

Elzbieta Dzikowska

It is my honor and pleasure to introduce this extraordinary exhibition and its uncommon author. Here is scholar, politician, writer, marathoner, music lover (even violoncellist!) who occurs to be travel and photography passionate. That put us both through because exploring world and photographing is also for me a necessity.

The exhibition didn't come into being for request or exposition's necessity. "The world as it is..." is a perpetual registration of phenomenon, people, nature, which without embellishment, elimination or other formal operations, honesty and in very wide spectrum presents prof. Kolodko. This is the world as it really is, unsweetened, mostly poor, mainly African. The author has explored almost 130 countries of this world exactly in this shoes, which became the logo of today's exhibition.

He explored the world as a politician, high civil servant and professor – he lectures at over 130 universities around the world. Probably he could have been traveling more comfortably, but he preferred to travel by local means, crowded buses without air conditioning, ferries, river ships and also by foot. Thanks to this he had an occasion to know the real life and show it to us.

Did he expose himself to danger? Professor Kolodko doesn't look to me like – (and for sure he is not) – timid person. Traveling alone he had to be in trouble situations. It is obvious that everyone knew, that he had money with him – on the African bumpy land there are no cash points. All the necessary stuff was in his backpack, which couldn't have been left alone. He must have always been careful. There was no possibility to leave backpack at riverside and jump into the water when the sun was burning. But the benefits compensated the inconveniences – thank to those lonely journeys we have these pictures, pictures which show us the truth about real life on different continents. I have seen thousands of these pictures, at this exhibition prof. Kolodko shows barely over 200, but selected sophisticatedly and put together without division on countries or problems, in order to show that the world is one.

This exhibition not only arouses interest, but also teaches. It is also a proof of an author's great sensitivity to the world, simply as it is....