

The free art group called “12/15 Pozdě, ale přece” was founded on the 3th of June 1987 in Václav Bláha’s studio. However, the beginnings of collective activities of its members are to be found already in the first half of the 70’s when these artists started to exhibit their art together. During those beginnings and through all the time of normalization, too, they found their place in exhibition rooms of the alternative (unofficial) culture. Hence, they had no chance to present themselves adequately enough. Besides their close friendship, it was one of the reasons of establishing an art group.

The members of 12/15 were not unified by any collective art program. It was a group of individuals freely creating and thinking. Its founding members were: Václav Bláha, Vladimír Novák, Petr Pavlík, Michael Rittstein, Ivan Kafka, Ivan Ouhel, Jiří Beránek, Kurt Gebauer, Jaroslav Dvořák and Tomáš Švéda. Since their second exhibition (1988) Jiří Načeradský became a new member, and since the third one (1990) Jiří Sopko. Gradually this circle has expanded by joining a cultural worker Jiří Halík, and a group manager Josef Vomáčka. During the years 1988-1996 they organized 7 collective exhibitions. To each of them some propagation materials were created: posters, flags, invitation cards and so on; an author of their graphical design was Ivan Kafka.

In 12/15 several members of the 60’s generation have met, and mainly the representatives of the 70’s. They have found a basis of their art mostly in a new figuration and the Czech grotesque. During the 80’s they were confronted with the new postmodernism-oriented generation. Around the half of that decade, the artists of 12/15 have found a new expression which was in motion in foreign countries at the same time. Yet Ivan Kafka’s art defies that concept. His style was minimalistic and conceptual. In the 90’s individual positions of single members strengthens.

An important role of the free art group 12/15 Pozdě, ale přece consisted in the fact the pieces of art of its members represented a significant connecting line between modern and postmodern way of picturing in the unkind era of normalization. Its members were keeping a continuity by both serious and ironical comments on the way of life of society.