

Opponent Review

ZKÁZA NENÍ TRIUMFEM DESTRUCTION IS NOT TRIUMPH

by Karolína Vojáčková

Karolina's project deals with a motif of ruins reinterpreting its nature and highlighting a very up-to-date notion of living inside of ruined landscape. In the current state of matter, we are often confronted with the notion of insufficiency when it comes to political and philosophical concepts. It seems harder and harder to find terms and metaphors that could help us in finding solutions to the planetary problems nowadays such as the challenges of the climate crisis. On the other hand, our reality suffers from diseases that seem somehow old and obsolete - the hot war in Ukraine that consumed already so many lives, the pandemic which shows that our healthcare systems are extremely insufficient and inequalities that divide the world into poor and rich, privilege and suppressed. Terms that we use to know are still among us creating a landscape of useless ruins - skeletons that never really served their purpose and now more than ever have become painful symbols of a distant foreign world.

In her work, Karolina has put together a special installation where our attention focuses on a few objects standing in specific lighting reinforcing the doomsday atmosphere. Their bases are thin almost as if they were flirting with us - look how efficient and sophisticated we can be. Their shape resembles geometrical order on one side combined with organic alike shape on the other. The objects are taller than human size which creates the notion of monumentality and remain in a group which allows us to see them as some kind of a structure *pars pro toto*.

I admire Karolina's interest in the topic of ruins and her dedication to the research of the subject matter. I can also see how this work fits into her artistic practice. In comparison to some of her other significant works I feel this one lacks a functional element - aren't ruins often being used as a foundation for new structures? Having said that I can see how this project develops and gains new meaning by adding an agency of applied art where the ruins instead of becoming a monument - mighty cold and useless - can be seen as a starting point for further development. After all, if we can be sure about anything in regard to the future is that we will have to learn how to fix the mistakes of past generations by reusing and recycling the infrastructure they have left behind.

As the critic, I hereby confirm Karolina's final project should be awarded with a Master's degree and I suggest the grade VERY WELL DONE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, flowing letters that appear to be 'K' and 'V'.