



Markus Lüpertz, *Liberec*, 2016



Santa Monica Pier, California, 2013
Endowment Fund D. A. D. A

Jiří JIROUTEK – *White, Black, HORIZON*

Liberec Regional Gallery
under-the-pool hall and graphic cabinet

28 January - 17 April 2022

Curator and texts: *Martin Dostál*
Supervision: *Johana Kabičková*
Architecture and installation design: *Tomáš Rýdl a Martin Dostál*
Graphic design: *Filip Dvořák*
Translation: *Stephan von Pohl*
Installation: *Přemysl Machálek, Jaroslav Trojan*

cover: Los Angeles, 2013

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LÁZNĚ
OBLASTNÍ GALERIE LIBEREC

28 January - 17 April 2022

*The patronage of the exhibition was taken over by the
governor of the Liberec region Martin Půta.*

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The Ještěd Phenomenon, *Liberec*, 2001



I'm not going to Ještěd anymore, *Liberec*, 2002

Surprising, aesthetic, refined. Such is the photographic world of Jiří Jiroutek, who does not deny his sense for visual objectivity, broad horizons, and geometric detail. Jiroutek captures greater or smaller landscapes dominated by horizontal or vertical lines, characterized an atmosphere infused by a captivating moment, and with the presence of people who are and are not the measure of a space that far exceeds them. One of his interests is the kinds of structures and geometric grids often, though not exclusively, associated with architecture. He also captures groups of people in arrangements that possess a magical (either theatrical or cinematic) sense of staging.

Jiroutek's retrospective exhibition at the Liberec Regional Gallery also looks at earlier projects. These include his series of photographs of both Ještěd, meaning Karel Hubáček's iconic building above Liberec and the same architect's now-demolished department store in the city center. The two Ještěd cycles not only take a distinctive look at these two consummately modernist structures, but they also explore geometry, detail, and light and shadow. The exhibition also includes another important photographic series, Jiroutek's as-yet unfinished series of portraits of outstanding individuals, especially in the field of visual art. His documentary images, which introduce color into the exhibition, capture artistic "operations," in particular in his hometown of Liberec.

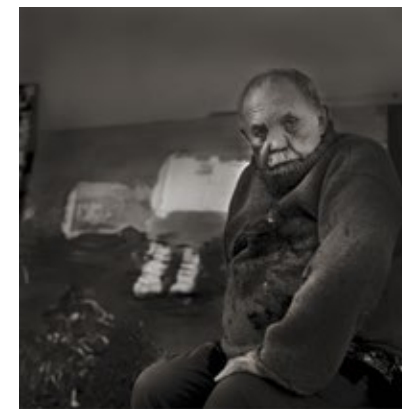
Jiroutek was born in 1967 in Louny, but his working and private life are closely tied to Liberec, where he fully developed his fine art and commissioned photographic activities. He has a strong relationship to his photographic and artistic predecessors, and for this reason the exhibition includes works by several now-deceased artists whose work Jiroutek consistently looks back on. These include the forgotten Liberec-based photographers Ladislav Postupa, Jan Pikous, and Čestmír Krátký, but also painters who inspired Jiroutek during his time in Louny – Zdeněk Sýkora, Vladislav Mirvald, and Kamil Linhart. Jiroutek studied fine art photography at the Silesian University's Institute of Creative Photography in Opava, which is headed by the photographer and curator of photographic exhibitions Vladimír Birgus, whose works are also on display.

The exhibition is thus more than just one photographer's retrospective; it also reflects the importance of honoring the artistic context of earlier decades.

Martin Dostál



from the series Exhibitions and Situations, *Liberec*, 2019



Vladimír Kopecký, *Tuklaty*, 2008



Zabriskie Point - California, 2013



Church of St. Nicholas, *Louny*, 2001

Jiri Jiroutek says about his approach to photography:

While studying at the Institute of Creative Photography at the Silesian University in Opava, I learned to work in photographic cycles. Vladimír Birgus, who headed the school, guided me towards taking a focused view of reality and creating photographic series. These can be exhibited independently or placed within new contexts. I cannot rule out the possibility that my way of seeing the world was influenced by the place where I was born. My hometown of Louny is known primarily thanks to the painters Zdeněk Sýkora, Vladislav Mirvald, and Kamil Linhart, and I had the opportunity to admire their work while still a young boy. Their geometric abstractions in particular had a fundamental influence on me, and one can surely find parallels to their painting in some of my photographs – not to mention the fact that they, too, were photographers at a particular point in their careers.

Another source of inspiration for me has been the work of architects from my life in Liberec: both Ještěd buildings, the TV tower and the department store. The team of architects led by Karel Hubáček has clearly guided my professional career. Architectural photography has been central to my work.

And then there is my systematic interest in Liberec-based photographers and in the Liberec Studio of Fine Art Photography. Ladislav Postupa, Jan Pikous, Čestmír Krátký, and other Liberec artists were models during my early search for my approach to art photography. Besides these names, other photographers have been important for me as well – photographers whose aesthetic foundations shaped the informal sixties. Of these, I would in particular like to name Alois Nožička. With my Liberec exhibition, I seek not only to recall these artists but also to “exhibitionally” thank them.

Jiří Jiroutek