

playbill

ACT V VI VII VIII

Completely adept at taking on institutions that wield normative forms of power, artist Anna Daučíková is unashamedly informed by the value of her lived experience, a personal history that takes a guiding role within her practice, particularly the period of time during which she lived under surveillance in the former Soviet Union. Daučíková graduated from the Glass Department of the Bratislava Academy of Arts in 1978 before moving to Moscow, where she lived and worked until 1991. Returning to Bratislava in the 1990s after the fall of communism,

her artistic practice moved from studio work spanning painting and photography to performance art events, then widely organised in the Slovak art scene. In her video works, an engagement with the body and bodily action projected on the screen became her main concern, through which she presents feminist and queer statements.

In an early photographic series titled *Academy of the Arts* (1988), Daučíková rightly takes up her position atop a plinth built into the side of the Academy of Arts building in Moscow, a subversive move given

that it was a position traditionally reserved for the male greats. Following her period of study, she went on to become a professor herself, and was for a long time one of the few women teaching at the academy in Prague. This biographical trajectory—in which she navigated her relationship to a structurally patriarchal institution through art making—evolved into a series of films titled *Portrait of a Woman with Institution*, which plot out the relationships of various women to the institutions they have inhabited. To mark the beginning of playbill's

second cycle of acts, we will screen *Portrait of a Woman with Institution: Helena Jiskrová with Being Out of the Swarm* (2020), a film dedicated to Czech architect Helena Jiskrová.

Jiskrová graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague in 1967, going on to work for a short time with the young architects' group Školka SIAL before fleeing Czechoslovakia and immigrating to the Netherlands in 1978. Once settled, she gained employment at various studios until the mid 1990s, most significantly at Van den Broek en Bakema—an architecture office that contributed to the renewal of post-war Holland through 'architecturbanism' projects focused on developing functional zones in cities. She then moved into teaching, taking up a professorship with the Faculty of Architecture at RWTH Aachen. The film chronicles Jiskrová's work navigating the field of architecture, her path of migration and the varying structural hurdles facing her as these parallel stories unfold. Alongside the screening, four pieces of furniture redesigned by Jiskrová from salvaged street materials—including three chairs and a large table, which has been her dining room table for the last forty-five years—will set the scene for the viewing. Despite living and working in the Netherlands for over four decades, this is the first dedicated showing of her work, notably made possible through the eyes of another artist.

PROGRAMME

8pm
Introduction to Anna Daučíková

8.10pm
Introduction to Helena Jiskrová
by Anna Daučíková

8.25pm—Screening
Anna Daučíková
*Portrait of a Woman with
Institution: Helena Jiskrová with
Being Out of the Swarm*
2020, 26:45min

8.50pm—Drinks



IMAGE Anna Daučíková, *Academy of the Arts*, 1988, series of five black-and-white photographs, 13 × 18cm and 21 × 30.5cm

COLOPHON Torpedo Theater is a long-running, thirty-seat theatre in the heart of Amsterdam's city centre. Originally founded by *Het Parool*, a Dutch national newspaper, the theatre has been committed to the spoken, written and performed word from the beginning. playbill is an event-based project invested in the presentation of experimental language and text-based artistic works on the (small) stage. It is curated by Martha Jager and Isabelle Sully, and designed by Maud Vervenne. playbill: ACT V has been made possible thanks to the Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst, Gemeente Amsterdam Stadsdeel Centrum, Anna Daučíková, Helena Jiskrová and Monika Mitášová. This playbill has been printed by Terry Bleu, Amsterdam.