

Annotation of program - Visiting Artist's Studio - Maria Kulikovska

Instructions for survival through art:

War, violence, genocide, exile, flight from war... twice... as a woman, with a newborn baby, as female-artist from the occupied territory. How to stay alive after all this, in mind, with soul and still faith in humanity? I was saved by art and the art community for the first time and it keeps me afloat now, for the second time.

Drawing, performance, action in a public space, sculpture, performative sculpture, architecture – are mediums that will allow not only to visualise own reflections on what is happening, but also to create own unique language, a visual code that can try to tell the truth, help start the path to healing, to become a platform for meeting with like-minded people, a shelter where you can be who you are or who you want to be, it is a way of manifesting the voice of those who are marginalised, it is sometimes even a cry that can wake up many sleepers; a place and a way for socio-cultural and political change, real change.

During my course **Instructions for survival through art**, I plan:

- to share my own way of preparing, designing for the actions/ performances;
- to suggest experimenting with various non-sculptural materials for performative sculpture and casting own body – how it can have therapeutic effect;
- to discuss the possibilities and methods of getting into the system (art business);
- to raise the question of whether it is really necessary to become part of the established system of the contemporary art industry;
- to share how it is to work alternatively as independent artist, curate own art space for other artists, to work in collaborations with others and share the «fame», income, possibilities and outcome with others;
- to share own experience with being architect and artist/performer and how it can be helpful and useful in artistic practice and physically in «real life»;
- to propose several body practice to meet with own body, own voice, to calm down, to forgive yourself.

**During coming semester we will meet every week either physically or digitally.*

Before physical meeting we will start form body practice, physical exercises, so it will be very important to have comfortable shoes (sneakers) and maybe extra clothes (sport clothes on you to begin with and then change to the «normal»). It will be very important part to realise that artist is not someone from the very privilege, intellectual part of the society, but is like every one else - first of all just fragile human being. Before digital meeting I will ask to do series of exercises and then start zoom conversation.

Excursion: since I am not from Brno and do not know so much about this old town I would be very happy to ask students to make their own research and study where is the nearest shelter, how to get there and if it even possible. So, our first collective excursion will be in the shelter, guided by students.

During semester students will be very welcome to contact me by email, whatsapp or viber to chat, and booked zoom/skype calls, discuss details of their works.