



COLIN ROSE AT JELENKA

For 2 months I will be in the Czech Republic researching for a new group of paintings that I have had in mind for over 20 years. South Bohemia as a version of Arcadia. (In retrospect I think that the group I painted in 1989 called *European Pastorals* was a tentative grasp at this theme.) Under communism this area was re-invented as an idealised and synthetic version of the peasant Arcadian life (the existence of a Bagpipe Festival

that will be held whilst my exhibition is on is a remnant of this.) Many of the villages were resettled after the expulsion of the Sudeten communities, so it was a canvas on which to paint a re-invented tradition.

I will rent a cottage in an area that consists of a network of small villages. There I will draw and paint but also work on my laptop. This should be the basis of the next four years of my life as an artist!

The momentous changes that have happened in Central Europe are not integrated into our world view. My desire to reconnect English art with its European sources bypassing the, for me, irrelevant American detour, is absolutely central to my vision. I explore and comment in my own work on a European focus to the English art world. I want to bring back to Yorkshire and the UK a European spirit informing art that is rich and complex. I want to challenge my own thinking as well as the viewers' perceptions.



At the same time an exhibition *Colin Rose at Jelenka* will be held in the castle at Strakonice, the principal town in this area of South Bohemia. The possibility of this exhibition has sustained me over the last 5 years. Agreeing to the exhibition has

been the focus for some of the best work I have ever produced. A small exhibition of preliminary ideas for the Czech exhibition was part of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival last year. It was very well received and provided me with a great release of energy. I feel my unusual perspective adds a refreshing artistic voice that the public wants to respond to.

Because of the circumstances of the exhibition, we all expect that it will attract a wider interest in the general Czech public, in addition to the receptive audience that the arts have in South Bohemia. The gallery expects around 8,000 visitors during the exhibition period.



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To find out lots more about my work go to:—
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