

The exhibition by the Spiš-born artist Ján Kekeli presents a comprehensive photographic cycle from 2021 titled *Floating Floors*. The presented works evince a strict objectivization of reality or the creation of new experiences, the search for answers and, at the same time, an expression of the intimate map of encounters and perceptions of the world. Kekeli's photography is being premiered here at the Gallery of Spiš Artists within the framework of the *Profiles* dramaturgical cycle which is intended to showcase the work of some of the leading lights of the contemporary Slovak art scene.

As with his earlier work, the artist works with a concept that straddles the borders of artistic and documentary photography, with an accent on the creation of static "still lifes" which are expertly exposed using large-format analogue cameras on sheet film. The resulting photographs are the product of a perfect appropriation, with meticulous details laid out according to a preconceived composition in which objects are transformed into sculptures, thereby forming new narratives and contexts.

Mgr. Lucia Benická – GUS,
exhibition curator

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The precise intermediation of reality, the materialisation of content in the deeply authentic visuality of Jan Kekeli's large-format colour photography serve as a guide and a companion to that fundamental transhistorical and transcultural issue which relates to "the consciousness of unhappiness and the search for bliss". Is hesitancy, the state of being caught up in vacillation and distraction by a host of trivialities, a cause or a consequence of the impossibility or inability to decide on a signal fixed goal or to maintain a firm stance despite the slings and arrows of the furious passage of time? Or is it in fact nothing more than stagnation?

In his meticulous efforts towards the objectivization of reality and the creation of what we might term a new reality of reality or experience, Kekeli seeks out answers and, at the same time, depicts concentrated emotional-intimate (or autistic) maps of how he experiences and perceives the world. The vertical aligned compositions and the striving for this kind of arrangement (even at the cost of a certain provisionality) are a powerful expression of the character of these musings which might seem, at first glance, so desperate. The metaphorical movement of the symbols of individual compositions, which are in principle a simple language, document the melancholy nature of the individual attempts to achieve at least some kind of progressive solutions. Through refinedly simple and eternally precise records of undistorted images of documented objects, situations and people, in unique artistic tonality, the layers of emotionally charged basal models and the causes on which we build our decisions, acts and thoughts. It is from the cause itself that something arises.

As a light paraphrase of Piaček's dictum: *"It is not how a man suffers that is interesting; it is what he makes of it"*. This might also be humorously applied to the curatorial status of this presented series of works.

Mgr. art. Eduard Kudláč,
exhibition co-curator



O výstave



About exhibition

Ján Kekeli

Plávajúca podlaha /
The Floating Floor

profiľ
profiles

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ján Kekeli (*1984, Kežmarok) studied under Filip Vančo at the Studio of Ľubo Stacho and the Photography Laboratory at the Academy of Fine Art and Design in Bratislava from 2006 to 2012. In 2009 he completed a study internship at the University of Fine Arts in Poznań, Poland. In 2012 he was a finalist in the Startpointprize and the winner of the Photograph of the Year Award at the Nadácie VÚB Awards. In 2013 he was a finalist at ESSLART, an award for young artists, and in 2016 he won a scholarship from Nadácie NOVUM, a foundation for new art. The artist's work has featured in dozens of solo and group exhibitions in Slovakia and abroad (Czech Republic, Finland, France, Poland, Slovenia, Italy). His works are represented in private (Slovakia, Austria) and public collections in Slovakia (the Slovak National Gallery, the Nitra Gallery, the Central Slovak Gallery in Banská Bystrica, the Kysuce Gallery in Čadca). He currently lives and works in Bratislava.

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