

## **Zbyněk Baladrán „One step forward, two steps back“**

Exhibition from February 22 to March 25, 2020  
Opening on Friday, February 21, 2020, 6 - 9 pm

«One step forward, two steps back», of course, is the title of a text written by V.I.Lenin, in which discusses the split of Russian Social Democratic Labor Party politics in 1904. And is also used in the title of the video film, which deals with Angela Davis's visit to former Czechoslovakia in 1971. It repeats here like exhibition title, because it represents the contradictions of political thought and social acting. We are faced with similar issues today, but without being better qualified to deal with them. History teaches us, but action is not subject to simple schemes of evolutionary logic. We are not acting better. Short videos at the exhibition are mental experiments dealing with the contradictions of contemporary life, testing their ability to be articulated them verbally and visually. It is not only about the contradictions of political thought mentioned at the beginning, but also about the legitimacy of violence and ways of dealing with it in everyday life. Linked to this is the issue of anxiety, which is triggered by open and symbolic violence provoked by unregulated profit-generating structures. The particular films seem to be distinguished only by their different forms, but it is nothing more than a way of «defamiliarization», as Viktor Shklovsky would call it. It is therefore a question of seeking artistic testimony, which should lead to a new reflection or rethinking of the contradictions. Off course when we resolve them, we will be confronted with other contradictions that necessarily emerge from the solutions.

Zbyněk Baladrán