

## **National Geographic Slovenija, November 2010**

### **A Touch of the Past – The Photography of Marko Trebušak**

Photographs of the Soča river aren't just a feast for the eyes. I at least, but I'm sure that there are others too, am tempted to touch them: the velvety paper promises that exciting sensation that only old books, postcards, and letters can provide.

"Do you now understand better why I opted for an outdated photographic process that uses palladium? Of course, it is more demanding, time-consuming, and expensive than making photographs based on silver halides, not to mention digital processes, but isn't that something completely different?" asks Trebušak, more rhetorically than anything else.

"The main attraction of palladium as well as platinum photography is the huge range of tones from black to white. The shadow areas are muted black with visible details, the midtones are very extensive and beyond the reach of silver photos. Bright tones are gentle. The surface of the photograph is also significantly different. The photography is warm and gives the appearance of three-dimensionality," he explains.

The first attempts to make photographs with platinum and palladium date back to the very beginning of the history of photography, but it was not until 1873 that the Englishman William Willis managed to develop the process so that he could patent it. In 1892, he founded the Platinotype Company, began selling paper and impressed many photographers.

In the 1920s, however, the process became too expensive and is still used by only a few photographers. "Since it is no longer possible to buy suitable paper, I apply the emulsion, which I prepare myself, by hand, so it is up to me what the texture of the final work will be," concludes photographer Trebušak.

Original text by Meta Krese, translated from Slovenian.

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SLOVENSKE ZGODBE

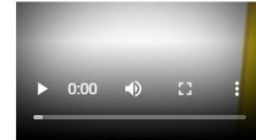
## PRIDIH PRETEKLOSTI



Na fotografijah Soče se ne pasejo le naše oči, vsaj mene, najbrž pa še koga zamika, da bi se jih dotaknila: žametni papir obeta tisti vznemirljivi občutek ugodja, ki ga lahko povzročijo le stare knjige, razglednice, pisma ... "Vam je zdaj bolj razumljivo, zakaj sem se odločil za zastareli fotografski postopek, pri katerem se uporablja paladij? Seveda je zahtevnejši, zamudnejši in dražji kot izdelava fotografij na osnovi srebrih halogenidov, da digitalnih postopkov niti ne omenjam, ampak ali ni to nekaj popolnoma drugega?" bolj retorično kot zares postavlja vprašanja Trebušak. "Glavna privlačnost paladijeve in tudi platinaste fotografije je ogromen razpon tonov od črne do bele. Senčni predeli so zamolke črne barve z vidnimi detaili, srednji toni so zelo razsežni in za srebrove fotografije nedosegljivi. Svetli toni so nežni. Bistveno drugačna je tudi površina fotografije. Fotografija je topla in daje videz tridimenzionalnosti," nam pojasnjuje. Prvi poskusi izdelave fotografij s platino in paladijem segajo na sam začetek zgodovine fotografije, vendar je šele leta 1873 Angležu Williamu Willisu uspelo postopek tako razviti, da ga je lahko patentiral. Leta 1892 je ustanovil družbo Platinotype Company, začel prodajati papir in navdušil številne fotografe. V 20. letih 20. stoletja pa je postopek postal predrag in uporabljajo ga le še redki fotografi. "Ker ustreznega papirja ni več mogoče kupiti, emulzijo, ki jo pripravim sam, nanašam ročno, tako da je samo od mene odvisno, kakšna bo tekstura končnega dela," konča naš pogovor fotograf Trebušak.

Besedilo: Meta Kreše | Fotografije: Marko Trebušak

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