I consider myself a very rational person ... I almost never improvise during realisation

Ivana Sláviková in an interview with Lucia Miklošková

Lucia Miklošková: *You applied to the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica after graduating from the School of Applied Arts in Kremnica (majoring in art metal casting). When I taught at that school for a short while, I had an impression that students reject the free (“liquid”) forms of visual arts which are not anchored in the classic forms of art. It is quite common that contemporary art is barely taught, or not taught at all, at secondary schools and, the students come into contact with it only during their university studies. Was it natural for you from the very beginning to think about sculpture outside its classic material framework, as a space rather than as a material?*

Ivana Sláviková:I don´t know how it happened, but I have never, really never, been a so-called student with blinders. I´ve never tossed away the “old” in favour of “contemporary” art or vice versa. Sometimes I have the feeling that, as far as art is concerned, I am too much of a pacifist. When I think back to my beginnings at the Academy, it seems to me that, after overcoming the initial shock of the acquired freedom, I quite naturally began thinking about sculpture outside the classical framework. From the very beginning, it was natural for me to experiment with materials, which I used as a tool to reflect on space. Now when I recall how after one semester survey I ended up getting not such a good evaluation and a comment saying that the thing I had created was too flat for a statue, I have to laugh. At present, the students at our department have total freedom regarding creative activities, something they often realize only after returning from an internship abroad.

Lucia Miklošková: *An interesting thing is that in the history of the Academy of Arts, you are actually the first graduate from the studio of Sculpture and Applied Media and the second graduate from the Department of Sculpture. The Academy of Arts was founded in 1997, and you studied from 2002 to 2008. At school, you found yourself in an almost purely male team. Were you confronted with the fact that you had entered “their” territory?*

Ivana Sláviková:When I started my studies, there were only three girls in the entire Department of Sculpture. I noticed the differences in the overall understanding and resolving of assignments. When we finally had to bring our own theme for the semester assignment, I bumped hard into the “male” view of the things. It took me about four years before the barrier was broken, but it was in particular because of the fact that more and more girls had arrived at the department. The current gender composition at the department is almost half and half.