



BE FRAGILE! BE BRAVE!

Melanie Bonajo, Liisa Hirsch, Anu Pöder, Alina Szapocznikow, Iza Tarasewicz

20.09.2019 - 23.02.2020, Hall, Wing, MEDIApoint

Curator: Rebeka Pöldsam

Architectural design: Maarja Kask (Salto Architects) & Neeme Kõlm (Valge Kuup)

How to view a piece of sculpture? What can one learn from looking at something from every possible angle? What can an artist communicate to the viewer through an abstract work of art? While all forms of art can involve our bodies, sculpture and installation focus specifically on experiences in immediate space. The exhibition *Be Fragile! Be Brave!* brings together sculptures, mixed media, sound and video installations, for the audience to explore experiences evoked by spatial art. It asks questions about bodily emotions that humans encounter in everyday life. The exhibition reflects on our current age of distraction and aims to look for ways to resist the overwhelmed state by creating a space for safe introspection.

Be Fragile! Be Brave! is a sequel to the 2017 exhibition *Anu Pöder. Be Fragile! Be Brave!* at Kumu Art Museum, Tallinn. The first show revolved around a retrospective, historical, thematic and material recontextualization of the work of Estonian sculptor and installation artist Anu Pöder (1947–2013). The new exhibition at Pori Art Museum is a further tribute to Anu Pöder's artistic work. At the Pori exhibition, the focus is on works dealing with intimacy and society, their forms are abstract and exact, fragile and brave. The show presents artworks as storytellers with their own materiality and sense of humor. Anu Pöder never ceased to explore a woman's life and a woman's relationship with her immediate circle in the contexts of childhood home, work, sexuality or family. Working with ephemeral materials such as wax, soap, textile, plaster and chocolate, she focused on intimate narratives of the personal sphere and inner life as opposed to durable materials and grand narratives officially accepted by the USSR or independent Estonia.

Polish artist Alina Szapocznikow (1926–1973) explored the relationships between temporality, materiality and human lives in her art throughout her life. The show in Pori features Szapocznikow's early and rare bronze sculptures that display her witty take on time and age. Polish artist Iza Tarasewicz (b. 1981) creates a rhythmic and ephemeral installation that focuses on shifting space. For the Pori exhibition she has built an extended version of the installation *The Means. The Milieu* (2014—) that creates visual orchestras with Chinese medicinal reishi mushrooms as one of its materials. Estonian composer and experimental musician Liisa Hirsch (b. 1984), whose pieces for piano are known for initiating new practices of listening between musicians and the audience, builds a sound installation with sounds from the river Kokemäenjoki, which flows right next to the museum. Dutch artist Melanie Bonajo's (b. 1978) video installation *Night Soil – Nocturnal Gardening* (2016) examines farms from the unconventional perspectives of people who refuse to exploit non-human animals for food production and deals directly with current world politics. The exhibition also includes an extended public and educational programme developed by Pori Art Museum.

The exhibition was produced in collaboration with Art Museum of Estonia, Tartu Art Museum, Łódź Art Museum, Iza Tarasewicz Studio, family of Anu Pöder, AKINCI, Valge Kuup, and Salto Architects.

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