Luděk Marold

Luděk Marold (1865–1898) stood out as a brilliant painter and versatile illustrator. At just sixteen years old, he was accepted to the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, though he stayed for only a year. In 1882, he left for Munich to study under Ludwig von Löfftz and Nikolaos Gyzis. There, as a member of the Škréta association, he connected with many fellow Czechs, including Jan Vochoč. Apart from contributing to both Czech and German magazines, as he came of age, he made an ambitious attempt to illustrate the novel *The Marquis* by Servác Heller. He returned to Prague in 1887 and worked in the studio of Maxmilián Pirner (1854–1924). In 1889, he moved to Paris. Although he quickly lost his state scholarship due to his inconsistency, he formed a close friendship with Vojtěch Hynais (1854–1925). Marold soon found success with his illustrations for Czech and foreign literature alike. In Paris, he also drew and painted genre scenes from French daily life. Like Mucha, he gradually gravitated toward decorative Art Nouveau and0began receiving commissions for posters. Toward the end of his short life, Marold lived in Prague. His famous panorama *The Battle of Lipany* decorated the 1898 Architecture and Engineering Exhibition at Prague's Royal Game Reserve. That same year, he contracted typhoid and died within a week. His first retrospective exhibition in the Czech lands was held only posthumously in 1899.