

PRESS RELEASE

Tomáš Rafa — Extremism Blockade
12. 12. 2019 — 01. 02. 2020

Curator:
Juraj Čarný

ústí nad labem
house of arts

Exhibition opening on Wednesday 11. 12. at 6pm
Guided tour with curator at 4.30pm

Guest artists:
The Centre for Political Beauty (GER)

"Civil society has made a monument for Germany's premiere fear-monger. The message behind it: we will no longer tolerate right-wing extremism. It is not normal. Racism is not normal. And this attack on our collective identity as a civilisation will remain unanswered no longer."
The Center for Political Beauty (GER)

„V súčasnosti sa deje toľko zaujímavých vecí, že je ťažké nevnímať ich. Politická situácia sa zhoršuje, rasizmus a xenofóbia sú na vzostupe, emócie sprevádzajúce rôzne pouličné udalosti sú stále intenzívnejšie. Myslím si, že je možné, že toto všetko smeruje k nejakému veľkému vyvrcholeniu. Koniec koncov, tak to v minulosti vždy bolo.“ Tomáš Rafa

We are living in the times that surprise me more and more with their fatal misunderstanding of the past mistakes. It seems unbelievable yet more and more realistic to me that the mankind can fall into the same trap over and over again. The Internet and social networks allowed the famous fifteen "Warhol" minutes of fame to everybody interested. Fake news websites now have more followers than serious media, and conspiracies and hoaxes get shared at a faster pace than fact-based news. At the end of November, the results of a survey were made public in Slovakia, showing that should only young people under 30 vote in the next-year elections, it would be a crushing victory for a party that denies democracy and basic human freedoms and rights. The party that discriminates minorities, questions Holocaust, and celebrates a criminal ideology.

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM:

14. 12. 2019 / 1—4pm

Production of diaries with Reformát → Swiss binding

The workshop will guide you through a fully equipped workshop and bookbinding basics and take away the diaries you make yourself.

Price 390 CZK, reservation at duul@ujep.cz

12. 12. 2019 / 5pm

Meme - Frog Pepe and his friends

Moderated discussion on the topic - you know Pepe Frog and his gang? As this figure is associated with neo-Nazi culture and shooting at American schools. It Mem cultural information in the form of total irony? And it can be left to learn „meme“? What about Mr. Vandas, is he cheerful and not troubled by gloom?

29. 1. 2020 / 5pm

Art about politics

Curator of contemporary art Lenka Kukurová will present selected works and exhibitions devoted to the political theme in the Czech and Slovak environment in the last twenty years.

The Extremism Blockade is an exhibition adamantly revealing the truth we would prefer not to know, let alone see and hear. I used to marvel at Tomáš Rafa's will – that he can visit places where no normal person would dare to go and would even have no motivation to see. That he can shoot and make public claims that should be left burning in history's rubbish dump, and point out people whose names would better not be mentioned (even in this text). The truth is, though, that Tomáš Rafa had been documenting the dangerous evil before it even came to power, became significant in the society, and found tens of thousands of followers. Looking back at his works today and trying to understand them with this in mind, we find them to be an even more terrifying document of the era.

In the Ústí nad Labem House of Arts (DUUL), Tomáš Rafa presents his photographs, videos, and the Czech-Roma Flag project. The winning flag is hanging above the gallery's entrance – unless it has been stolen, of course. The space is dominated by a monumental picture shot at the Serbia-Hungary border when the refugee crisis was culminating, linking the exhibition to the group The Centre for Political Beauty, our guest. Rafa's videos show the Anti-Roma (2010-2013), Anti-Refugee (2015-2016) and Anti-LGBT (2018-2019) protests as well as painting workshops that took place in Roma settlements. A video that was exhibited in MoMA PS1, New York will also be presented. The Czech-Roma Flag is an older project, premiered in collaboration with the curator Lenka Kukurová in the Artwall Gallery, Prague. The fusion of the Czech and the Roma flag brought about many hateful and outraged comments on both sides, just as one could expect.

Juraj Čarný — Curator of the exhibition

NEW ADDRESS!

Masarykova 14
→Bus Stop Hraničář
Upper Floor - Pedestrian Zone
(Wheelchair access
at Česká spořitelna)

WE'RE OPEN AT THE WEEKEND!

Tue-Thu 11—19
Fri 13—19
Sat-Sun 13—18
Free entry

MORE info

www.duul.cz
on fb and ig!
duul@ujep.cz
#dumumeniul
@dum_umeni

