

Urszula Dulewicz

Summary

My dissertation titled "*The Masculinity's Potency*" is an interdisciplinary Art and Research project. I ask a question about the objective definition of *masculinity*. The linguistic and sociological context is therefore important. I assume that these teachings differently perceive the term *masculinity* and on this ground I argue that it would be advisable to separate the meanings of the word *masculinity*.

In the first chapter I show how the word *masculinity* is presented in the system of Polish language dictionaries. I make the word-formation and semantic analysis of *masculinity*, thus showing the linguistic "potency" of the word being studied. Here, the linguistic nuances in defining *masculinity* are already identified.

In the second chapter, I describe the development of sociological research on *masculinity*. I present in it, above all, achievements in the sub-discipline of Critical Studies on Men and Masculinities. The next chapter, devoted to *masculinity* in contemporary art, is such a broad topic that I focused on describing various methodologies regarding the quest for defining *masculinity* in contemporary art.

The last chapter concerns my artistic work. As part of it, I present the genesis of the subject of my PHD thesis through the prism of my creative work. Next I describe the process of the creation of the "*The Masculinity's Potency*" to finally present the main part of the doctoral thesis - artistic work. It consists of realistic (painted plaster) casts of male figures dressed in paper masks of animals that symbolize male features (lion, boar, bull, bear, rooster, wolf). In the same masks I also show women - standing, in a similar way as male casts - displayed in a video projection on the entire wall, thus creating a second room. The arrangement is completed by recording of synchronized sound played from six loud speakers. This is the edited sound recording the „Ranking of Masculinity” - a male meeting regards *masculinity*.

In my PHD thesis, I draw attention to the problem of the variability of *masculinity* and its ambiguity. Above all, however, I point out the need for personal reflection on *masculinity*.

