

František Fekete
Fluid Identity Club
23 February – 15 April 2018
Prague City Gallery / Start Up
Colloredo-Mansfelds Palace, ground floor
Karlova 2, Prague 1
Open daily except for Mondays 10 am – 6 pm
Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková

“Fluid identity is created when a particular milieu is excessively closed off and self-affirming. But then it opens itself up to the world, and we come to a realization. We are someone else. We are someone else each and every time. But who? We can be anyone, our identity is fluid...” Fluid Identity Club is an imaginary place visited by people yearning to change and share their character, gender, interests, and appearance. People who want to escape from the shackles of traditional social structures, who are willing to give up their socially defined identities in favor of choice.

Fluid Identity Club, an exhibition by František Fekete, a student at FAMU's Center of Audiovisual Studies, is a mosaic of digital prints, animation, and texts installed within the suggestive atmosphere (in particular in terms of light and space) of a music club. The various parts of the exhibition represent fragments of objects, images, and ideas that emerge from virtual space, from an alternative world in which man is an absolute individual, an immediate content without any preconceived relations; where relationships are constantly changing in response to the current circumstances. Somewhat surprisingly, the resulting impression is not particularly joyful, but evokes feelings of melancholy and anxiety. It raises the question as to how, in a world of fluid identities, we can preserve a level of integrity necessary for maintaining our spiritual balance. As František Fekete writes in his exhibition text: “To understand oneself and human weakness, and to choose dependence.” But his vision, which works within the intentions of contemporary post-humanism, is hardly pessimistic. Perhaps we are losing our “learned” identities within subjective, virtual, and manipulated realities, and perhaps it will be virtuality that helps us to break free from self-destructive societal prejudices and to find our true non-digitized self.

Like his art installations, František Fekete's texts contain two important levels of meaning: firstly, they are an introspective exploration of his own mental processes; and secondly, they are a series of poetic and metaphysical pictures of man's existence within both these actually experienced dimensions.

An integral part of the exhibition – and an extension thereof – is the website www.fluididentity.club, which consists of a mosaic of Fekete's original texts and graphic design by the Loners Company design studio, which thus becomes the exhibition project's co-author. The exhibition texts were written by curator Jitka Hlaváčková and music and art theorist Lumír Nykl.

František Fekete (born 1993 in Košice) has various different roles in the real world of art as well. He is currently studying under Martin Blažiček at FAMU's Center of Audiovisual Studies, where he started

after earning his bachelor's degree in Milena Dopitová's Intermedia Studio at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Art and Design, University of West Bohemia. In 2015, he was a finalist for the EXIT art award.

Fekete is also a curator of contemporary art at Prague's Galerie 35m2 (since 2015) and co-founded Pilsen's Vestředu gallery, where he was a curator from 2013 to 2015. He also curated the 2016 FAMUFEST exhibition. The name František Fekete has appeared underneath articles written for the Artlist website, reviews on Artalk, and elsewhere, such as in Peter Fabo's book Nail Art (2017) and on the website for Fluid Identity Club (2018).

Jitka Hlaváčková
Exhibition curator

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