

Exhibition:

Tomáš Rafa: True Patriotism

Opening: Feb. 7th, 18:00

Place: art | SPACE (Lázeňská 2, Praha 1, building of Anglo American University)

Closing date: March 4th

Slovak artist Tomáš Rafa will exhibit selected works from his flags project, originally exhibited in Prague's National Technical Library and the Artwall Gallery in Prague 7, from July to Sept. 2013.

Rafa's flags are inspired by the Czech Republic's red, white and blue standard chevron design and the international Roma flag which is blue and dark green with a red spoked-wheel, and these varied flags have been created to represent a new symbol of unity in the Czech Republic.

They were unveiled on July 16th in Prague as a **“Competition for the New Czech-Roma Flag.”**

Overall, the intention of Rafa's project was to create a dialogue about patriotism, nationalism and tolerance to minorities in the Czech Republic. And so, the artist was shocked in December, when he was issued with a fine of 2,000 CZK for “defamation of the Czech flag” by Prague 7 authorities. The investigation of this case was initialized by activists in the far-right political party DSSS.

Tomáš Rafa does not agree to pay this fine, and he is communicating with Prague 7 authorities about this matter until present. In other words, he is fighting for his own freedom of expression.

In a press release issued by the Artwall Gallery in Prague he said, “The state symbols were not defamed in the exhibition. For a long-time, I've tracked the rise in hate-crimes and intolerance against the nation's minority, and my artistic proposal is only addressing this issue. It's unfortunate, that instead of resolving this problem, the state has punished me for my actions.”

Tomáš Rafa will discuss the ongoing case at the opening (Feb. 7th) and he will also be showing videos from his project **“New Nationalism.eu”**. Five flags will also be displayed in the art | SPACE.

This exhibition is curated by c2c Circle of Curators & Critics (Prague). The Artwall Gallery is supported by Municipality Prague and the support of City of Prague and the Czech Ministry of Culture.

For more information including press images see: www.artwallgallery.cz

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