

# Exhibition WOMAN AND THE OTHERS

## with paintings by Filip Kaftan

October 24 until December 16, 2013



Dear co-workers,  
dear visitors!

The second art exhibition at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology expresses our intention to keep science in contact with art. As communication is an important theme in our studies of interactions between plants and herbivores, science and art communicate with each other and even complement one another. This can be experienced in the paintings by Filip Kaftan, a scientist at our institute.

In an interview with medical journal *The Lancet* neurobiologist Thomas Südhof, who was just announced Nobel Prize winner in Physiology and Medicine by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, explained that he owed everything he had achieved scientifically to his bassoon teacher who had taught him the powers of analysis and concentration<sup>1</sup>. A research publication provided evidence that more than 50% of the members of the *Royal Society* and the *National Academy of Sciences* are engaged in some artistic discipline<sup>2</sup>. Famous Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci were scientists first. The list of renowned researchers who were also active musicians or artists is long. Art brings balance to the hectic academic life. Art fosters concentration and discipline. Science also requires creativity and fantasy. These are just a few examples of the many bridges between the world of the sciences and the world of art.

**Filip Kaftan**, who grew up in the Czech city of Kladno, is a chemist and a commuter between both poles. For him, painting is a way to relax, but also a unique means of self-expression. The current exhibition WOMAN AND THE OTHERS presents a selection of paintings from different periods of his artistic oeuvre. He has chosen them with respect to the title of the exhibition which focuses on female portraits.



All paintings in the exhibition were created between 2006 and 2012. Early works were stylistically influenced by cubism. After a period of more realistic paintings, Kaftan's art now also includes surrealistic and even abstract elements.

We invite you to take some time to explore and enjoy Filip Kaftan's paintings.

*Angela Overmeyer, MPI for Chemical Ecology, Public Relations Office*

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<sup>1</sup> The Lancet, 376 (9739), 409 (2010)

<sup>2</sup> Root-Bernstein et al. *Journal of Psychology of Science and Technology*, 1 (2), 51-63 (2008)