Together for the 130th Anniversary of the Birth of Marie Sedláčková-Serbousková

This year we celebrate the 130th anniversary of the birth of the renowned Czech lace maker Marie Sedláčková-Serbousková. In her time, together with other lace makers, she helped elevate Czech lace into a modern art form.

Marie Sedláčková-Serbousková (1895–1964) was a Czech lace maker. She came from the small village of Javornice, near the lace-making center of Vamberk. Between 1920 and 1921, she made four trips abroad to study Slovak lace. She designed for prominent families, including the family of the first Czechoslovak president, T. G. Masaryk. Her lacework was awarded a gold medal and diploma at the International Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris in 1925.

Her work blends several styles. She used alternating dense and airy geometric areas in her designs. Each lace piece is unique, even when based on the same basic elements. From identical strips, countless combinations can be created. Her designs and lacework continue to inspire contemporary creators.

This year, Czech lace makers collaborated on a project inspired by Marie Sedláčková-Serbousková's lace. The goal was to showcase the variable system she developed. We prepared a simple bobbin lace strip alternating denser and more open geometric segments. From the lace strips made by various lace makers, we assembled larger compositions. During the preparation, we created a series of visualizations on the computer.

In total, we received 1,000+ lace strips from 300+ Czech lace makers. These strips were used to create several contemporary compositions.

You can now view part of this collaborative lacework by Czech lace makers here at the Czech national booth of OIDFA in Bulgaria.

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