

Jana Farmanová

— *Memory*

Artist ▾ Jana Farmanová

Curator ▾ Barbora Kurek Geržová

Duration ▾ March 17 — May 28, 2023

Venue ▾ Representative Halls

Opening ▾ March 16, 2023, 6pm

Accompanying Events ▾ May 4, 2023, 6pm — An Evening of Film Love and Making Love with Peter Konečný

Jana Farmanová's monographic exhibition is based on the reoccurring themes and motives that are present throughout her whole catalogue and which she returns to in different time periods, contexts, moods and frames of mind. The exhibition presents paintings created over a large time span, from the earliest to the most recent ones.

She has exclusively focused on the medium of painting, mostly figural painting, ever since she entered the art scene in the late 1990s. She is a soul painter whose work blends in with everyday routine. She paints what she experiences, but experiences more than what she paints. Her themes tend to focus on women and their worlds. She reflects on the matters of love, interpersonal relationships, both partner and family ones, including the relationship between a mother and a daughter. A specific part of her catalogue reflects on her relationship with nature, her roots, home and identity. She is interested in such matters as life changes, the fragility of our being and ephemerality. She interprets her own observation and perception of the world that she comments on subjectively using her own life experience and sensual perceptions that have deeply affected her. While staying in contact with herself, she uses self-discovery, self-awareness and personal introspection to learn about and reflect on the outside world. She remains authentic while being powerful and courageous, but also fragile and delicate at the same time.

Her paintings are intimate, subjective and full of emotions, visualised into image stories, often only depicting fragments and details, something like film frames.

The narrative is often only suggested, unspoken, not fully revealed and open to interpretation. She captures a snapshot, a single moment in life which the painting freezes in time for "a while", just like a photography does, which the painter actually often uses as sketches. She is fascinated by film, literature, architecture, traditional archetypal painting techniques, ancient Japanese art and its quick brush strokes – a gesture which uses its visual simplicity and economy to express the complexity and weight of the whole world. That is also expressed by the artist's painting language which produces loose, relaxing and intuitive visual images, which are preceded by a thorough and complex research of her own experiences.

The *Memory* exhibition is conceptually divided into several theme sections which encompass different motives (details of hands; feet; lying body; sleeping people) and themes (interpersonal relationships; love – heart; nature; sea – water landscape; jump – movement dynamics). There is a special space dedicated to a new painting installation the artist created on the occasion of this exhibition and which she uses to reflect on the tragic death of two innocent young people – Ján and Martina. The individual theme sections of the exhibition are interconnected, they talk to each other, support each other. The artist's work thus becomes a living, ever-changing organism, full of emotions, personality and humanity.

Jana Farmanová (*1970, Nitra). From 1989 to 1996, she studied at a studio of painting (under prof. J. Berger) at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. Since 2016, she has been an associate lecturer of painting courses at the Department of Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica. She exhibits both in Slovakia and abroad. Her first solo exhibition at Nitra Gallery titled *Arrival* was held in 1995, followed by numerous other exhibition projects. The artist's work can be found across various private and public collections. She lives and works in Nitra.