



Gisela Weimann *Mein Schatten bleibt*

30. 4. – 3. 8. 2014

Curator: Terezie Petišková

Press conference on Tuesday 29 04 2014 at 10 am

Exhibition opening on Tuesday 29 04 2014 at 6 am

The Brno House of Arts, Malinovského nám. 2, Brno

Encountering the work of the Berlin artist Gisela Weimann (*1943) has inspired curators A. Vartecká, V. Fremlová and T. Petišková to undertake the project *Grey Gold: Czech and Slovak female artists 65+*. G. Weimann's exhibition *My Shadow Remains/Mein Schatten bleibt* at the Jaroslav Král Gallery is a tribute to the artist, her work, as well as her extraordinary enthusiasm. At the same time, the joint presentation of both projects (*Grey Gold* and *Mein Schatten bleibt*) offers an interesting comparison referring to the parallels and differences in the contemporary work of female artists aged 65 +, which had significantly determined Europe's political establishment in the 1970s and 1980s. One of the common universal layers of the work of the Czechoslovakian artists featuring in the exhibition is their focus on a free innate micro-space, which has become for them an inspiration and a possibility to live in the middle of the then Czechoslovakia's undemocratic socio-political climate.

By contrast, the work of Gisela Weimann, who worked as an artist in Western Berlin, London, San Francisco, or Mexico, has verged on activism and has been characterised by an effort to involve women in all spheres of public life. The generational need to adopt a critical stance on Germany's recent history has been an important layer of her work, too. Her work as an activist has been markedly influenced by Berlin's cultural and social environment at the end of the 1960s, at a time when the topics of engaged art were being formulated. At the Jaroslav Král Gallery, G. Weimann will present her processual project *My Shadow Remains/Mein Schatten bleibt*, which she has been working on since 1976 and which the artist herself sees as a metaphor for her own fate, influenced by Germany's wartime history.

In the exhibition project, the artist drew inspiration from Adalbert von Chamisso's romantic novella "The extraordinary story of Peter Schlemihls/Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte". In the story, Schlemihl exchanges his shadow for a purse full of gold coins with the Devil, resulting in him losing his bodily identity. In the decisive moment when the Devil asks for his soul in exchange for the wealth he has afforded him, Schlemihl escapes wearing a pair of seven-league boots. The photographic works from the series *My Shadow Remains/Mein Schatten bleibt* depict the artist's need for constant change of her place of residence, which she herself interprets as an effort to capture and understand her own identity. The artist makes light of serious topics and romantic contemplation of the world by means of a certain perspective, outlook on life and a sense of humour. The series *My Shadow Remains/Mein Schatten bleibt* is complemented by an audio installation entitled "Anfang Ende Hier Jetzt", inspired by Olivier Messiaens' *Quartett das Ende der Zeit* (1941), as well as video documentation and props from music performances, *Oper für 4 Busse* (2001) in particular.

The statutory city of Brno subsidises the Brno House of Arts, contributory organisation.

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The Brno House of Arts / House of Arts / The House of the Lords of Kunštát / Gallery G99 /
www.dum-umeni.cz / Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm / general admission 20 CZK every
Wednesday