

The Origin of the Stone

Exhibition: 10.10.2023 – 08.12.2023



JANA ŽELIBSKÁ

Top: Photo of the installation Breasts (Stones), 1988, 58x48 cm

Bottom: The Stone, 2014, Mixed media, 28 x 34 x 49 cm

“My actions from the 70s and 80s are mainly stories that took place between nature and woman. A woman, though represented by a stone rhombus cut by a sharp blade of grass. There was a lot of humour in them, but also a myth about the essence of nature and women. The ancient matter of a woman in childbirth, right? The body was playfully associated with as nature with the nature of the body.”

The artist began working within nature on objects and interventions that had the character of an imprint or sign. She played with materials, structures, and surfaces.

Gradually, she moved from signs to evocation of the symbols based on their similarity with other objects, phenomena, interventions in nature.

In the work Collected grass in place A grows in place B (1981)8910, Jana Želibská shapes the grass into the form of rhombus, while in the works Prsia (kamene) [Breasts (stones)] (1988) and Fata Morgána prsa [Fata Morgana breasts] (1990) she accumulates material in the form of breasts

Born in 1941 in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia. Lives and works in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Jana Želibská studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava and graduated in graphic design and book illustration in 1965.

Želibská, belongs to the progressive generation of action and conceptual authors of the late 1960s in Czechoslovakia, specifically re-evaluated the impulses of neo avant-garde tendencies, French New Realism and post-Moderna.

She was present at the birth of environment art in the 1960s, object and installation at the end of the 1980s and video-art in the 1990s.

She openly thematizes the female body through a feminist approach which in her work blended with the characteristic period themes of the alternative scene and unofficial art in Slovakia.

In 2012, a monographic exhibition was dedicated to her at the Slovak National Gallery, and in 2017 Jana Želibská participated in the 57th Venice Biennale, where she presented the installation Swan Song Now in the Czechoslovak Pavilion.