuje retrospektivní katalog výstavy J.H.Kocman: Artists’ Books and Papers, Galerie Rudolfinum, Praha 1997.

6	EDITORIAL NOTE Ediční poznámka
8	OBJECT ACTIVITY Carpenter-stonecutter-sensibility (1973)
10	POEM ACTIVITY 4-code-poems for Amelia Etlinger (1970) How to spell my name correctly (1971) One poem and two homages (1972) Language/Love (1975)
18	TOUCH ACTIVITY JHK's touch <i>This page was touched by the fingers of J.H.Kocman</i> (1970) stamp Stamp as touch <i>TOUCH</i> (1972) stamp I am waiting for your touch (1973) stamp Touch-coloured-hands (1971) Touch study of my surroundings (1971) Self-touch-study (1971) Love-touch-study (1971)
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74	STAMP ACTIVITY JHK's touch <i>This page was touched by the fingers of J.H.Kocman</i> (1970) YES / NO (1970) White (1971) Satisfaction poem <i>Yes, I am J.H.Kocman</i> (1971) This art-work by J.H.Kocman is dedicated to ..., (1971) All written on this page is a poem by JHK (1971) Copies of all your stamps send to JHK's stamp card register (1971) Stamp as touch <i>TOUCH</i> (1972) Love is my art activity (1972) Remember me! (1972) My ideas only on format 13 × 18 cm (1972) New (1972) I am waiting for your touch (1973) Secret (1972) Art is Ben (1972) Homage to Ben is homage to art (1972) Homage to art is homage to Ben (1972) Remember to use the ideas by Ben (1972) The most beautiful work of art is yourself (1973) Art · Love · Life (1973) Do you need a poem? (1973) Yes, I am very interested in paper (1973) The end (1973) JHK's last art stamp (1975) Sorry, I make stamps never more! (1978)
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84	ECOLOGICAL ACTIVITY Documentation of a certain Earth traumatisation (1971) Double / Earth / study (1972)

88	ENTOMOLOGICAL ACTIVITY JHK as butterfly (1970) Butterfly on flower (1973) Butterfly under microscope (1973)
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