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NUDITY AS POLITICAL GROUND-BREAKING

Can you imagine a naked dictator? Nudity deprives of power. And it is a soft power itself. In 2000, Artur Żmijewski made a short (7') film showing the *Polish Army representation company*, which drills naked, marches with rifles on its shoulder in a four-line formation, makes turns, as if on a parade. Central Europe emerged from a militarist ideology that demystified the totalitarian system. The army was here a source of oppression and, maintaining political regimes. It was necessary to look at it critically. In this film, nudity proves its subversive power.

Since then, in the socio-political space of Poland, there has been a struggle for freedom for minorities who are denied a place in society by the ruling nationalist-Catholic political authorities. Putin's Russia's aggression against Ukraine created an additional context and gave reason to criticize the authorities reliance on violence. Art does not use violence. Instead, it creates a field for criticism, provides resources and space for dialogue. Nudity is a means of art, that, thanks to its radicalism, serves well to make things clear. Nudity vs. violence. In every form.

The collection of texts presented here comes from the conference accompanying the Festival of Naked Forms, which was established in Prague, Czech Republic, by Lenka Klodová in 2018. Since 2021, the

festival has its editions at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk, as the FNAF Export. The model of the festival, combining presentations of performance art works and theoretical reflection, results from the assumptions of artistic and research methodologies. According to them, practice supports theory and vice versa, theory is the basis for practice. What cannot be shown in art forms can be articulated in a discursive text, what cannot be written can be expressed through art. Art and theory complement each other. In the name of creating a single space of freedom for artistic creation and academic research.

In the set of articles presented below, there are topics related to performance art workshop practice and research on history of this artistic discipline (Vladimir HAVLIK, "Framing the Performance and Its Documentation;" Joanna M. CZAJKOWSKA, "Nudity in Pomeranian Dance and Performance"), and those that analyze its use in the practice of socio-political discourse, described on the case studies (Ewa MAJEWSKA, "Nudity as a Feminist Gesture. In Defence of a Supposedly Lost Case;" Katarzyna PASTUSZAK, "Naked Care: Explorations of Naked Performance and Queer Political gestures"). The article by Darina ALSTER, "The Naked Body as a Symbol," opens this set as a perfect combination of art and research, in the individual art practice.