

PROGRAM
art gallery

Program Art Gallery

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czekalska-golec

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Tatiana Czekalska was born in Łódź where she not only currently resides and works but also earned her degree at the Academy of Fine Arts. Originally from Świebodzice, **Leszek Golec** now lives and works in Łódź at the Centre of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko. He earned his diploma at the Warsaw School of Photography and since 1996, has been working with Tatiana Czekalska. Their artistic works, for artistic and philosophic reasons, can usually be compared to the trends of meditating artists. They use their works to shine a fresh light on various interchanging disciplines, focusing on honest existence in its tiniest manifestations. They have a very clear ecological awareness and search for harmony within nature and the protection of life. Very often, the events focus around animals and their correspondence to that of mankind. The spaces, objects and relations are always sociable in character and often create a soft climate for any shy living creatures. Through their activities, Czekalska and Golec express a humble way of life. They show us a world where we can overcome sight with our own eyes, where we can identify ourselves with other creatures, and if given the chance, can possibly even apply their loving declaration of coexistence. Their works are executed in the form of sculptures, photography, events, and installations.



Selected exhibitions:

- 2006 Art Cologne, with Gallery program, Germany
- 2006 Vienna Atr Fair, with Gallery program, Austria
- 2005 Inc., Program Art Gallery, Warsaw
- 2004 Under Red and White Flag, New art from Poland, National Center of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
 - T. atrica. Przeobrażeniezupełne, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
 - The Favorite Action, Kont Gallery, Lublin
- 2003 - InteGracje, Program Art Gallery, Warsaw
- 2002 - Remastering, Art in General, New York
- 2001 - The Fifth Activity, Museum Sztuki, Łódź
- 2000 - Postindustrial Sorrow, Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2000 - Promocyjna Gallery, Warsaw - anAward of the quarterly 'EXIT'
- 1999 - Fauna, Novyj Manegh, Moscow, Russia AHandle, Muzeum Sztuki, Łódź
- 1998 - Transfer, Kunsthalle, Bielefeld, Germany
- 1997 - 5th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul,
 - Turkey 1994 - Site-Actions. Lle-Olion a Garden of Roses, Cardiff, United Kingdom
- 1996 - From two energies strangley a third, Laboratorium Gallery, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
- 1991 - Out of Gentle Whisper, the Film of Saliva was Bursting, Promocyjna Gallery, Warsaw
- 1990 - Breathes and Squints the Eyes, Wschodnia Gallery, Łódź, Poland.

“The Fifth Activity”

To quote Leszek Golec: there is a body “which is breathing, blinking, opening the mouth, moving eyebrows, shifting the wet tongue from one corner of the mouth to another, it trembles and stoops, watches the position of hands and feet straightening at the same time the middle finger”.

This is the physical body which can feel itself and also have a sensual experience of other bodies. It has the feeling of being its own and thus being something absolutely different from other bodies. While observing itself it confirms its quality, its functions, the room it takes in space - it is a consciousness which confirms itself through its shape.

Moreover it is a body which can exist owing to four basic functions: it must eat in order to live but its senses tell it also what kind of food it consumes; it must sleep in order to rest and confirm itself by waking; it makes love and propagates itself, and it can defend itself when being menaced. Apart from those apparent functions, showing that it is alive, we also come to know its internal world due to the psychic processes that it can shape and express.

But the body has yet another special potential: it can live at a level of higher consciousness and spirituality which is described as the fifth activity, but it can only sometimes feel this exceptional state since it is activated not very frequently. More often it is only waked up. But whether it is activated or waked up it tends to become a good and sensibility which confront with an open heart man with himself and with the world around him: with all its elements.

And just from the level of such consciousness, given only to humans, rise the artistic activities of Leszek Golec and Tatiana Czekalska. Man is exposed in them in relation to all the aspects of life or in fact to all the living things around him with which he has concluded a kind of alliance.

So the artists confront themselves in their works with another life assuming the material form of bodies: spiders, insects, living creatures marked with a fragile always endangered existence. These are no longer dogs and cats, also uncertain of their lives, but tiny beings moving often in hidden recesses outside our direct perception. Leszek Golec and Tatiana Czekalska produce “Avatars”, material objects for “moving those small, feeling creatures” into secure places. The term “avatar” means a creature which comes down to earth and helps humans.

The Avatars bear a kind of label like medicines. One can find on them the composition, size, weight, properties, application, activity and even side effects. It must be noted that the objects are antiseptic and are applied to “five-finger superior beings”. Their activity (with the absence of side effects) is supposed “to help the endangered creatures which have received in this life the unpropitious body of insect”. All the avatars have been positively tested upon animals, moved into secure places, and they were made “on earth”.

At the exhibition held at the Museum of Art in Łódź only four small objects were shown - avatars dating from 1996-2000, made of polyester, gold and silver. Three them are spoon-shaped and astonish with their precision and the finess of material. The fourth, of polyester, “Avatar Bio(Logical)” has the shape of hands clung together. Their fingers bear small ball-like forms. The linking of human body shapes with those of other organisms, and so a reduction of the “five-finger” form explains the function of those small objects.

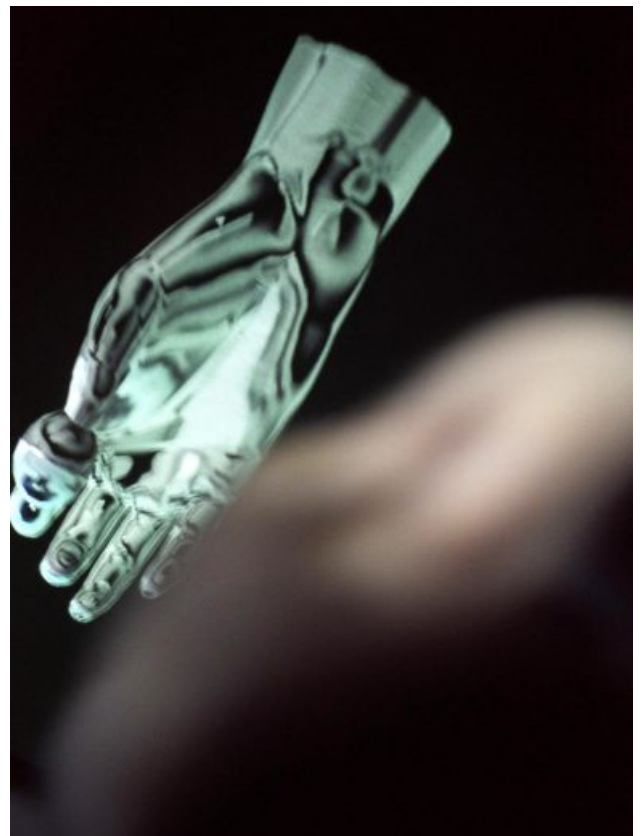
The avatars can be placed between realistic and abstract forms, between aesthetic and glimmering objects. Created by being endowed with “propitious bodies” they nobly pay tribute to the life of beings that have “unpropitious bodies”. They are artistic signs pointing to another kind of existence. By using precious materials we want to suggest a superior aim, the fact that each being is important. We want to inspire respect for all manifestations of life because life is essential - says Leszek Golec.

That is why we can find in the catalogue a number of reproductions showing that relation between man and the world in the past. These are “St. Francis and the wolf of Gubbio”, a fresco of the 13th century showing St. Francis clutching the paw of the wolf, “The Interior of the Virgin Mary Church” (1941) by Pieter Saenredam, picture showing dogs roaming over the church, as well as a photo of Joseph Beuys shut up in a room with a coyote during the famous action “Coyote” (1974).

Maria Brewińska

Homo Anobium - Baszta Czarownic in Słupsk

2005



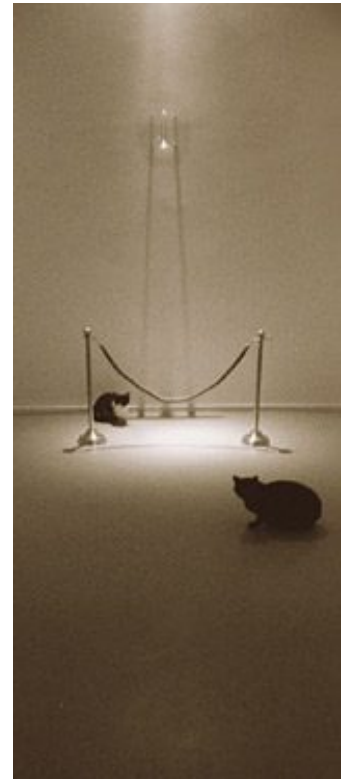
"From two energies strangely a third"

CSW Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, 1996



"The Fifth Activity" exhibition

Art Museum, Łódź, 2001



Under the white-and-red flag. New Art from Poland

Contemporary Art Centers in Vilnius,
Nizhni Novgorod, Nizhni Tagil and Moscow, 2004

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'06 '05 '04 '03 '02 '01 '00 '99 '98 '97 '96 '95 '94 '93 '92

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**Under the White and Red Flag
New Art from Poland**

19 03 – 02 05 2004

Artists:

Pawel Althamer, Supergrupa Azorro, Kuba Bakowski,
Anna Baumgart, Bogna Burska, Rafal Bujnowski,
Tatiana Czekalska, Leszek Golec, Hubert Czerepok,
Oskar Dawicki, Elzbieta Jablonska, Malgorzata
Jablonska, Agnieszka Kalinowska, Katarzyna Kozyra,
Zbigniew Libera, Piotr Lutynski, Marcin Maciejowski,
Wilhelm Sasnal, Jadwiga Sawicka, Grzegorz
Sztwiertnia, Zbigniew Rogalski, Robert Rumas, Daniel
Rumiancew, Julita Wojcik, Artur Zmijewski

Curator: Magda Kardasz

This project represents a significant part of the Polish art scene of the last decade. Many of the 26 artists participating in the show have already gained strong positions in the international network of contemporary art, as, for instance, a participant of Venice, San Paulo and Valencia biennials Katarzyna Kozyra, famous for his social interventions Pawel Althamer or Supergroup Azorro. The important aspect of this project will be special works by some artists (Jadwiga Sawicka, Julita Wojcik, Piotr Lutynski Elzbieta Jablonska, Jadwiga Sawicka) created for the Contemporary Art Centre spaces. Some of the artists chose strategies of intervention for their projects – for instance, Robert Rumas created special city signs for Vilnius environment, Elzbieta Jablonska chose for immediate involvement of the audience to her work, Piotr Lutynski was to perform with domestic animals and musicians playing in different genres. Thus, on the one hand, the whole of this show is a retrospective of recent tendencies in Polish art, on the other hand, however, it is a special project for CAC, initiating the appearance of new artworks or their new versions.

Remastering New York, 2002

4th Floor Gallery



IMPLANT
IHS (Insect Home
System)
2002

During their Artist Residency at Art in General, Leszek Golec and Tatiana Czekalska are creating a safe haven for small living creatures in their ongoing project Sentient Home Systems. Their work, while pointedly unobtrusive, questions the flippancy with which animal life is regarded within contemporary industrial society. By creating comfortable environments for small animals and insects, the artists aim to re-introduce and confront the viewer with an often overlooked element of urban life.

They describe their installation this way:

... In a seemingly empty space, a single spotlight illuminates a column with the model of an AVATAR BIOLOGICAL, and also reveals small openings in the walls.

These discreetly beautiful biological forms are IMPLANTS IHS INSECT HOME SYSTEM.

These form part of a system - SENTIENT HOME - and lead to a second space - not visible to Man - but safe for these living and lively little creatures who have received for this life the disadvantageous bodies of insects...

¹⁹For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. ²⁰All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. Ecclesiastes 3: 19-20: New King James Version (NKJV)

