

ESTER GEISLEROVÁ
What We Should've Said but Didn't
28 06–13 09 2024

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What We Should've Said but Didn't
VIDEO INSTALLATION

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Photo Ester Geislerová

Ester Geislerová

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English

Ester Geislerová: What We Should've Said but Didn't

Visual artist Ester Geislerová is returning to the site of her 2012 graduate exhibition, which she presented in the dusty attic of the abandoned Zenger Transformer Station, now the home of Kunsthalle Praha.

The exhibition *What We Should've Said but Didn't* explores the possibilities and limits of mutual communication in intimate relationships. In a series of ten videos, Geislerová distinctively and playfully combines acting, therapy, humour, and surprise. The protagonists of her short films search for and test out ways of understanding and empathising with others. The artist carefully selected

the participants from among her closest friends, approaching actors, and even a psychotherapist, and gave them a performative task: to interpret a text written for them by their partners or by Geislerová herself. She also worked with the fact that some of the actors were not told that the text had been written for them by a loved one. This leads to a dual perception of reality: the personal and intimate text is performed by the very person (actor) it was addressed to. The actors were also allowed to co-create the persona of their characters, including the costumes, masks, sets, and props. The creation of the videos consisted in a close directorial collaboration between the artist and the performers, making the process itself an important part of the project. Ester Geislerová's audiovisual installation offers us the opportunity to connect with the parts of our personalities that often

remain ignored, unexpressed, and silent. The protagonists of the individual videos liberate words for us. The knight, the mermaid, and the horses symbolise emotions and the desire or need for closeness. Viewers bear witness to a powerful confession and can experience the breaking of silence in a ritual of words and intimate monologues that soothe inner pain. The things that go unspoken are finally heard.

Ester Geislerová (1984) is a visual artist and actor. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, where she studied in New Media Studio II under Anna Daučíková. She also completed an internship in the Intermedia Confrontation Studio led by Jiří David at the Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design in Prague. In her artistic practice, she focuses mainly on video installations and performative projects, in which she

combines her acting experience with topics that have long interested her. Her artistic research deals with relationships between partners, therapy, the body and corporeality, and communication. She is the creator and curator of the project *Sharing Therapy*, which critically examines the impact of social media on our relationships with our partners and our everyday lives.

KP Invites is a series of solo exhibitions dedicated to emerging talents who already have a substantial body of work. For most of these artists, this is their first institutional exhibition. KP Invites supports the development of innovative, research-based projects that address important societal issues and the production of new works, with no restriction of media. Each exhibition is accompanied by commissioned texts and a programme of public events.

