František Ondrúšek

František Ondrúšek (1861–1932) is best known for his portrait work. After completing the Slavic Grammar School in Olomouc, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (1879–1881), then continued in Vienna before enrolling at the Academy in Munich in 1883, where he painted under Ludwig von Löfftz until 1886. During his time in Munich, he became one of the founding members of the Škréta association of Czech compatriots, alongside Karel Dvořák, Luděk Marold, Alphonse Mucha, Jožа Uprka, Jaroslav Věšín, and others. Following further study trips to Venice, back to Munich, and to Augsburg, Ondrúšek also travelled to study in France (1901) and Italy (1910). Over the summer holidays, he often returned to Moravia to paint – a region to which he felt a deep personal connection, as a founding member of the Hodonín Association of Moravian Artists. Ondrúšek devoted himself almost exclusively to portraiture, and particularly valued are his works in the style of artistic naturalism. Among his best-known paintings is a portrait of President T. G. Masaryk for the Brno University of Technology, as well as likenesses of prominent Czech figures such as Leoš Janáček, Luděk Marold, Jaroslav Vrchlický, Josef Hlávka, and Oskar Nedbal. His portrait of the builder and art collector František Jureček is considered one of his finest opuses.