Profile: Michal Mecner

Local photographer discusses his latest exhibition

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It's easy to hide things in Prague's residential Košíře neig

On a nondescript street, sequestered in one of the ubiquitous apartmen blocks and partially obscured by autumnal trees, there is a new, private collection of black-and-white images captured by photgrapher Michal Mecner and now on display in his own home.

suggested by Mecner's choice to host his latest exhibition privately ner than in a gallery, as he has in the past, the photographer has a very sonal approach to his work.

Mecner's photography had equally humble beginnings. As a young man, he knew he wanted to be involved in the creative pursuit of making images, but he hesitated to pick up a paintbrush, fearing he didn't have the natural ability to create quality paintings.

"I just saw an ad for a camera and bought it," he said "I had always wanted to paint but never had the time or the ability. But now, I paint with light."

Mecner has built a solid reputation as a photographer, having hed several exhibition, including at Centrum FootSood on Voidsova street, and shooting photos that have appeared on the covers of books for Literania Propensia, a local publisher. His work photographing weddings and for media is he main source of rowners. The photographic has been seen to be the properties of the properties of

"Why not?" he says in regards to his choice of location. "I wanted to sho people where I live, so they can get the flavor, the atmosphere of my hon You have to have something of yourself in your pittures; I am of the conviction that it is not enough to simply document."

Mecner's photos, which are hung on walls and balanced on bookshelves, are lit with various light combinations and reading lamps, giving the scene an intimate, personal touch. Most of the imapes were taken in and around Prague, and Mecner believes this to be important to the theme of the show

"It's easy to travel the world and take pictures of earthquakes and disasters," he says. "But it is difficult to stay at home and try to take something from that."

"She may be coming or going from a blind date; you can't really tell," Mecner says. "She is a little bit excited, a little bit nervous or maybe disappointed. Also, the way the light comes from behind her head, it is d

white of the tree really contrasts the rest of the picture," he says

Mecner is gifted with a keen eye, but he prefers to work with film rather than digital cameras, and as such his images have a grainy, almost retro appearance.

"I don't really like working with digital," he said. "I find the pictures too sharp. Yes, you can add the grain and the scars on photoshop, but it isn't real."





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