

Anna Zemánková (1908–1986)

Frieze Masters, The Regent's Park, London, NW1

Wednesday 14TH to Sunday 18TH October 2026

The Gallery of **Everything** presents a solo exhibition of large and small-scale works on paper by Czech artist and image maker **Anna Zemánková** (1908–1986) at Frieze Masters 2026, presented with the support of the artist's family.

Bringing together an exceptional group of 25 works across the artist's thirty-year practice, the presentation marks the gallery's first solo exhibition devoted to **Zemánková**.

At the heart of the presentation is a group of monumental pastel works from the 1960s, previously exhibited by Massimiliano Gioni in *The Encyclopedic Palace* at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013. Alongside these are rarely seen embroidered works, revealing the extraordinary material dimension of **Zemánková's** practice, as well as a selection of her highly sought-after, intimate postcard-sized drawings.

Zemánková began drawing in her fifties and developed a deeply personal visual language inspired by nature, spirituality and the rhythms of everyday life. Working almost exclusively in the early hours of the morning, she produced intricate compositions in pastel, ink and pencil, later enriching their surfaces through perforation, collage and embroidery. Neither botanical studies nor abstract inventions, **Zemánková's** visionary images occupy a singular territory between observation and imagination, their extraordinary forms unfolding with the precision of scientific illustration and the freedom of automatic drawing.

Since her introduction to British audiences in the landmark *Outsiders* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in 1979, **Zemánková** has come to be recognised as one of the defining figures of twentieth-century self-taught art. Her work was created in relative isolation in communist Czechoslovakia, at a time when abstraction and other forms of non-conformist artistic expression were not officially sanctioned within the cultural mainstream. Today, her drawings have increasingly entered a wider conversation around visionary modernism and the histories of abstraction.

Her intensely personal visual language invites comparison with artists as diverse as Hilma af Klint, Georgia O'Keeffe and fellow Czech pioneer František Kupka, whose work similarly sought forms through which nature, spirituality and unseen forces might be made visible.

Like theirs, **Zemánková's** work speaks to some of the defining artistic concerns of the twentieth century: the relationship between art and nature, the search for spiritual meaning through abstraction, and the invention of visual languages beyond academic convention.

Zemánková's international reputation has been shaped through a succession of significant museum exhibitions, from *Outsiders* at the Hayward Gallery (1979) and the São Paulo Biennial (1981), to Massimiliano Gioni's *The Encyclopedic Palace* at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013) and Adriano Pedrosa's *Foreigners Everywhere* at the 60th Venice Biennale (2024).

More recent institutional presentations include *The Botanical Mind: Art, Mysticism and the Cosmic Tree* at Camden Art Centre, London (2021), and the current retrospective *Fruits with a Taste of Potato Dumplings* at Gočár Gallery, Pardubice (2026).

Zemánková's work is held in major public collections including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Milwaukee Art Museum; mumok, Vienna; Moravian Gallery, Brno; Museum of Art Olomouc; and LaM, Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut.

Selected Exhibitions:

Fruits with a Taste of Potato Dumplings: Anna Zemánková, Gočár Gallery, Pardubice, 2026

Foreigners Everywhere, 60th Venice Biennale, Arsenale, Venice, 2024

The Botanical Mind: Art Mysticism and the Cosmic Tree, Camden Art Centre, London, 2021

Anna Zemánková, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, 2017

The Museum of Everything, MONA – Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, 2017–

The Museum of Everything, Kunsthall Rotterdam, Rotterdam, 2016

The Encyclopedic Palace, 55th Venice Biennale, Arsenale, Venice, 2013

Art Brut: Anatomia Metamorphosis, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kobe,

2012

Ostalgia, New Museum, New York, 2011

Inner Worlds Outside, Whitechapel Gallery, London / Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin Fundación "la Caixa", Madrid, 2006–07

16th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo, 1981

Outsiders: An Art Without Precedent or Tradition, Hayward Gallery, London, 1979

Collections:

Centre Pompidou – Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee

Moravian Gallery, Brno

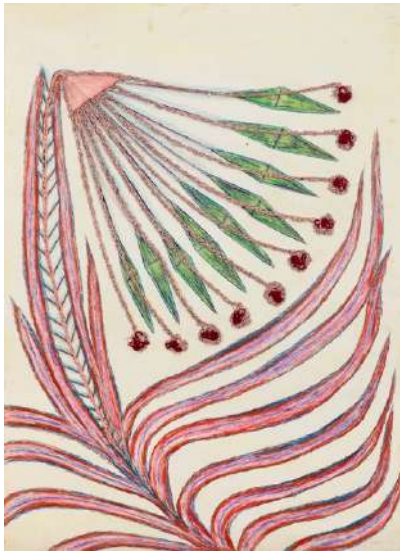
Museum of Art Olomouc, Olomouc

mumok – Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna

LaM – Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut,

Villeneuve-d'Ascq

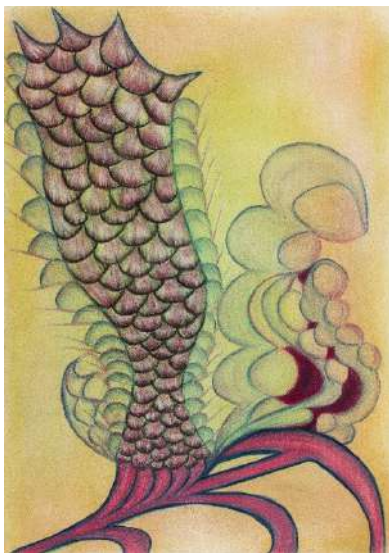
Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava



untitled, c 1970/75
thread, pastel, oil pastel, ink on paper
62.5 x 45 cm
24 5/8 x 17 3/4 in



untitled, c 1965/70
pastel on paper
88 x 62 cm
34 5/8 x 24 3/8 in



untitled, c 1960/65
pastel on paper
84 x 59.3 cm
33 1/8 x 23 3/8 in



untitled, c 1965/70
pastel on paper
84 x 59.5 cm
33 1/8 x 23 3/8 in

Anna Zemánková Recent Articles and Reviews:

- 1 [Jennifer Higgle, "Review: Fruits with a Taste of Potato Dumplings", \(e-flux 2026\)](#)
- 2 [Joe Lloyd, "The Botanical Mind, Camden Arts Centre," \(Studio International 2024\)](#)
- 3 [Greg Nissan, "The Incandescent Botany of Overlooked Czech Artist Anna Zemánková," \(Frieze 2019\)](#)
- 4 [The Paris Review, "Flowers Not Grown Anywhere Else," \(The Paris Review 2018\)](#)
- 5 [David Pagel, "Take a walk through the imaginary garden of Anna Zemánková," Los Angeles Times \(2017\)](#)
- 6 [Michael Golz, "Un voyage en pays imaginaire," \(Le Temps 2017\)](#)

The Gallery of Everything is London's first commercial space dedicated to artists and makers beyond the cultural mainstream.

The Gallery of Everything displays self-taught, art-brut, spiritualist, vernacular and other non-academic material from the 19th century to the present day, alongside contemporary artworks by diverse creators of every colour, class, gender, race and neurology.

The gallery's programme includes group and solo exhibitions, art fairs, talks, readings and happenings.

For further information and available works, please contact the gallery at [**ge@gallevery.com**](mailto:ge@gallevery.com).