



## Koudelka: Gypsies

By Will Guy

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Aperture's new edition of *Koudelka: Gypsies* rekindles the energy and astonishment of this foundational body of work by master photographer Josef Koudelka. Lavishly printed in a unique quadratone mix by artisanal printer Gerhard Steidl, it offers an expanded look at "Cikáni" (Czech for "gypsies")—109 photographs of Roma society taken between 1962 and 1971 in then-Czechoslovakia (Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia), Romania, Hungary, France and Spain. The design and edit for this volume revisits the artist's original intention for the work, and is based on a maquette originally prepared in 1968 by Koudelka and graphic designer Milan Kopriva. Koudelka intended to publish the work in Prague, but was forced to flee Czechoslovakia, landing eventually in Paris. In 1975, Robert Delpire, Aperture and Koudelka collaborated to publish *Gitans, la fin du voyage* (*Gypsies*, in the English-language edition), a selection of 60 photographs taken in various Roma settlements around East Slovakia. *Gypsies* includes more than 30 never-before-published images.

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## Koudelka: Gypsies By Will Guy Bibliography

- Rank: #909920 in Books
- Published on: 2011-09-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.70" h x 1.00" w x 9.70" l, 3.42 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 109 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Review

*Rarely has a body of work been so deserving of two completely different editions. –Time*

*Mr. Koudelka's stark images depict the poverty and clannishness of Gypsy life, but unlike many documentary photographers, he does not present their situation as a social problem that can somehow be fixed. Instead, he shows the Gypsies as perpetual outsiders, and their life as a primal mix of glee and wonder, sorrow and mystery. –The New York Times*

*Gives a palpable sense of a people apart, unto themselves, dislocated from contemporary society and even time. –Huffington Post*

*Koudelka brings to life the even older world of the Roma gypsies that he encountered in his travels in the late 1960s and early 1970s in images that resonate with mystery and ritual, romance and hardship. –The Guardian*

### From the Inside Flap

This book is a revised and enlarged version of the original maquette for Josef Koudelka's *Cikáni* (Czech for *Gypsies*) prepared by Koudelka and graphic designer Milan Kopecký in 1968, and intended for publication in Prague in 1970. Koudelka left Czechoslovakia in 1970 after extensively documenting the Russian invasion of Prague in August 1968. The book was never published in that original form.

This extended version consists of 109 photographs taken between 1962 and 1971 in what was, at the time, Czechoslovakia (Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia), Romania, Hungary, France, and Spain. The word *Gypsies* (the common name for this group when the photographs were taken between 1962 and 1971, before the current term *Roma* was established) is used as the book title.

Sociologist Will Guy, author of the text that accompanied the first publication of *Gypsies*, has contributed an updated essay, tracing the migration of the Roma from their original homeland in northern India, to their current status—one that continues to be contested internationally.

### About the Author

In 1968, Josef Koudelka photographed the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, publishing these images under the initials P. P. (Prague Photographer). Koudelka left Czechoslovakia in 1970, became stateless, was then granted political asylum in England, and shortly thereafter joined Magnum Photos. Koudelka has published eleven books of photographs focusing on the relationship between contemporary man and the landscape, including *Gypsies* (1975), *Exiles* (1988), *Black Triangle* (1994), *Invasion 68: Prague* (2008), and *Wall* (2013). Significant exhibitions of his work have been held at the Museum of Modern Art and the International Center of Photography, New York; Hayward Gallery, London; and Palais de Tokyo, Paris. Koudelka is the recipient of the Medal of Merit awarded by the Czech Republic (2002) and numerous other awards. In 2012, he was named Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. He is based in Paris and Prague.

Will Guy is a research fellow in sociology at the University of Bristol, UK. He contributed the text for the original edition of *Gypsies* in 1975, while completing his PhD on Czechoslovak Communist policy on Roma. His recent academic research, undertaken on behalf of the European Commission and international NGOs, focuses on the evaluation of initiatives promoting Roma social inclusion. He has published widely on this topic and is editor of two books, *Between Past and Future: The Roma of Central and Eastern Europe* (2001) and *Roma Migration in Europe: Case Studies* (2004).

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Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specially book entitled Koudelka: Gypsies your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Koudelka: Gypsies giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

#### **Pamela Edmonds:**

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