

## **(Re)Conceptualizing Roma Resistance**

### **Exhibition about the narratives and embodiments of Roma Resistance**

August 2 - November 14, 2019

**Artists: Daniel Baker, Júlia Baki, Miklós Déri, Dušan Marinković, Tamara Moyzes, Csaba Nemes, Alexander Schikowski, Kálmán Várady**

On the occasion of the International *Roma Holocaust Memorial Day*, ERIAC is re-staging the exhibition - (Re)Conceptualizing Roma Resistance - first presented at the Europäisches Zentrum der Künste in 2016 in Dresden, and later extended at the Goethe Institute, Prague.

The eight participating artists contemplate the memory of the Holocaust, reflecting with new research on Roma resistance which testifies of Roma taking an active and conscious effort in shaping their life and defining their own faith both during the Holocaust and in its aftermath.

The (re-)exploration of the forgotten and unwritten history of the Roma Holocaust teaches that Roma had the power to resist oppression and take part in different forms of resistance, and thus can inhabit a different role than that of the victim. In this immersive unlearning and rewriting of Roma history, the “history of resistance replaces a history of oppression”<sup>1</sup>

While only some of the survival strategies become visible in the archive, contemporary artists have been emphasizing the embodiments and narratives of Roma resistance as a central aspect of the Roma experience, and even see Roma art itself as a measured and creative method of Roma resistance- a well-established form of cultural survival and a demonstration of ethical and political commitment to the Roma community. The individual artworks emerge as an inspiring model for Roma knowledge, agency and consciousness.

This exhibition approaches the concept of resistance as enacted by Roma people across the Diaspora, focusing specifically on current narratives, embodiments, representations and expressions of Roma survival and resistance. “In that vacant space after one has resisted there is still the necessity to become – to make oneself anew”<sup>2</sup> – writes bell hooks, the African American feminist theorist. In this hard labor of making ourselves anew, contemporary art makes an indispensable contribution.

Curator: Timea Junghaus, art historian

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<sup>1</sup> Pierre Chopinaud (2015): *The Forgotten History of Romani Resistance*  
<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/forgotten-history-romani-resistance>

<sup>2</sup> bell hooks (1990): *Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics*, Routledge, New York, p.15.