

The Photographer Jindřich Štreit

Jindřich Štreit (born in Vsetín on September 5, 1946) is one of the so-called „strong four“ of Czech documentary photographers who have become world-famous.

While Josef Koudelka gained recognition through his images of Gypsy life, Markéta Koudelková with her Wanderers, and Dagmar Hočová captured the spontaneous behaviour of children, Jindřich Štreit received well deserved recognition for his pictures of village life.

Jindřich Štreit has acquired an intimate knowledge of the village world – until 1981 he worked as an art teacher and headmaster at schools in Sovinec and Jiřikov. Falling into disfavour the establishment for his realistic pictures, he was, one year later, imprisoned and forbidden to teach any more. During the period 1982-1990 he was employed by the State Agricultural Co-operative in Ryžoviště, and continued his photography despite an official ban.

Jindřich Štreit currently teaches part-time at the photography department of the Film Academy of Musical Arts of Prague, at the

University of Fine Arts in Bratislava and at the Silesian University in Opava. A free-lance photographer, he works mostly on long-term artistic projects of a sociological character in the Czech Republic (for example the people of the Olomouc District) as well as in other countries (Austria, France, England). Next year he will begin yet another project in Japan.

Jindřich Štreit has had solo exhibitions in the Czech Republic since 1967; in 1985, he exhibited his works in London, Newcastle (SIDE Gallery), Houston (Fotofest), Cologne (Ludwig Museum); in 1991 he had 6 exhibitions in the Czech Republic, one in Poland and one in France (Photographical May); in 1992 he presented his work in Prague's House of Photography, and in France (in Saint-Quentin); in 1993 he had 13 exhibitions in the Czech Republic, one in Michigan, and he participated in Saint Remy sur Busy. Last year he was shown in Japan (Metropolitan Museum of Photography in Tokyo), Austria (Graz – Forum Stadtpark, Weitzenkirchen), Hungary (Budapest and Kécskemet), Germany (Wertingen), France (Lorient), and had 28 exhibitions in the Czech Republic.

