



3rd FLOOR BODY TRAP. A CERTAIN GENUS

The body is one of the key concepts of European culture, philosophy, psychoanalysis, religion, sociology and art. In contemporary artistic practice the body – a polymorphic object – assumes an unstable meaning: exalted, sexualised, bizarre or even mutant, it is never neutral. In art too the body is related to categories of domination and submission, the tolerable or voluntary.

The third-floor exposition offers a wide panorama with different visions of the body and corporeality. Most of the works focus on questions of identity, ethnicity and gender; they touch on the dualism of beauty-ugliness, deformity-attractiveness, pain-pleasure and strength-helplessness. The curatorial position is an attempt to dispel the myth that masculinity is associated with a rational, exalted spirit and femininity with a primitive physicality. The starting point for immersion in the exhibition is provided by Damir Muratov's totemic sculpture 'Undressed'. The image refers to the cult of worship of a female deity, opening a discourse about the mystical connections between viewer and object.

Works by Vita Buivid, Oleg Kulik, Tatyana Liberman, Marat (Morik) Danilyan and Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe demonstrate a wide range of emotions, most of which act as a catharsis. They lead away from stereotypical thinking and provocatively ask taboo questions about identity, the freedom of self-determination, gender binary and queer aesthetics. 'Corset' by Danila Polyakov and Dmitry Zhuravlev, and Kir Esadov's candid series 'Untitled' take up the theme of bodily violence as a metaphor for social pressure and cruelty. These works show the clear contrast between defence and attack, eroticism and aggression.

In this way, despite the privacy and intimacy of themes of physicality and control of the body, the works of these artists rethink the fundamental concepts of inequality, discrimination and the hierarchy of power.