

Elzbieta Dzikowska

It is an honor and pleasure to present this extraordinary exhibition and its remarkable author. He is a scientist, politician, writer, marathon runner, music enthusiast (even violoncellist!) and he turns out to be passionate about travelling and photography. And that is what we have in common, because exploring the world and photography is also a necessity for me.

The exhibition has not been created to order or from the necessity of exposure. „The world as it is” provides the incessant registration of events, people, nature, which, without embellishing or elimination, without formal treatment or coquetry, honestly and in a very wide spectrum, are shown by Professor Kolodko. This is truly the world as it is, real, not sugary, mostly poor, mainly African. The author has explored 130 countries of the world in this shoes, which became the logo of the exhibition.

He penetrated the world as a politician, as a high government official and as a professor, because he lectures on more than 100 universities in the world. Surely he could move around comfortably, but he preferred to travel by local transport, crowded, by not air-conditioned buses, ferries, river vessels, also on foot. Thanks to this he had the opportunity to meet real life and present it to us.

Did he expose himself to danger? Professor Kolodko does not seem to me to be - and certainly he is not - a man of timid. But travelling alone, he found himself sometimes in troublesome situations. After all, everyone knew that he had money with him, the African rough roads do not have ATMs. And he carried necessary things in his backpack, which he could never leave anywhere. He had to constantly watch out for it. There was no way to leave the backpack at the edge and jump into the water in the terrific heat. However, the benefits compensated the inconveniences, as, thanks to this way of travelling, it was possible to make the images, that tell us the truth about life on different continents. I have seen thousands of these photos. Professor Kolodko shows only over 200 of them at the exhibition. However, they are carefully selected and arranged, without divisions into countries or problems, so as to show that the world is one.

This exhibition is not only curious, but it also teaches. As well, it is a testimony of the great sensitivity of the author to the world as it is...