Lucia Miklošková

From Optic to Haptic, from Remote to Close

Ivana Sláviková (1981) is one of the young female representatives of Slovak sculptural art. Her soft sculptures *Victims Warn* (2007) and *Svätopluk* (2012), and her more recent work *How to Explain Art to a Hen* (2013)[[1]](#footnote-1), reflect on the world of art in the form of appropriation. The first two works represent a transcription of the homonymous monumental realisations by sculptors Jozef Jankovič[[2]](#footnote-2) and Ján Kulich[[3]](#footnote-3). In this case, the artist replaced the heavy and hard material with a soft breathable textile. While the statues of male artists are primarily intended to be looked at (even looked up to), Slávikova´s sculptures, by their nature, are reminiscent of soft toys and, are intended to be touched and taken care of. In case of the interpretation of Jozef Jankovič´s work, the white textile highlights the expressiveness of the original sculpture. Anonymous, helpless and wounded bodies give the impression of having been treated or, wrapped in a protective layer of bandage. On the contrary, the red symbolic colour of *Svätopluk* refers to the political background of the order of the original work. In this case, the sculpture is installed on a high structure, which forces the viewer to look up at the “toy”, by which the work acquires a comic or even ridiculing character.

Mgr. Lucia Miklošková (1986)

She obtained her master's degree in the History and Theory of Art and Architecture in 2009 at the Philosophical Faculty at the University of Trnava in Trnava. Since 2013, she has been an internal PhD student at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Trnava in Trnava (tutor Prof. PhDr. Marián Zervan, PhD.). In 2014, she completed an internship at Charles University in Prague. In 2013, she won the Radislav Matuštík Scholarship for her exhibition project PANEL STORY (in collaboration with Lucia Štrbáková).

1. The work *How to Explain Art to a Hen* originated during her residency in Cered (Hungary). The artist placed stands with prepared eggs with variously decorated shells among hens. The hens cautiously examined the tiny objects and, ultimately ate them, thus destroying the work. The artist presents the above event in the form of photographic records. With this work, Sláviková follows up on the project by Joseph Beuys called *How to Explain Pictures to a Dead Hare* (1965). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The statue *Victims Warn* was created in 1964-1969 by Jozef Jankovič for the Memorial of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The equestrian statue of *Svätopluk* was commissioned by Prime Minister Robert Fico and unveiled in 2010 at the Bratislava Castle. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)