

Project title: Slovak art days in Vilnius 2018, Litva

Vernisage: 6. 9. 2019 o 18.00 h

Exhibition duration: 6.9. - 23.9. 2018

Artists on display: Katarína Balúnová, Jarmila Mitríkova & Dávid Demjanovič, Slavomír Durkaj, Martin, Kiman, Juraj Toman, Simona Štulerová, Ján Vasilko, Vladimíra Weiss, Svetlana Fialová, Martin Ševčovič, Peter Valiska Timečko, Marek Halász, Michal Machciník, Ján Zelinka, Viliam Slaminka, Pavol Truben, Jozef Suchoža, Michaela Knížová, Táňa Takáčová, Robo Tappert, Stanislav Piatrik, Michal Murin, Rišo Kitta, Martin Kolčák, Martin Kudla, Adam Slezák, DIG

Location: Exhibition halls „Titanikas“ Gallery, Academy of arts in Vilnius, Litva

This project has been supported using public funds provided by Slovak Arts Council.

Lithuania and Slovakia are two modern Central European countries that have gone through similar historical and cultural experiences. One could name many statistical similarities and other facts – from the demographic to the historical – that would reveal how these two societies have much more in common than they have differences. However, this is something that can be demonstrated best by the universal language of art. The exhibition of artwork by young Slovak artists at Titanikas – probably the largest gallery space of the Vilnius Academy of Art – is both delightful (any exhibition only gains meaning when it offers something intriguing to the viewer's eyes, mind and emotion) and productive. This is because, as the curators of the exhibition state, the mission and purpose of this project is not just to present Slovak art in Europe, it is also to build bridges between the people of the European continent. The art of Slovakia is close in nature to Lithuanian art – both phenomena are united by reflections of their own traditions and experiences, based on which artists construct visions of the future (because looking forward is one of the principal conditions of any contemporary art) as well as rethink current events. The Lithuanian public should be intrigued by this because a glance from a different perspective helps contemplate and experience one's own identity. This young Slovak art is innovative, forward-moving and energetic. What more does one need when looking at art?

Vidas Poškus, Head of Exhibition Halls "Titanikas" of Vilnius Academy of Arts

Slovak Art Days is an exhibition project with annual cycle bringing the works of young Slovak artists to galleries of European capitals. First three volumes took place in Vienna, London and Amsterdam. Although the main objective of this exhibition cycle may be the presentation of the visual art development in Slovakia, at the same time it must be said that the exhibited collection cannot be representative by its formal side or content. More than spectacular and representative crosssection of Slovak art scene, it is the project of creating relations between associated European partners, as well as presentation of interesting artistic achievements to the international audience. Therefore we create conditions for the development of cooperation between artists and professionals in the field of arts and culture. Compared to the last which was inspired by Slovak presidency of the EU Council 2016, this years collection is broadly based to show up Slovak particularity, whether as a reflection of traditions, folk art message, references to the history, jury at the most prestigious domestic art competitions (painting of the year, Oskar Čepan Award), either like finalists or absolute winners. In total 27 authors represent a wide diapason of art techniques and formal, stylistic categories. The focus of the exhibition is certainly the painting, represented in abundant number, but the sculpture, object creation, not the least the photography are also represented. A part of the event is a performance – action graphics by Peter Valiska- Timečko and Stanislav Piatrik. Last but not least the exhibition is complete with the media instalation prepared with cooperation of DIG gallery. Ideals and values upon which Europe was built are repeatedly being openly questioned. We feel importance to create conditions for mutual understanding, communication and national bonding in the place of shared values, traditions and cultural roots that we call Europe. We believe that this event will contribute to it. Branislav Zurko but also the documentation of current events, all appears in the work of many contemporary artists. Dealing with national identity has become a sort of leitmotif for the whole project where strong young generation stays side by side lesser-known personalities with potentially strong artistic program. Recent graduates meet the artists who have managed to impress the place of shared values, traditions and cultural roots that we call Europe. We believe that this event will contribute to it.

Branislav Zurko, curator of project SADiV