

“In Proposing the Gender Check project, I want to check whether similar mechanisms of power had been at stake in other countries practicing state-socialism. Our research has proved my presumptions.”

Bojana Pejić, curator of Gender Check

**GENDER CHECK GENDER CHECK GENDER CHECK GENDER CHECK**

*200 artists from 24 countries,  
400 works of art,  
25 researchers.*

Cover:  
Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe (Russland / Russia)  
Monroe, 1996, Courtesy XL Gallery, Moscow  
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**Gender Check**  
Femininity and Masculinity in the  
Art of Eastern Europe



## CONTEXT

**Climate change, political conflicts, the poverty trap and the economic crisis – these are the key issues today.**

**The issue of gender roles plays a part in all of these global challenges and even has a considerable impact on our everyday life, yet, it is not offered a great deal of attention in public debate.**

Since 2006, an abundance of publications, symposia and survey exhibitions (for instance in Los Angeles and New York) amongst others, had tried answering questions regarding Gender in the art of the 'West'. For Gender in the art of Eastern Europe and its specific historical conditions in the period of socialism, as well as during the upheaval that followed, a systematic exploration of these issues was still to be addressed.

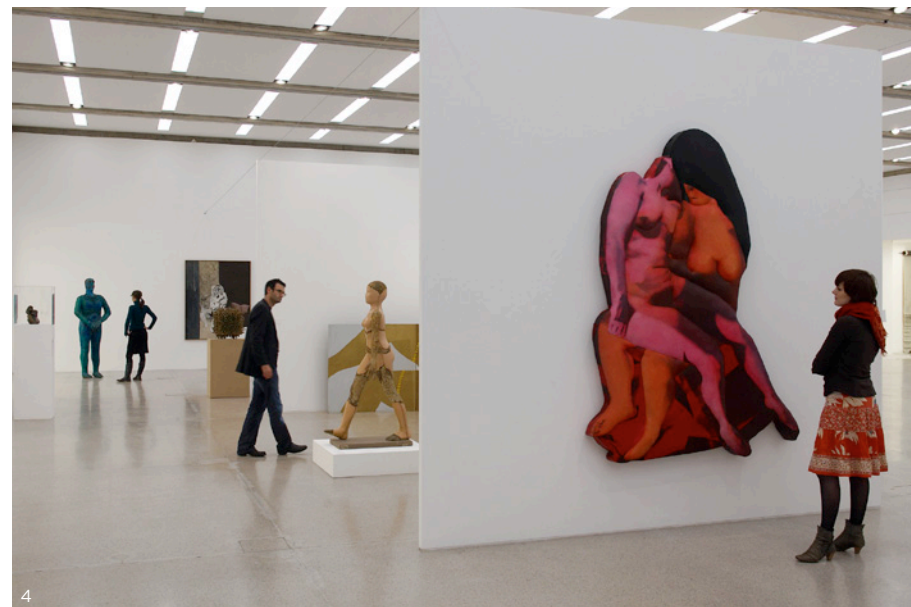
ERSTE Foundation decided to cast light on 'Gender roles' through a complex research, exhibition and book project, 'Gender Check'. This project looks at gender within a broader political, social, art historical and theoretical context, particularly in relation to visual art and culture from the 1960s onward.



## IMPACT

'Gender Check. Femininity and Masculinity in the Art of Eastern Europe' was the first exhibition, which dealt with the topic of gender roles and offered a representative overview of art from Eastern Europe since the 1960s. Chief curator was Serbian feminist and art historian Bojana Pejić who collaborated with 25 curators from 24 countries.

The exhibition followed the shifts and changes in the representation of male and female role models in art, and featured more than 400 works comprising paintings, photography, posters, sculpture, installations, films and videos. More than 200 artists paint an exceptionally diverse picture of this chapter of art history, which, until recently, had remained largely undiscovered, but has a significant impact on contemporary gender discourse.



## FACTS

A comprehensive English-language catalogue 'Gender Check' (Walther König, 2009) was published and parallel programmes offered additional information about this important topic to a broader public: film screenings, panel discussions and lectures.

The scientific basis for further research also provides the collection of essays 'Gender Check: A Reader – Art and Theory in Eastern Europe' (Walther König, 2010). This anthology is the first representative collection of essays investigating gender issues in social, cultural and artistic contexts in Eastern Europe.

Within the programmes of ERSTE Foundation, 'Gender Check' is the largest project that has gender as a focal point.

The Foundation contributed a substantial amount of the project and exhibition costs, initiated the project and coordinated the nearly two-year-long research phase during the run-up.

After its successful launch at MUMOK in Vienna, from 13 November 2009 to 14 February 2010, the exhibition was also shown at the Zacheta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw (18 March to 13 June 2010).

## GENDER CHECK

Photos:

1 Exhibition view of Gender Check- Rollenbilder in der Kunst Osteuropas, © MUMOK

2 Boris Mikhailov (Ukraine), Photo from the series Suzi et cetera, 1960s, © VBK Wien, 2009

3 Wojciech Fangor (Polen / Poland), Figures / Postaci, 1950, Öl auf Leinwand / Oil on canvas 100 x 125 cm, Muzeum Sztuki/Museum of Art in Lodz, Courtesy of Museum of Art in Lodz © Wojciech Fangor

4 Exhibition view of Gender Check- Rollenbilder in der Kunst Osteuropas, © MUMOK

### CONTACT

ERSTE Foundation  
Friedrichstraße 10, 4th floor  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
T +43 (0)50 100-15100  
office@erstestiftung.org  
www.erstestiftung.org

Project Management:  
Christine Böhler  
T +43 (0)50 100-19604  
culture@erstestiftung.org  
www.erstestiftung.org/project/gender-check  
www.erstestiftung.org/gender-check