opening: Thursday, 1st December 2011 at 5 p.m.
curator: Barbora Geržová

venue: Reprezentačné sály, Nitrianska galéria, Župné námestie 3, Nitra
www.nitrianskagaleria.sk

participating artists:
Peter Ančič (SK), Peter Barényi (SK), Robert Bielik (SK), Josef Bolf (CZ), Jiří Černický (CZ), Radovan Čerevka (SK), Jiří David (CZ), Andrej Dúbravský (SK), Tomáš Džadoň (SK), MR. BRA (SK, CZ), Lukáš Haruštiak (SK), Peter Janáčik (SK), Filip Jurkovič (SK), Svätopluk Mikyta (SK), Michal Murin (SK), Miroslav Nicz (SK), Petr Nikl (CZ), Michal Pechouček (CZ), Martin Piaček (SK), Karol Pichler (SK), Michal Šimonfy (SK) & Lenka Sukeníková (SK), Pavel Šmid (CZ), Aleksandra Vajd (SI) & Hynek Alt (CZ)

The exhibition INTER-VIEW 2 is a follow-up to the exhibition project INTER-VIEW 1, intended to present artwork by twenty contemporary Slovak and Czech authors – females of middle and younger generation, who tackle topical issues, such as body, corporeality, identity, relationship, family, pregnancy, children, family memory, which is themes also covered in the context of feminism. The purpose of this exhibition was not to rely on feminism as the only option and solution, neither to oppose it. It was an attempt to provide a more comprehensive view on this subject, not just via the exhibited works and their interpretation, but also through the narration of female authors concerning their creation and its possible relatedness to feminism.

The main focus of the second part of this exhibition project INTER-VIEW 2, whereby twenty-two authors and two mixed female-male artistic and life partners have been covered, is on the artwork by contemporary Slovak and Czech authors – males, who reflect upon similar pertinent issues, such as body, corporeality, sexuality, children, family, relationships, memory, but also for instance the concept of masculinity, or depict a female via gender-sensitive lens of males. For its specific purposes, the feminist theory has not adopted the concept of gender in the sense of sex that is biologically given and denotes biological and anatomic differences between females and males, but it uses it in the sense of a cultural and social construct. In the context of feminism, the notion of gender has thus diverted from the
older model of collectively shared female experience, and has been replaced with a critical model for exploring the relationships between men and women. As a result of the introduction of this notion, a potential superiority of one or the other sex is diminished, and a room is created for an in-depth study of creative work by both females and males.

Similarly to the first part of the project, this exhibition aimed to present the explored subject in a more comprehensive manner, not just through the exhibited works and their interpretation. An important role is also played by opinions of authors concerning their own creations, expressed in interviews with the curator. Each approached author was asked one or two questions concerning their own artwork or other works of art presented at the exhibition as well as two general questions with focus on various aspects of gender art.

Two couples of co-authors, who at the same time are life partners, namely Alexandra Vajd and Hynek Atl, as well as Michal Šimonfy and Lenka Sukeníková, were incorporated in this exhibition which extend the project for an interesting aspect of female and male collaboration in the gender art context.

This exhibition, intended to explore the artwork by male authors from the gender perspective, is designed as a research, the purpose of which was to test the very boundaries of gender art, select criteria that could be applied to the artwork subject to this study. Can we also class under the category of gender art such works whose authors critically challenge and clash with the habitual system of gender stereotypes or also such works that tackle the gender issues, but not as part of their programme? In which cases does the gender interpretation hold true, and when should we, on the opposite, rather consider it as over-interpretation? What is the authors' own attitude to such gender-sensitive interpretations?

The exhibition is divided into seven thematic areas: Gender Aspects of Textile; Body, Corporeality and Identity; Relationships, Couples and New Identities; Memory, Family, Relationships; Problems of Collective Identity; New Concept of Masculinity; Gender Sensitive Perception of Woman.

The exhibition does not aim to find any new definitive answers to questions relating to individual topics addressed by artists in their work and viewed from the gender perspective, but rather to open possibly continue the discussion on these issues.

The exhibition is issued accompanying bilingual (English-Slovakia) catalog of professional studies, interviews with authors and reproductions of the exhibits.