



YOUR WORLD MY EYES

**an exhibition of photographs by Michal Novotný
Old Town Hall, Prague 1 – 25 Aug 2013**

Michal Novotný (1973)

- has won the most international awards of all photojournalists living in the Czech Republic (World Press Photo, 2x Best of Photojournalism) and has won over 20 awards in the domestic Czech Press Photo competition

- his work appears in the most prestigious magazines and newspapers around the world (GEO, The New York Times, Stern, The Sunday Times Magazine, L'Express, El Mundo, Time, Focus, Vanity Fair, L'Equipe and many more)

- for more information, see www.michalnovotny.com

The exhibition will feature the best series photographs taken by Michal over the last 20 years, during which he has worked in over 60 countries (for example Liberia, India, Congo, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Kosovo, Iraq, Cambodia, Haiti, Sudan, etc.)

CONTENT AND GOAL OF THE EXHIBITION:

Michal's unique and award-winning photo reportages will take visitors to places that they themselves will likely never visit. They will meet people and cultures of whose existence they may not even have suspected.

For example – the life of the blind in Africa's Liberia, apparently the only photos of Czech soldiers fighting and wounded in Afghanistan, a living goddess in Nepal, traditional wrestlers in Senegal and Gambia, child drug addicts in Odessa, Ukraine, exorcism of demons in the Congo, child labour in Bangladesh, Tibetan Buddhism in Ladakh, and much more.

In recent years, space for high-quality photojournalism has virtually disappeared in the media, to be replaced by tabloid subject matter even in "serious" newspapers and magazines. An exhibition is thus one way of showing people important and interesting stories that they will have scant opportunity to see elsewhere.

MAIN SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Child Drug Addicts in Odessa, Ukraine

This series of photos triggered much consternation in Ukraine. Many Ukrainians had no inkling of how their street children were living. Most of the children from the group, who were users of intravenous drugs, died during the year this story was shot of AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases.

These photos are often used by UNICEF for its global campaigns, and received first prize in the Enterprise Picture Story (large markets) category in the Best of Photojournalism competition, where the story beat out the work of international star of photojournalism James Nachtwey for National Geographic Magazine and Vanity Fair.



Traditional Wrestlers in Senegal and Gambia

In the dust of the wrestling ring, men in Western Africa attempt to attain fame and fortune. The most successful are true regional celebrities, but during village matches, only a few dollars are at stake. This photo story received a Czech Press Photo prize.



The Blind in Liberia

In this war-torn land, the blind struggle with adversity with extraordinary courage. This story received third prize at World Press Photo in the prestigious Daily Life Stories category.



Exorcism of Demons in the Congo

The endless war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has already cost millions of lives. For decades, its people have lived in unimaginable misery and are abandoning the Catholic Church to throw themselves into the arms of faith healers. During services, they exorcise demons from believers, and claim that they can heal incurable diseases or bring the dead back to life.



Traditional Indian Wrestling

Indian wrestlers, commonly known as pahalwans have been practicing the three thousand year old sport known as 'Kushti', a form of wrestling. Best of Photojournalism award



Child Labour in Bangladesh

They often toil days on end in life-threatening conditions for a pittance that is barely enough for basic foodstuffs – in aluminum plants, brick factories, landfills, recycling plants. This set of photographs came about in cooperation with UNICEF Bangladesh, which makes use of them.



School for the Blind in Haridwar, India

This story was shot during a month's stay in this out-of-the-way school for the blind, which lies outside the sphere of interest of charitable, non-profit and governmental organizations. Despite this, the eighty boys there live life to the fullest. Czech Press **Photo** award.



ISAF in Afghanistan

During my many extensive trips to Afghanistan since 2001, I have succeeded in putting together this unique set of photos that also includes photos from fighting in the Baraki Barak district during which six Czech soldiers were wounded and three Taliban fighters were killed. They also include exceptional photos of Czech Special Forces. Parts of this set received Czech Press photo prizes.



Festivals in South Asia

This set of photos was taken during many extensive trips to the region since 1997 (the longest lasted six months). It shows a fascinating world of Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim holidays, festivals and pilgrimages.



Singles

Individual photographs from other photo stories: for example the exodus of refugees from Kosovo, the war in Iraq, refugees from Chechnya, bodybuilding, the earthquake in Haiti, the UN mission in the Congo, Tibetan Buddhism in Ladakh, a living goddess in Nepal, Angola, Cambodia, and of course also the Czech Republic.

