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JOSEF SUDEK

LE MONDE À MA FENÊTRE

TEXTS BY ANN THOMAS, IAN JEFFREY, VLADIMIR BIRGUS, VOJTECH LAHODA, JAN MLCOCH, AND CHRISTOPHE VISCHI

An accessible, affordable monograph of the work of Joseph Sudek also known as 'The Poet of Prague'.

Josef Sudek (1896—1976) was a Czech photographer, best known for his photographs of Prague. He worked as a bookbinder before turning to photography after his wartime experience and subsequent loss of his right arm.

Josef Sudek. Le monde à ma fenêtre examines how Sudek's photographs reflect his relationship to the world around him, from intimate explorations of his cherished objects and views through his window to his more expansive night walks through the streets of Prague and its peripheries, as well as excursions into the surrounding countryside. Featuring five essays, warm reminiscences by two former assistants, along with approximately 150 plates and dozens of illustrations, this 300-page book offers a compelling view of Sudek's photographs, and the art of his friends and fellow artists.

Joseph Sudek's fascination with light and its absence resulted in some of the twentieth century's most haunting images of nature, monuments, city streets and objects—all transformed by his sensitive understanding of the power of light's power to reveal and the power of darkness to render all impenetrable. He mastered the technical aspects of the medium, creating carbon prints, puÅ™idlos and veteÅ™je—all techniques that allowed him to transform the object quality of the photograph. With a consummate sense of how the careful printing of images determined the picture's expressive potential, Sudek used the evocative moodiness of the carbon process to its best advantage as he did with the gelatin silver print's power to reflect and delineate.

The photographer's boundless creative spirit was sustained by deep friendships with an intimate circle of artist friends, including poets, painters, sculptors, designers and writers and musicians, all of whom contributed to the rich artistic environment of Prague in the first part of the twentieth century.

Ann Thomas, Curator, Photography Collection National Gallery of Canada

Ian Jeffrey is an English writer and art historian. He is the author of a series of illustrated books on the history of photography

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