

Věra Stuchelová

Věra Stuchelová was born in Prachatice (Czech Republic) on May 26th, 1973. She lives in České Budějovice at present.

Education and work:

1991 – 1997 } University of South Bohemia, Pedagogical Faculty
1997 – 2003 } Academy of Fine Arts in Prague
2001 } University of J. E. Purkyně, Ústí nad Labem (doc. Pavel Baňka)
2002 } Academia Di Belle Arti, Milano
2004 } Charles University in Prague,
Faculty of Education – PhDr. degree
2004 – 2007 } Academy of Fine Arts in Prague,
doctoral study for Ph.D. degree

2003 up to present } head of the photography studio at the Institute of Art and Design, Department of Fine Arts, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen

Selection of recent exhibitions:

2008 } Soukromý prostor / Private space, series of exhibitions in Bulgarian galleries (Sofia, Kjustendil, Rusa, Nova Zagora)
2008 } featured at the International festival of photography, Prague, Brno, České Budějovice
2007 } „Jihoženským okem“ - group exhibitions focused on female photography, Hradec Králové, Třeboň
2007 } Ikony všedního dne / Everyday icons, Gallery Trafačka, Prague
2006 } Ztracené ráje / Paradises lost, Esthé, Prague
2006 } Zpaměti / From memory, Gallery of Felix Jenewein, Kutná Hora
2005 } Autoportréty / Self-portraits, Esthé, Prague
2005 } Obrazy / Pictures, Helge-Klinik, Passau
2004 } Soukromý prostor / Private space, series of exhibitions in České Budějovice, Brno and Plzeň
2004 } Kaunas Photo, international exhibition, Lithuania

Memories and acts of reconciliation which connect her photographs with the picture of a recent and also distant past are typical for work of Věra Stuchelová. Her photographs present experience as gradual placing of pieces of everyday life into the cosy frames of black-and-white photography.

In her pictures she presents the past as a recently finished sleep, where objects seem to have been waiting for being photographed. The yesterday life and sense of these objects is renewed by simply being seen for a while. It is not necessary to wait for the function of the object to return in the hands of a person. In this story the audience is introduced to the intimacy as a “voyeur” of important things – it is not about experiencing something new by this sight, old experience is coming back, the audience sees a familiar figure. The light spreading in front of the camera beautifies the scars of the morning, the ambivalent picture of the observed things changes into a sweet moment of awakening.

P. Koziol – text for the magazine Fotograf / The Photographer

The exhibition features the following sets of photographs:

Letters, 2005 – 2008 } The set of photographs draws inspiration from letters received by the author from her closest friends and family. “I try to express emotions, mood, feelings of a person holding a piece of the past in his/her hand. This past is partly forgotten, fragmented, there are only pieces of memories – fragments of handwriting.”

Intimacy, 2005 – 2008 } The set of photographs brings a subjective testimony about the author, her personal values, experience and attitude to reality. It interconnects the lyrical point of view with authentic places and events.

Private space, 2003 } Diploma thesis at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. “I stress the intimacy of this world, which is so fragile and vulnerable. It is a self-portrait which also comprises portraits of things, relationships and environment”.

Women, 2007 } This project works both with the topic of sympathy and shared feelings and the topic of self-portrait. “I physically enter the picture and transform myself through this picture - I blend myself with appearance of another woman in unity of two bodies and two faces. A new human being who carries appearance of both of us comes into existence this way.”

Story in a book } Petra Makrlíková
and in photography } Věra Stuchelová

July 1st – 31st, 2008 } Blue Cat Gallery
Kherson
Ukraine



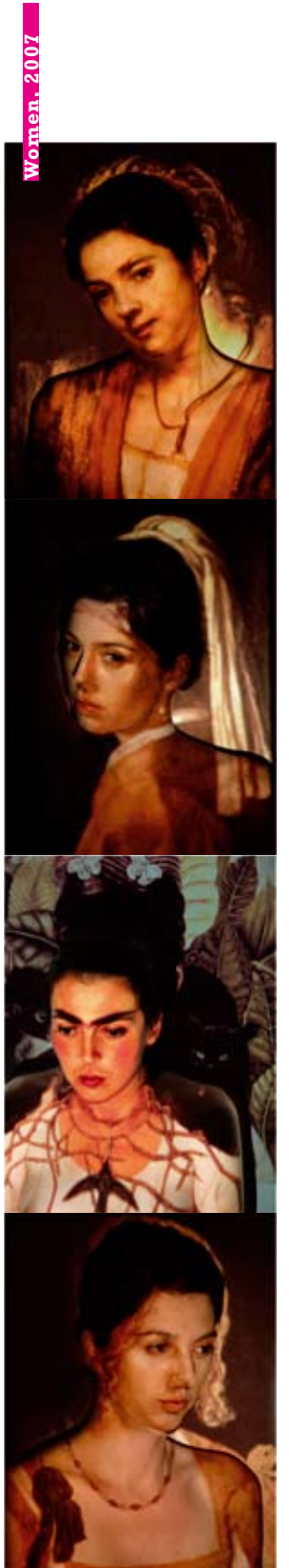
Letters, 2005 - 2008



Intimacy, 2005 - 2008



Private space, 2003



Women, 2007



Petra Makrlíková

Petra Makrlíková was born in Sušice (Czech Republic) on December 21st, 1977. She lives in Pilsen at present.

Education and work:

1997 – 2002 } studies at the University of West Bohemia, Faculty of Education – Teaching of Arts for secondary schools

2002 – 2004 } assistant lecturer, University of West Bohemia, Faculty of Education – Department of Fine Arts

2004 up to present } Head of the bookbinding studio at the Institute of Art and Design, Department of Fine Arts, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen

Selection of recent exhibitions:

- 2008 } Bookbinding exhibition, Hluboš Castle
- 2008 } Bookbinding exhibition, Brno
- 2005 } Graphic Symposium „3/3“, University Gallery, Pilsen
- 2005 } Kontakt / Contact – bookbinding exhibition, University Gallery, Pilsen
- 2004 } Graphic Symposium „3/3“, Kulturmodel Passau, Germany
- 2002 } Bookbinding exhibition, University Gallery, Pilsen
- 2002 } Fenomén kniha / Book Phenomenon, Brno
- 2002 } Bookbinding exhibition, Jelenka Gallery, Strakonice
- 2002 } Bookbinding exhibition, Gabor Gallery, Sušice
- 2002 } Bookbinding exhibition, Šiwa Gallery, Horažďovice

Petra Makrlíková focuses her attention on a book as a subject of fine arts. She is interested in its function and place in today's society in contrast with growing influence of new media and explores the differences and boundaries between classical books, author's and artistic books. She concentrates on the contemporary perception of a book as a creative source for not only literature but also for fine arts. She uses unusual materials and combines many different techniques which affect the final look of the book. Her artist's books reflect the neverending search for the right expression and form for the book.

A book is a message from one person to another. It creates a dialogue between the writer and the readers, between the artist and the audience and proves to us that we still need each other.

The exhibition features photographs of the following artist's books and objects:

Bookcases, 2008 } These objects imitate the form of a bookcase. The message is not in the content of the books but in the way of installation, in breaking the traditional function of a book.

Forbidden Books, 2006 } Author's object – the work draws inspiration from books forbidden in the past. Wax represents unavailability of the books – like a seal.

Artist's books from the series Jewish Culture, 2007 } The series works with subjective feelings experienced at a newly

discovered place. It interconnects one's own point of view with authenticity of the places and events. "I have documented fragments of gravestones using the technique of frottage".

Artist's books from the series Letters, 2007 } „This work draws inspiration from my feelings brought by letters received from my closest friends and family. It is possible to read this book / object – the pages are etched into zinc plates. I do not follow the traditional shape of a book, I transform it into a plastic object“.

Folding Book, 2005 } Author's object – this object primarily carries information of aesthetic character and therefore it becomes a subject of feelings and impression.

Zen Wisdom, 2005 } Inspiration for this artist's book comes from oriental philosophy.

Interconnection, Layers, 2006 } Artist's books – "I drew inspiration from the nature, its playfulness, colourfulness and poetics ... in various layers and interconnection – of materials, time, ideas, instalation..."

Book Phenomenon, 2006 } Author's object – The object presents the structure of a book by gradual replacement or suppression of some of its elements, it creates its own poetics and metaphor.

Artist's book from the series In Passau, 2005 } The book maps the town of Passau in an usual way. It does not carry traditional form or content, it is characterised by author's free artistic approach. Through its language of art it presents the author's way of thinking and attitude in an untraditional way.

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The Institute of Art and Design, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen (Czech Republic) and Kherson Art School, Ukraine

