

Outdoor exhibition “People from Vltavská”

Author: Kevin V. Ton

Exhibition period: December 20, 2020 – March 25, 2021

Curator: Marie Foltýnová, Prague City Gallery

Cooperating organization:

Prague Public Transit Company

On December 20, 2020, the exhibition “People from Vltavská” by street photographer Kevin V. Ton was installed on the outdoor supporting walls. Mr. Ton has been involved in street photography for a long time, and since 2015, he’s been focusing on the location around the Vltavská underground station and nearby neighborhood of Holešovice, and its people.

The Prague City Gallery, in cooperation with the Prague Public Transit Company, hereby starts the outdoor gallery project; each exhibition will be on display for three months.

The program “Art for the City”, organized by the City of Prague to support contemporary art in the public space, started in 2018. This year, the support has extended to temporary installations and short-term art interventions in the public space. They include the planned outdoor gallery using the supporting walls above the Vltavská underground station. The cascaded terraces will soon give way to the new architectural concept of the Bubny neighborhood, and the piazetta around the projected concert hall. Currently, the area is neglected, abandoned and decaying. Until the reconstruction starts, the Prague Public Transit Company will offer the area to the outdoor gallery for exhibitions that will take turns in 3-month periods. The Prague City Gallery will make an open call for three curator projects for outdoor exhibitions for the following periods: April 1 to June 25, July 1 to September 25 and October 1 to January 25, 2022. The projects to be realized in these periods will be selected by an expert committee.

“Since its birth, the Prague underground is closely linked to visual art. I’m really happy that we have realized numerous projects lately that bring contemporary art closer to people, and, after a long time, follow up on the cultural heritage of this public space. I believe that the periodic changes of the Vltavská Terraces will spark the everyday life with a new and fresh traveling experience,” says Anna Švarc, the architect of the subway.

For the experimental pilot period of the outdoor gallery, the Prague City Gallery curator decided to invite street photographer Kevin V. Ton to select pictures related to the immediate surroundings of the Vltavská station, or Lower Holešovice. The theme of the exhibition is clear and easy to understand: People from Vltavská. It also responds to the current pandemic that has affected life of people on the streets as well as exhibitions in indoor galleries.

Kevin V. Ton is a Prague-based acclaimed freelance photographer, winner of numerous awards including the Everyday Life category in the CZECH PRESS PHOTO 2020 competition. His lifelong passion is black and white humanistic documentary photography, and he’s especially focused on long-term projects. He’s been involved in street photography for years. Several years ago, he initiated the establishment of the photographic club VERUM PHOTO.

Asked about his work, the photographer says: "I'm looking for an essence. The essence of humanity. I'm looking for human beings, whoever, wherever and whatever they are. I'm looking for human beings in human beings through photographs, especially in black and white."

The temporary installation was supported by the program "Art for the City", in the cooperation with the Prague Public Transit Company.

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