Symposium

READING GENDER
Art, Power and Politics of Representation in Eastern Europe

Friday, 13. November
10.00 – 12.00  Introductory Forums
14.00 – 19.15  Section I: Can Feminism Speak East?
19.30  Performance: Egle Rakauskaite, For Guilty without the Guilt. Trap. Expulsion from Paradise

Saturday, 14. November
10.00 – 13.30  Section II: Fuck Your Gender
14.30 – 19.00  Section III: Subverting Canons

Concept and Organisation:
Bojana Pejić, Mara Traumane – Section I and III
Nora Sternfeld, Elke Smoedick (trafo.k) – Section II

All lectures and discussions in English. The admission is free.

Gender Check
Femininity and Masculinity in the Art of Eastern Europe
Curator: Bojana Pejić

Exhibition Dates
13. 11. 2009 – 14. 2. 2010

Opening Hours
Mo – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thu 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Admission Fees
 regular fee: EUR 9,00 I reduced: EUR 7,20/6,50
Every Thursday 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.: EUR 5,00
Free Admission for Customers of ERSTE Bank

Catalogue
Gender Check – Femininity and Masculinity in the Art of Eastern Europe
Texts by: Edit András, Keti Chukhrov, Branko Dimitrijević, Katrin Kivimaa, Izabela Kowalczyk, Suzana Milevska, Martina Pachmanová, Bojana Pejić, Piotr Piotrowski, Zora Rusinaová, Hedwig Saxengruber, Georg Schöllhammer
365 p., 400 pic., en, ISBN 978-3-902490-57-5, ca. EUR 35,00
www.gender-check.at

Symposium
13./14.11.2009

Initiated by
ERSTE-Stiftung
Friday: November 13

Introductory Forums
Two Introductory Forums focusing on the topics „Does Feminism Speak East?” and „Fuck Your Gender” will serve as kick-off panels for the conference READING GENDER. The forums are meant to serve as an initial platform for the participants to discuss vital issues, concerns and strategies. The forums can be seen as an opportunity to bring together different approaches and exchange information so that the key issues of both conference and exhibition can interconnect in a variety of ways. They will provide an open space for the process of learning and unlearning that can be expanded and further pursued in the conference discussions.

Registration necessary on buero@trafo-k.at

Section I
Can Feminism Speak East?
Preparation and research of the “Gender Check” has exposed diversity of intellectual positions, scholarly disciplines, methodologies and vocabularies that are used in reading of the art of the socialist and post-socialist period from the gender perspective. Since the last twenty years art history of the “Eastern” Europe is the subject of writing and re-writing, re-evaluations and comparative positioning. At the present moment, when feminist practice and theory, despite historic ignorance and rejection, has established itself in post-socialist countries we would like to ask, “How does Feminism speak East?”

Section II
Fuck Your Gender
“Fuck your Gender” refers to a slogan from the 1993 queer movement and is devoted to those feminisms in art, activism and visual culture that transgress binary borders. Gender and sex norms, heteronormativity and other binary distinctions like East/West, oneself/others are challenged here. In this section deals with issues like job migration and the current internationalization of feminism and anti-racist protests, drawing into focus matter of course transgressions of East/West imagery. Activist and theoretical discourses today from Vancouver to Belgrade are establishing links between gender and sexuality with racism, capitalism, fascism and nationalism, sexual autonomy, poverty and social injustice. They enable new alliances and diverse forms of information and knowledge production.

Saturday, November 14

Section I
Can Feminism Speak East?
Moderation: Hedwig Saxenhuber
Katrin Kivimaa
Twenty Years Later: Actually Existing Feminism and Art in Eastern Europe
15.30–16.00
Artists´ Talk: Anna Daňšiková
16.00–16.30
Artists´ Talk: Mare Tralla
16.30–16.45
Questions and Answers
16.45–17.15
Break
17.15–18.00
Vjollca Krasniqi
Returning the Gaze: Gender and Power in Kosovo
18.00–19.15
Feminism and Politics of Location
Discussion with: Ivana Bago, Laima Kreivyte, Suzana Milevska, Almira Ousmanova, Angelika Richter. Moderation: Mara Traumane
19.30
Performance
Egle Rakauskaite
For Guilty without the Guilt. Trap. Expulsion from Paradise

Section III
Subverting Canons
This section will attempt to re-visit canons that we continuously stumble upon, fight against and become parts of in the process of reading gender and gender politics. Reading gender in the art of socialism and post-socialism confronts the reader with obsolete historical canons. It casts the light on marginal or forgotten figures both in art and in theory, particularly on the women artists who have remained in the shadow of the myths of the great men master figures. Gender approach intends to substantiate and to legitimate the use of “foreign” vocabularies and methods in an analysis of the local art phenomena and of the “living experience” of the artists. It also poses question not only about reading but also about “inscription” of the local, of the particular history in the grand canon of recognition and visibility.