

Between Ideology and Identity. Budapest Version

Venue: Labor, Képiró u 6, Budapest

Opening: March 21, 7 pm

On view: March 22 throughout April 5, 2011

Opening hours: Tue–Fri 4pm–7pm

Participating artists: Kaspars Goba (Riga), Wojciech Doroszek (Krakow/Rouen), Eduard Freudmann & Ivana Marjanović (Belgrade/Vienna), Flo Kasearu & Tanel Rannala (Tallinn), Eva Labotkin (Tallinn/Tartu), Johannes Paul Raether (Berlin), R.E.P.(Kiev), Shlomi Yaffe (Prague/Tel Aviv), Katarina Zdjelar (Belgrade/Rotterdam)

Curator: Rael Artel (Pärnu)

In the 20th century, nationalism has been called both a modern disease and a religion for modern society. Mixing the darker characteristics of these metaphors, one could call it also as a blind pandemic which has a particular connection with modernization. How does it spread and what role does faith play in it? How do the masses catch that infection and what are the dogmas of this belief? The main focus of the *Between Identity and Ideology. Budapest Version* exhibition is to briefly sketch out some features of that very politically and culturally complex tension between the nationalist ideology and national identity. The study currently accessible in Labor exhibition space is far from being complete – selected works are just a few fragments from that vast and extremely multi-faceted phenomenon.

In the context of *Between Identity and Ideology. Budapest Version* exhibition, national identity is not something born into, inherited or created on its own. National identity can only be constructed as a product of nationalist ideology. Each nation-state is the victory of a specific form of nationalism in a specific territory, and it is vitally important for a nation-state to reproduce the nationalist ideology and identity. One should not limit the definition of nationalism as a historical phenomenon that dates back to the time before World War II or as something peripheral and extreme that is a byword for violent, radical and separatist movements that drift into terrorism. Rather, the exhibition views nationalism as a widespread mentality and ideological machinery that organizes our everyday life, surrounds us all and has thus become one of the relatively dominant background elements of contemporary social reality.

Identity – whether collective or individual – is always relational, playful and performative: it is expressed, reproduced or affirmed to oneself, to the other members of the community and to outsiders through certain rituals. In the *Between Identity and Ideology. Budapest's Version*, artists examine the national rituals and ideological habits well as analyze the mechanism of their functioning. The specific attention is turned to the socio-political situation in former Eastern Europe, where the nationalism might be characterized with keywords like post-Socialist era, ethnocentrism, and short traditions of democracy as well as modern nation state.

Between Ideology and Identity. Budapest Version is a modified and re-curated version of the exhibition of international contemporary art, that initially took place in

Kumu Art Museum, Tallinn, Estonia in February 2010.

Publication: The exhibition is accompanied with a bilingual catalogue, which is edited by Rael Artel, designed by Jaan Evert, and published in collaboration with Hungarian University of Fine Arts. Catalogue is available in Labor.

Organiser: Hungarian University of Fine Arts

Supporters: Budapest Spring Festival; Center for Contemporary Arts, Estonia; Hungarian University of Fine Arts; National Cultural Fund of Hungary

Events at the Labor:

March 22nd at 7 pm

A screening of *Uglyville. A Contention of Anti-Romaism in Europe* by Eduard Freudmann & Ivana Marjanović. Austria/Serbia, 2010, 58 min. In English. Introduction by and discussion with artists.

March 23rd at 7 pm

Discussion with Szabolcs KissPal, Eszter Lazar, Flo Kasearu, Eva Labotkin, Szabolcs Pogonyi, and Sari Stenzer, moderated by Rael Artel. A screening of *Don't Do It Wrong!* by Katarina Zdjelar. 2007, 10 min.

March 24th at 7 pm

Artist's talks by Estonian artists Flo Kasearu and Eva Labotkin.

March 29th at 7 pm

A screening of *Seda* by Kaspars Goba. Latvia/Germany, 2004, 52 min. In Latvian and Russian with English subtitles. Introduction by Rael Artel

NB!

March 22nd–29th

The exhibition is guarded by the curator Rael Artel – informal guided tours and discussions with visitors.

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