

Dana Kyndrová

The Way to Freedom

The exhibition of photos from the Velvet Revolution in Prague

Dana Kyndrová (1955)

Studied French and Russian at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, graduating in 1979. She spent ten years at the Department of Languages, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Czech Technical University, and after November 1989 joined the Department of Languages, Academy of Performing Arts. She has been a freelance photographer since 1992. She lives in Prague. She started taking photographs when she was 18, and has always specialized in black-and-white humanist photography. She has staged numerous exhibitions at home and abroad and is the author of eight publications: e.g. *Woman Between Inhaling and Exhaling* (2002), *Departure of Soviet Troops* (2003), *Subcarpathian Ruthenia* (2007), with her mother Libuše, *Algerie-Togo* (2009), *The Rituals of Normalization / Czechoslovakia in the 1970s and 1980s* (2011), *Russians ... Their Icons and Desires* (2015) and *Nineties* (2024).

In 2006, she was awarded a Prague Grant to document the lives of homeless people in Prague.

Besides her own photographic output, in recent years she has devoted some of her time to curatorship and other organizational activities related to photography. She is the author of a monograph on Miloň Novotný (2000), the publication *1945 Liberation ... 1968 Occupation / Soviet Troops in Czechoslovakia* (2008) and *Jan Palach 16.-25.1.1969* (2009).

The Association of Czech Professional Photographers named her "Czech Photography Person of the Year 2008" for her curatorial work.

Exhibited photographs

1

Police raid on October 28, 1988, against an unauthorized demonstration on Wenceslas Square in Prague on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia.

Text: All power in the CSSR belongs to the working people.

2+17

On Human Rights Day, December 10, 1988, the communist regime unexpectedly allowed a public demonstration in Prague. Undoubtedly, this was due to the visit of French President François Mitterrand, who met with dissidents led by Václav Havel at the French embassy.

Text: Release political prisoners.

3

The arcade on Národní třída (National Avenue) in Prague, where a student demonstration was brutally dispersed on November 17, became a memorial site of the "Velvet Revolution."

4

Students arrive at the demonstration on Wenceslas Square.

Text: No to violence!

5

Text: Václav Havel – Guarantee of Free Elections.

6

In front of the monument to St. Wenceslas.

Text: The Czech lion roared.

7

Wenceslas Square.

8

Wenceslas Square.

9

On Saturday, November 25, 1989, 750,000 people took part in a demonstration for the establishment of democracy in the country on the Letná Plain in Prague.

10

Student patrol during a demonstration on the Letná Plain.

11

Staroměstské náměstí (Old Town Square) on the 42nd anniversary of the communist coup on February 25, 1948, which the communists called "Victorious February." President Václav Havel also spoke at the event.

12

Anti-communist rally

13

Demonstration marking the 21st anniversary of Jan Palach's self-immolation (January 16, 1969) in front of the Faculty of Philosophy building in Prague.

14

Unveiling of Jan Palach's death mask on January 16, 1990, which was then placed on the building of the Faculty of Philosophy.

15

Students march from Staroměstské náměstí (Old Town Square) to a rally on Letná Plain.
Text: Watch out, it's still among us.

16

During the communist regime in the 1970s and 1980s, May Day parades in Prague were held on Letná Plain. On May 1, 1990, communist symbols were burned here amid general merriment, thus bringing the totalitarian era of demonstrations in this place to an end. (The photo shows a portrait of the first communist president, K. Gottwald).

18

From Monday, November 20, 1989, Wenceslas Square became the venue of daily peaceful demonstrations against the communist regime. The culmination came on Friday with the participation of about 300,000 people.

19

At a meeting of the Federal Assembly, the government proposed Václav Havel as a candidate for the President of the Republic. Citizens from various cities came to Prague to support this demand.
Text: Brno residents want Havel in Prague Castle.
TRUTH AND LOVE MUST PREVAIL OVER LIE AND HATE.

20

Secondary school students in front of the monument to St. Wenceslas.

21

The student demonstration to commemorate Jan Opletal on November 17, 1989 began peacefully but was later brutally dispersed on Národní třída (National avenue).

22

In front of the monument to St. Wenceslas.