The idea to write this book emerged during the colloquium on Václav Marek (1908–1994), the Czech photographer, novelist and researcher, held in Prague in the spring of 2019. Marek’s work has been known to only few people – even in the Czech Republic – and only some experts have made use of the opportunity to discuss its different aspects. The small public awareness of it has been caused by the fact that most of the work is written in Czech and for Czech readers, and only a part of Marek’s entire work has been published, some of his texts posthumously.

During the colloquium we decided to compile a brief description and evaluation of the most important parts and facets of Marek’s scientific and artistic production in English, to offer at least some basic information about his work to a wider audience. It seems that the optimal prerequisites for such an evaluation would be the following ones: to be a Sami, to know Czech, to be an expert in the corresponding field and to know its Czech, Nordic and global historical discursive context. Obviously, none of the contributors to this book matches all the prerequisites.

The book is a “collective monograph”, its chapters cover in general all the main creative fields and genres – regarding the Sami –, in which Marek was active, in relatively a compact shape. Some fields have been left, besides Marek’s articles with regard to biology, this goes for his newspaper production or drawings. However, these domains could be considered rather marginal within the whole of his creative activities – also due to their small quantity – and perhaps would have no impact to the contextual assessment of the other, the main aspects.

The single authors’ particular perspective along with a specificity of Marek’s output and the corresponding discipline, necessarily make the chapters diverse, and also complementary.