

Alena Kotzmannová / Underway

January 12 – February 22, 2006

Photographs and video installation at the Czech Center New York

We find it quite exciting that the photographer has used a non-digital panoramic format – so often chosen precisely in opposite circumstances that require the inclusion of larger imagery – to convey the uniqueness, perhaps even strangeness, of often limited and directed subject matter that at first appears to be so very quotidian. We enjoy her effective use of the panorama here and see it as conceptually reflective of Asian art with its spiritual emphasis on the larger macrocosmic background dimension of nature supporting its subject: a very small human microcosm. And what a terribly powerful microcosm it is: broken ends of a bridge against the larger beauty of the water that destroyed it; four trousered humans with curious arithmetic identification against the beauty of four of the arches of Charles Bridge; the exhaust of the motorcycle with its rider spraying an arid eternal soil mounted by high-power lines; the lone, tiny figure against a snow-covered grid; the kitsch carrousel horse transformed into winged Pegasus – so many things that by placement and juxtaposition with nature assume for us a terrible strange beauty. The photographs of Alena Kotzmannová are a pleasure to behold. They are wonderful in themselves and a prophecy of greater work to come.

*Rose and Jay Deutsch
On-Site Directors
Leica Gallery, New York City*

(from the text for the exhibition)

The exhibition continues in the library of the Czech Center.