

IGOR ZABEL
AWARD FOR
CULTURE AND
THEORY 2018

Grant

according to the jury's selection

Edith Jeřábková

CURATOR AND ART WRITER, PRAGUE

The jury has awarded Edith Jeřábková the Igor Zabel Award Grant for her outstanding contribution to the artistic life in the Czech Republic (and beyond) with her polyphonic practice as an innovative cultural producer, prolific curator and writer as well as a passionate teacher and researcher.

Collaborative approach is the characteristic feature of the majority of Edith Jeřábková's hybrid activities in which the past and the contemporaneity are bridged with an intellectual sharpness and sensitivity towards the historical narratives and the challenges of the present times.

From 2011, Edith Jeřábková has been professor at the Department of Arts of the Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague, running the Sculpture Studio along with artist Dominik Lang. They constitute the first duo of artist and curator in the Czech Academy educational system and foreground an experimental approach to educational formats.

Edith Jeřábková is a co-founder of the association Are (2012), a self-empowering collective which quickly became a leading, active animator of the cultural and artistic life in Prague. The association carries out a rich and diverse programme that includes also long-term research projects. Among them, particularly noteworthy and ambitious is the research on the legacy of Ester Krumbachová. Edith Jeřábková is the head of the research team investigating the groundbreaking yet still insufficiently known work of this important figure of the Czech New Wave Cinema.

One of the most recent expressions of Edith Jeřábková's drive towards developing non-institutional, independent structures questioning the borderline between art and life is a quasi-sociological experiment conducted under the label of the Institute of Anxiety. Mostly performative and discursive, the Institute of Anxiety, which she also co-founded, operates as a research laboratory and a communication platform, investigating the issue of a collective anxiety.

Her complex curatorial endeavours are based on a profound research and marked by a particular curatorial sensitivity and a generosity towards artists, towards the artistic community with whom she is working, as well as towards the subject she has chosen to investigate. Exemplary in this context is Jeřábková's participation in the research of the Prague Academy of Fine Arts (2010–12) which focused on the transformative processes of the last 30 years and their reflection in art, art theory, criticism and philosophy. As a result, the exhibition *The Islands of Resistance: Between First and Second Modernity 1985–2012* (National Gallery in Prague) and the book which Jeřábková both curated and edited with the legendary Jiří and Jana Ševčík, belong to the first and most significant documents on the Czech transformation period.

Amongst Jeřábková's numerous curatorial projects are professional collaborations with significant Czech artists, such as Jiří Kovanda or Barbora Kleinhamlová, and curators, such as Chris Sharp, Nadja Argyropoulou or Elodie Evers for the forthcoming project on collectivity at Volksbühne Berlin, *Becoming Public: Public Hearing and Public Seeing* (2019).

The jury acknowledges Edith Jeřábková's resilience regarding emancipating non-institutional forms of cultural production and searching for new articulations of curatorial practice and theory.

2018 jury members

Adam Budak – CHIEF CURATOR, NATIONAL GALLERY, PRAGUE

Ana Janevski – CURATOR, MOMA, NEW YORK

Erzen Shkolli – DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF ALBANIA, TIRANA