

What our students thought about the VNÍMÁNÍ project:



First, we asked ourselves some QUESTIONS:

- Is it art?
- *Why is the Fountain under the hood?*
- What is it in the middle of the square?

- **Is it Hidden Beauty?**

- **Why is it here?**

- **Is the wall around the fountain good for us?**

- **Is this good for tourism?**

- *Can a black wall make you change your point of view?*

- To art or not to art?

- What has happened to the Samson fountain?

- **Where is Samson?**

- Art or useless thing?

- **IS IT GOOD FOR Č. BUDĚJOVICE?**

- *What's going on with „Perception“?*

- **Architecture or just a black wall?**

- Is the wall around a fountain a good idea?

- Who is it good for?

- **THIS IS MODERN ART?**

- **HOW TO PERCEIVE „PERCEPTION“?**

Then, we summed up the PROs and the CONs:

PROS	CONS
It makes me smile	It is expensive
Author makes us realise the value of baroque art	Money should (could) be spent on something better
It's for free to see this	View of fountain
The wall protects the fountain from vandals and sprayers	The access is limited to opening hours of the gallery
It started a debate about modern art	It may attract vandals
It is an interesting event, something is happening	I don't like the black wall, because it is black.
It made ČB more attractive in the media (TV, radio, internet...)	Some people may think is under reconstruction
It made people focus on the fountain itself.	The access is difficult for handicapped people
People have a completely different experience when they are inside	I hope that the wall won't stay forever in the square
You are closer to the fountain itself.	České Budějovice loses many tourists
It makes people be interested about it and its sculptor.	Is takes a lot of space for people who want to relax

We started to appreciate the details. Samson's body, his muscles.	Author's intention failed, because people hate it.
The author wants to point out, what a jewel the fountain is.	The black colour makes me feel sad
Many people, who don't normally talk about art or think about art, now they are talking about the fountain and they have opinions.	The architect stole this piece of art only for himself and the art gallery
The fountain is a jewel, and it is normal to hide it in a jewel box and take it out only for special occasions	I don't care. I'm not interested in art. So I don't know what I think about it.

Here are some conclusions:

- **In my opinion it's an interesting idea.**
- I do not like it. The wall blocks the view of the fountain. The money could be used for something more useful. It repels tourists from visiting. It is expensive (material).
- **In my opinion it is a great idea, because I think people forgot about the value of the fountain and I think it's good to show them something they know from a different perspective.**
- I don't like it. I think that the wall blocks the view of the Samson fountain and the money could be used for better things.

- **To sum up, I'm glad that author's target has been a successful hit because when people start discussing about anything, it means that they're able to perceive.**
- I think the black wall captures people's attention. They think Samson is an extraordinary monument. I think it's expensive and the black wall around Samson is terrible, but when people see the black wall and not Samson they think it is something unusual and go in because they want to see it.
- **I don't think it's a good idea at all because when tourists come to České Budějovice, they don't have to understand the whole idea, they should think it's under construction and they can pass it. I don't go to the square to see an ugly huge black thing, I go there to see the whole square which is practically impossible now. We should be proud of the square and we are not supposed to hide it.**

And here are some more conclusions:

- My opinion is that it is terrible. I don't like it. Some people argue that it made České Budějovice attractive. I think totally the opposite.
- **In conclusion, I think it makes the city more attractive, on the other hand it destroys the panorama. I would say, I don't care. Even so, I like České Budějovice.**
- I don't like the black wall, because it is black.
- To sum up, I'm glad that author's target has been a successful hit because when somebody starts discussing about anything, It means that they're able to perceive.

- **My opinion is that it is ugly and not useful. It looks horrible and people are making jokes about it. When I came inside this „art“ I didn't see any difference between that and normal Samson without this black wall.**
- What I think is that the huge black thing is useless. We have to be proud of the square and we want to see all of it!
- **I think it's ugly and waste of money. When I was in this thing, I was feeling like I was in prison.**
- I think it's not nice and it's expensive but in České Budějovice it started a dialogue about Samson. People began to be interested in Samson history.

Finally, you can read two of the best 2nd year students' essays:

Can a black wall make you change your point of view?

Sometime earlier this year one guy that calls himself an artist had an idea that he could build a wall around the Samson fountain and call it his art.

In my opinion it's mostly a bad idea. When you'll walk to the square, normally you'd see a beautiful fountain that goes aesthetically well with other historical buildings that are around the square but now all you can focus on is a big black thing in the middle. It takes all of the attention and not in a good way. When tourists come to České Budějovice they obviously want to see the square and when they finally arrive there they might be a bit disappointed because they might think the fountain is under reconstruction. There aren't any signs that would

tell them that they can enter the exhibition. And handicapped people? There is no way for them to see the fountain. In my opinion it has way more cons but I won't write all of them.

But as usually even this has other side of the coin. The exhibition is not permanent and only lasts for like a month. In my opinion the only good thing about this is that people that went inside concentrated on the fountain more and maybe noticed some things they didn't notice before but that wasn't my case. So, in conclusion – the money could be used on something better.

Nikola Vithová, S2B

City Square Without Its Pride

Do we really need this piece of art? In the main square of České Budějovice a big black round-shaped wall has been erected. It's there, because someone thought that it would be awesome to cover the city fountain, the square's landmark. The author says that it's supposed to be a reminder of our priceless treasure and that we will realize the value of what we usually overlook like something ordinary.

I think that the fountain should be visible from further distance than just a few metres. It is a jewel of the square and people can't see it now. Many tourists don't even know, how to access it. Although I'm not a huge fan of it, I think it's clever. It just didn't made for its potential.

Cyril Smolka, S2B