

## Dalibor Bača: How much is Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, CSc. worth



Bača

vernisáž / opening:  
3. 11. 2011, 18.00 - 21.00  
trvanie výstavy / exhibition dates:  
4. 11. 2011 - 21. 11. 2011  
tlačová konferencia / press  
conference: 3. 11. 2011, 17.00

otváracie hodiny / opening hours:  
Ut - Pi 13.00 - 17.30 / Tue - Fri 1 -  
5.30 pm (galéria bude otvorená aj  
cez víkend a v pondelok 19. - 21.  
11. od 13.00 do 17.30 / the gallery  
will be open also during the  
weekend and on Monday --  
November 19 to 21 from 1 - 5.30  
pm)

miesto / location:  
SPACE, Velehradská 7/A,  
Bratislava, Slovakia

otvorenie / opening speech: Dalibor

The exhibition, *How much is Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, CSc. worth* presents an artwork by a Slovak sculptor Dalibor Bača. Created as a temporary piece, this monumental bust of well-known local politician was legally installed in the public space (Trnavské mýto, Bratislava, Slovakia) in front of the former House of Revolutionary Union Movement building on August 1, 2010. It was part of the wider initiative exploring art in public spaces in Slovakia, called Verejný podstavec (Public pedestal).

The placement of this work was curious: there was already a pedestal inherited from socialistic political regime there, created more than 20 years ago by a prominent sculptor of its time, **Ján Kulich**. By selecting this place for the work entitled, **Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, CSc.**, Dalibora Bača stimulated a discussion about sculpture as a strong political and ideological tool for claiming one's territory, promoting only one opinion, or even as a tool to re-constructing the prominent position of pro-regime sculptors of communist era.

Very soon after its first public appearance, the sculpture created controversy that have led to its early removal. Just several hours after its installation, the sculpture disappeared from public space (without notifying the artist or getting his permission to remove his work). This hysterical, thoughtless reaction of the owners of this pedestal, representatives of Federation of Union organizations in the Slovak republic, outlined some interesting connections that might not have been necessarily intentional at first: it brought the memory of abandoned monument and declared it as a place with historical "scar".

Dalibor Bača's sculpture generated interest not only in mass media, but also within art professionals – in January 2011, **Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, CSc.** was exhibited in a gallery space (Galerie Kostka, Prague) and this work also directly inspired street-art activities (large-scale poster series by young artists in streets of Bratislava).

One year later, the artist decided to step forward again and to sell the piece in online auction that starts in the evening, October 31, 2011. Dalibor Bača also offers part of the copyright to a new owners: they can use the sculpture in any way, weather they want to exhibit it, install it in public space, create copies, etc.

The event *How much is Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, CSc. worth* has the same title as the current exhibition at the Space

gallery. Auctioneers can come here to see the sculpture in person before they make a decision to buy it. This means that this work moves from public realm of Bratislava streets to another public environment – online space, where it becomes a commodity. Artist Dalibor Bača invites everybody to witness the value of **Doc. JUDr. Robert Fico, CSc.** during this auction.

**Thinking about issues related to public space is an ongoing topic for Dalibor Bača.** In 2006, he was one of the initiators and organizers of event “What kind of sculpture should be in a city”? (with Michal Moravčík) and petition “Stop cultural policy in our cities”, as well as a protest against having a sculpture by prominent communist regime sculptor Jána Kulich “King Svätopluk“ (2010) at Bratislava castle. He is a co-founder of civic association Public Pedestal (Verejný podstavec).

**For more information** (Slovak or Czech language):

[Verejný podstavec](#)

Article in [SME](#), Fico dostal bustu, odborári ju hneď po inštalácii zahalili, 1. 8. 2010

Exhibition in Prague – [Galéria Kostka-Meetfactory](#)

Article in [SME](#), Ficova busta prešla z verejného priestoru do galérie, 15. 1. 2011

Article in [Lidových novinách](#), 15. 1. 2011

Article in [Respekt](#), 16. 1. 2011