

# ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

Artist: Piotr Kowalski

Curator: Maja Demska

Dates: 11-14.07.2024

Venue: Gdański Railway Station, Warsaw  
(external exhibition of Turnus Gallery)

Take an apple or tomato on the road, let it grow by an order of magnitude. The meridians and parallels are swelling. The trajectory of a fruit fly's movement could be tracked by flightradar, if there was a point to it. Let's take a clock and move its flat dial into the third dimension. Time is now running down hard like asphalt melted by the sun. One day is one ping-pong ball, a year could be enclosed in a packet.

Now take any slice of the city and remove everything that distinguishes it from any other arbitrary slice of the city. It's even possible to do this with some landmark, such as Gdansk Station. All that will be left are the coffers, the leaflet stands, the change trays, the waste from the decommissioning of some kiosk spilling out of the gruzbag. Let's call it a small infrastructure altogether. This is the kind of raw material Piotrek Kowalski works with. Sometimes he tinkers with scale, sometimes he subtracts or adds one dimension to objects or phenomena. Basically, however, he stays with the concrete, the rack upholding the suggestion of the original function.

The primary function of this small infrastructure is to organize reality. Or more specifically: to organize space in such a way as to allow the circulation of products and air, information and transactions. The task the artist-logist sets himself is to catch these flows with a sculptural grasp that gives them material form. He catches where it rasps, pulls the glitch into a database along with dust and lost coins, and sees what he gets out of it.

In such a view of things, certain facts are reevaluated. Such a David Bowie, for example, is not part of this coordinate system at all. Perhaps sooner a peasant worker, who was in the habit of eating breakfast before going to bed to save time in the morning - a well-known example of twisted personal logistics. However, the contemporary art exhibition, which in Bareja's case paralyzes the functioning of the Gdanski Station, has no relevance here. Easter eggs in Piotrek Kowalski's is sooner a token for a shopping cart or the hidden head of a wooden duckling. It's just a completely different order of magnitude.

Maja Demska

TURNUS GALLERY

ul. Wolska 46/48 lok. U4, 01-187 Warszawa, +48 501 933 600, [turnustwojegozycia@gmail.com](mailto:turnustwojegozycia@gmail.com)