Antonín Hudeček

Antonín Hudeček (1872–1941) gained renown as a painter focused primarily on landscapes. From 1887 to 1890, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, where he became one of the founding members of the Mánes Union of Fine Arts (1887) and trained under professors Julius Mařák and Maxmilián Pirner. In 1893, he briefly joined the circle of Václav Brožík's students. At that time, his work was mostly figurative, a focus he had also pursued in Munich from 1891 to 1893, studying privately with the Slovene painter Anton Ažbe and at the Academy of Fine Arts under Otto Seitz. In 1895, Hudeček established his studio in Prague and, alongside Antonín Slavíček, joined a group of landscape painters working under Mařák's guidance – often painting in the countryside near Prague, particularly around Okoř. He exhibited at the first exhibition of the Mánes Union in 1898 and showed his work in Vienna for the first time in 1900. A prolific traveller, he visited Italy and Sicily in 1902 and 1908, Rügen in 1914–1915, the Salzburg region in 1916–1917, and between 1919 and 1927 made several trips to Slovakia, especially the Tatras, and to Carpathian Ruthenia. In 1930, he was appointed a full member of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts and received the Academy's award for lifetime achievement. In 1940, he was awarded the National Prize for his contribution to Czech painting. Hudeček's style was strongly influenced by Mařák, Antonín Slavíček, and to some extent by French Impressionism. Yet his paintings lean more toward realism, as luminous compositions with colour tones shimmering in the light. A special chapter of his work is devoted to his fascination with water: still ponds, flowing streams, the sea, and the moody atmospheres of twilight.