

Liberation is covered (2010)

Reading of a work

At a train station in a small town in Slovakia, Banská Štiavnica , there is a sculpture. A sculpture in stone picturing a partisan throwing his Kalashnikov and wool jacket down on the ground. With a lamp in his hand, he is facing the new life in the mine as a worker again. The artist that originally made the stone sculpture, Karol Dúbravský, was born in 1913, and died in 1995. He made a number of statues of soldiers around Slovakia, a common motif after WWII, that has got its meaning changed over the years.

The artist, Anne Marthe Dyvi, wrapped this sculpture in aluminum foil in October 2010.

The transformation

In "Metamorphosis", by Franz Kafka, a man wakes up as a bug. In life we go through a lot of changes, from child to adult, young to old, pregnant to mother and so on. This sculpture is in a transformation stage between soldier and worker. At the moment between war and peace.

The soldier

The soldier is a figure from media, of history and also of art history. A brutal example of the cost of war. Sending a young man to the battlefield. At his most valuable state both for society, reproduction and work. The soldier is our brother, our father and our son.

The worker

The worker is a figure in a lot of our art history. With its main entry in Realist paintings. But of course man has been pictured working from the beginning of picturing man. The importance of the worker is great, because he is making our society possible. The worker is our economy, our security and our future.

The male body

As wrapping this stone body, I had to touch it, and very precisely fill every fold and lump with the foil. I rubbed it down, and learned how this body was sculpted. This male soldier/worker is very muscular and oversized. A great example of the importance of the male in its time of making. It is interesting to think about the importance of these qualities today for the male, living his life in the office, behind a laptop. Our culture is changing the human condition.

The fallen economy and industry

The worker's position is also in transformation in our society. The mineworker even more. The mines in Europe are not as rewarding as before, most of the industry moves south or east, where the labor is cheaper. The gap between the worker and the employer is growing. The worker has turned into a poor man from underdeveloped or poor countries. The industry worker in Europe, is unemployed.

The sculpture

A sculpture is something of its own, but also a representation of art and its history. An art form that because of its relation to the human body, and its often withstand to time and decay, is a good describer of the time when it is made. A fantastic container of history .

When the artist wrapped it in aluminum foil it is transformed into a beautiful shape reflecting all light around it. In constant change because of the light is constant changing . It activated a piece of art that had been forgotten. Many people in the town of Banská Štiavnica had never noticed the sculpture even though they had been walking past it several times.

The wrapping of the sculpture also questions where the art begins. Is the art the object or form, or the effect of it? What does the art? How do art effect its surroundings.