

PODOBY SLOBODY

FACES OF FREEDOM

Participating artists:
selected from an international open call

Curator: Omar Mirza

Venue: Nitra Gallery, Nitra, Slovakia + public
spaces in the city of Nitra

Duration: 13 September – 24 November 2019

Opening event: 12 September 2019

Closing event: 16 November 2019

Submission deadline: **30 April 2019**

The submission form for the open call and more
details about the exhibition are available at
www.nitrianskagaleria.sk/freedom

 **NITRA
GALLERY** —
Fine address
for fine art

In November of this year, we will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain (in former Czechoslovakia known as the Velvet Revolution), whose primary contribution to society is freedom. On this occasion, Nitra Gallery in cooperation with the Divadelná Nitra Association will host an international exhibition of contemporary visual art. It will share the theme with the 28th International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra (ITF DN): **The Faces of Freedom**.

The project's objective is to showcase how contemporary artists reflect upon the theme of freedom, or the lack of it. Freedom comes in various forms: freedom of the individual, society, speech, thought, religion, sexual orientation, movement, art, etc. How can we define, grasp, understand it? How do people from different countries perceive it? What does it mean to us? Do we need to fight for it? And how, by which means? What do we do when it is exploited? Where does the freedom of speech end in a world full of conspiracies, hoaxes and fake news? Today, freedom sometimes seems to resemble a jungle fight for survival rather than idealistic notions of peaceful and prosperous cohabitation, which can lead to nostalgic memories of the totalitarian golden cage in many of the post-socialist countries. What are the dangers of forgetting our past and the resulting relativism of undemocratic regimes?

Artworks which will be presented at the exhibition **The Faces of Freedom** will be selected from an international open call which accepts submissions from visual artists of the former Eastern Block (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, eventually Albania and the region of the former East Germany), which was subjected to the Soviet Union in the period from the end of WWII until 1989. These countries and their people share similar experiences: the long-ruling authoritarian regime, the

euphoric arrival of freedom in 1989 and the subsequent transformation period of the 1990s when many considered freedom superior to any and all laws...

There is no specification for the type, technique or format of the submitted artworks, allowing also for happenings and performances. The project allows for free content, but it should respond to the theme of the exhibition and the festival. Both new and existing artworks are eligible as long as they deal with the topic of freedom and/or react to the specific time and space they will be presented in. All submissions will be reviewed by Nitra Gallery's curator Omar Mirza who will cooperate with representatives of the ITF DN – festival director Darina Kárová and Ján Šimko, curator of foreign productions included in the main programme. The selected artworks will be presented in the space of an art museum, but may also be displayed in various public spaces instead – depending on the nature of the works. In this way we want to bring contemporary visual arts closer to people who do not visit galleries and at the same time connect the theatre and art audiences. As the exhibition is a central part of the ITF DN 2019 accompanying program, some of the performances and public space projects will be presented only during the course of the festival, between September, 27th and October, 9th 2019 when Nitra accommodates a large number of both domestic and international festival attendees. However, most of the artworks will be presented during the whole course of the exhibition.

Due to a limited budget, we will give preference to artworks with less demanding spatial, technical, production and transportation demands. The freedom and power of art is namely not rooted in its size, effect and cost, but in its depth...

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