**“I try to look at something such as love also through the mountains”**

**Štefan Papčo in an interview with Daniel Grúň**

**Abstract**

Sculptures by Štefan Papčo express a physical experience with the monumental work of nature extending beyond any individual, which is, in his artwork, conveyed by numerous references to the culture of mountain climbing. On the other hand, in the strenuous, sometimes even robust search for any expression, we can observe a testimony about mountains, rocky massifs and their physical conquest. Recording this experience into a visual language could be simply called a search for new articulations of some of the classic challenges of sculpture: 1) the mediated presence of the sculpture; 2) the transformation of the found object, e.g. an artificial climbing wall; 3) the transcription of the mountain massif’s topography into spatial architecture; 4) the search for the balance between the full and the negative space.

Daniel Grúň is an art historian, curator, writer and art critic. He studied art history at Trnava University (Slovak Republic). In 2009 he completed his PhD thesis and published a book titled *Archeology of Art Criticism. Slovak Art of the 1960s and its Interpretations*. Currently he works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theory and History of Art, Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, and as a researcher of the Július Koller Society. In 2010 he won the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory.