

Maria Pinińska-Bereś

Stretching Curtains / Story

author's own technique

1982

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

Stretching curtains was once used to give the right shape to previously washed and starched fabrics. The artist's work, the pink fabric stretched on a wooden loom, refers to this process. There are three longitudinal lines sewn on the surface of the material, resembling stitches or scars.

Breaking with the traditional, academic sculpture workshop usually nurtured by men, Maria Pinińska-Bereś searched for specific references in fabrics, colours and structures, consistently used in her works. Textiles, embroidery, pink colour (which also relates to the body) or features such as softness, lightness and delicacy are cultural codes that are assigned to women. Referring to the non-artistic areas of female activity and ossified archetypes, the artist emphasises simplifications regarding social roles.

Feminism that can be read from Pinińska-Bereś's works is not the result of her activist attitude. The artist's works are attempts to look at women – their physical and mental spheres, as well as intimate and social ones. Nevertheless, it is not difficult to find feminist values in her artistic activity, which are revealed in various ways: "I fulfilled the demand that I should be able to carry my sculptures myself. For the previous cast-in-concrete work, I had to count on male help with moving them".

description: Emilia Lipa

translation: Krystian Kamiński

tactile diagram: Anna Filipiuk

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