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INTRODUCTION by FNAF 8 Curator

The eighth year of the Festival of Naked Forms takes place in the situation of the attack on the independent state of Ukraine by Russian troops. In the light of this conflict threatening the stability of the whole world, we want to highlight the arsenal that nudity hides in itself.

Copious evidence from folkloric tradition, especially in Slavic areas, but also historically dating back to antiquity to the times of Pliny the Elder, attest to the belief that a strong apotropaic power emanates from the naked body. An exposed bare bottom or nudity can ward off a natural disaster or bad weather, and like Medusa's head can petrify an enemy with its appearance. The fluid group Femen, which was founded in Ukraine and which enriched the Czech public space in a unique way when it surprised President Zeman during the 2018 elections, expresses this with the slogan: "hot breasts, cool heads and clean hands" (see: <https://femen.org/about-us/>).

Our performances certainly do not replace the weapons that would help with the defence of the attacked country, but they can clearly be a means. They can be a means of expressing our utter nakedness in the face of incomprehensible injustice, or a vehicle for calling ancient magical means to action. "The body seems to be

simultaneously anchored in the divine and natural order of things. This religiosity inherently includes significant expressions of physicality, in which we can observe that the intensity of physical exhibition corresponds to the importance and value of the goal to be achieved." (Alexandra Navrátilová, „Nahota v obřadní tradici české kultury,“ in: Iva Doležalová, Eleónora Hamar, Luboš Bělka eds., *Náboženství a tělo*, Brno – Praha 2006, 60). The value of the goal in this case is very high, the intensity and quality of the performances of the 8th year of FNAF will certainly correspond to this.