

press release

Josef Koudelka | Traces

10 February - 8 April 2012

extended to 15 April 2012

Fondazione Merz

Curated by Lorenza Bravetta and Maria Centonze

The Fondazione Merz is pleased to announce its collaboration with the prestigious Photographic Agency Magnum Photos for the upcoming exhibition dedicated to **Josef Koudelka** and titled *Josef Koudelka / Traces*.

Magnum Photos—the agency that has produced some of the most striking *reportage* photography of the past decades defending freedom of information— together with the Fondazione Merz present Koudelka's work through a selection of **12 large scale landscape photographs**, and **three videos** that document three of his great projects, *Invasion* (1968), *Gypsies* (1975), and *Chaos* (1999), along with some of the most important **books** published throughout his career span.

For the first time on display, the **12 black and white panoramic photographs** –part of the *Piemonte Project* that the Regione Piemonte commissioned to Koudelka in 2004 on the occasion of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games– reveal a land that is rich in culture, history, memories, and innovations, but at the same time full of strong contradictions. The photographs show a landscape from which the human presence has been removed, and yet the traces man has left behind are always visible.

“Koudelka's body of work develops from his personal extensive investigation on European landscape. It features the absence of man from places where everything actually tells of his presence: the empty spaces are filled with cumbersome presences, with traces of more or less recent lives that integrate into the scenery, or bear witness to a mutual and perpetual rejection.” Maria Centonze

Featured in the exhibition are **three videos** that document three important *reportages* by the renowned photographer: *Invasion* (1968), witnessing the Soviet invasion of Prague in 1968, *Gypsies* (1975) a chronicle of Gypsy life in Eastern Europe, and finally *Chaos*, a collection of great panoramic views that describe a landscape on which man has strongly intervened.

Exhibition Details

Title	Josef Koudelka Traces
Dates	10 February 2012 – 8 April 2012 (extended to 15 April 2012)
Opening	9 February, 7 p.m. Fondazione Merz
Venue	Fondazione Merz, Via Limone 24 –10141 Torino
Museum Hours	Tuesday - Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Admission	€ 5.00 (adults), € 3.50 (students, groups min. 10 people)
Free	children under 10, senior citizens, people with disabilities and every first Sunday of the month
Info	tel. 011.19719437 - www.fondazionemerz.org - info@fondazionemerz.org
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