



Press Release, 5 May 2008

**The legendary *ORBIS PICTUS* exhibition conceived by the artist Petr Nikl
has been given the status of an accompanying event for the Czech presidency of the
Council of the European Union**

On 21 April 2008, the Czech Republic's Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Alexandr Vondra made the ***ORBIS PICTUS*** exhibition an official accompanying event to be presented within the framework of the Czech Republic's presidency of the Council of the European Union in Prague and Brussels.

The world premiere of the exhibition ***ORBIS PICTUS or the Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination*** was held under the auspices of the European Union's Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Ján Figel', in 2006 at the Czech Centre in Paris, France. In 2007, it was subsequently presented with great success and record attendances in Prague and other Czech cities before visiting the Italian city of Florence at the end of the year. The importance of the ***ORBIS PICTUS*** exhibition was confirmed by the European Commissioner Ján Figel' when he stated that "*Comenius' thinking has inspired me to propose 2009 as the **European Year of Creativity and Innovation**. The 'Orbis Pictus' exhibition represents in an exemplary way the mission of this European Year.*"

In connection with the European Year of Creativity and Innovation as well as the Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union, Petr Nikl is preparing a new exhibition entitled ***ORBIS PICTUS or Labyrinth of Light***. Within the framework of the Czech presidency, this will be presented in May 2009 in Prague. ***ORBIS PICTUS or Labyrinth of Light*** is another interactive project

creating an open zone of communication through the imaginative use of light. European artists will also be asked to join this new project.

Since 2006, the **ORBIS PICTUS** exhibition and accompanying publications have contributed to the realisation of one of the main goals of a project that aims to spread the intellectual legacy of John Amos Comenius, not just at home but also abroad. In the summer of this year, the exhibition **ORBIS PICTUS or the Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination** will be presented in 2008 the Czech Republic in České Budějovice and then in Canada in Vancouver. In 2009 it will subsequently be presented within the framework of the Czech Republic's presidency of the Council of the European Union in Brussels and in connection with the **European Year of Creativity and Innovation** in others European cities.

Since 2000, the exhibition concept, which was created by Petr Nikl, has been seen by around 1.9 million visitors, both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Official website of the exhibition: www.orbis-pictus.com

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