

Oldřich Tulis (1967)

The year 1990 was an important turning point in my life, when I literally felt the need to express myself not only through music, but also through images. The most natural thing for me to do was to pick up a camera.

At that time, I also felt a great desire for spiritual knowledge. At the same time, I was on a journey to understand the meaning of my life.

For some of my photographic images I created a symbol of man, symbolising the human soul, an ordinary cup and saucer. The saucer is the foundation on which the cup stands, the essence, but together they only take on their true meaning when that essence is filled with something. And it can be filled with something pure or the opposite...

At that time, I had a certain mystical experience, a kind of "flash". For a moment I found myself in another reality, in an empty room with an old wooden floor. In the middle was a cup and saucer filled with a dark liquid. At that moment, a powerful beam of light shone down on it from above. Its energy vibrated the cup, causing it to tip over and spill its contents onto the floor. A "film cut" followed and in the same place the cup and saucer stood empty and ready for a new fulfilment... I then returned to my reality. Through this experience I came to understand one of the essentials of the spiritual path. This is personal transformation and the pursuit of meaningful fulfilment. Even if we allow ourselves to be fulfilled by something bad, there is always the possibility of pouring it out and seeking to be renewed by something different, better and purer.

This experience has an important culmination for me. Shortly afterwards I moved into a 300-year-old cottage in the picturesque Krkonoše village of Poniklá. When I arrived there and walked through all the rooms except the last (where I lived most of the time afterwards), I found myself in a room with the old wooden floor from my vision...

My first work was done in this cottage. Most of my other work is influenced by this period. The photographic image of the spilt and then empty cup was one of the first I made there. This symbol appears in several of my photographs.

My free photographic work has no concept. The unceasing urge and almost existential need to express everything I experience, perceive, and see in my life in a photographic image is the main unifying element.

I simply cannot do otherwise...