

AJ VANA BE

Benedict Tolar's living statue



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A man with a beard and sunglasses is looking upwards. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. The background features a large, ornate stone building with multiple spires and arches, set against a clear blue sky. The foreground on the left shows the interior of a white vehicle, possibly a bus or train, with overhead luggage racks.

Benedikt Tolar (1975) is one of the outstanding authors of Czech contemporary art. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. The author is known as an object artist and sculptor who deals with the recycling of everyday objects, which he transforms into ready-made works of art through contextual transformation. He often works with the themes of absurdity and infantility, which, however, he sophisticatedly combines with, for example, the motifs of the sacred or the sublime. Fragments of cars, animal monsters, bathtubs, satellites covered in paint, chaotically mixing colors, monumental sculptures, or spiritual symbolism - all this creates a colorful synthesis of the artist's imagination.

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AJ VANA BE is the artistic response to the theme of water as a precious resource, which the artist connects with the principles of up-cycling of outdated bathroom bathtubs that inherently belong to socialist housing in high-rise buildings.

AJ VANA BE "32, white, horizontal x vertical, purity, cleansing, baptism, womb - eternal longing for return, phallus, eternal longing for heaven, standard, middle class, 6,080 liters of water, scarcity x surplus...

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AJ VANA BE is an impressive sculpture during the day, but at night it comes alive with an audiovisual show where 32 baths are lit up and turned off to the rhythm of original music.

The installation is designed both for short-term exhibitions (festivals) and long-term exhibitions in public space.



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Technical requirements

- **Electricity:** 2x 16A 230V connection
- **Dimensions:** height: 6,5m (with base 6,7m), diameter: 2m , metal base 4 x 4 x 0.16 m
- **Material:** enamel, rubber, steel, paint (extra lights and sound in the live version), 32 LED lights, audio
- **Location:** a flat and solid ground of at least 4 x 4 m, open space with height of at least 8m, but better open sky
- Local permission and support with the logistics (Manitou MTX 732 or similar for half day of installation and half day of take down (with driver)

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Previous exhibitions

Ghent Light Festival, Ghent, Belgium, 2024 (to-be)

Fête des Lumières, Lyon, France, 2023 (to-be)

Constellations de Metz, Metz, France, 2023

Scultura #1, Brussels, Belgium, 2023

Biela Noc Light Festival, Bratislava, Slovak republic, 2022

Blik Blik festival of lights, Pilsen, Czech republic, 2021

AJ VANA BE



Project team

Author: BENEDIKT TOLAR, tolarbenedikt.com

Music and Programming (original Czech version): LADISLAV FRYC, watch [video](#)

Music and Programming (French version): ENA ENO, SYLVAIN DELBART, watch [video](#)

Production: JIRI SUCHANEK, www.artshifters.eu

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