

A wet towel will dry you too

Artists:

Jan Baszak

Martyna Kielesińska

Paul DD Smith

Milan Zientara

Curator:

Jagna Domžalska

dates:

28.06-1.09.2024

venue:

Miejski Ośrodek Sztuki

address:

ul. Pomorska 73

Gorzów Wlkp., mosart.pl

online: <http://mosart.pl/galeria-bwa/detail,nID,6728>

The exhibition *A Wet Towel Will Dry You Too* brings together works by four artists who express themselves using various techniques and embrace apparently distant poetics. The eponymous towel, which paradoxically does not lose its function when wet, serves here as a metaphor for reality that--more often rough than smooth--everyone copes with in their own way. The project is a treatise on confronting the challenges of everyday life, be it by creating fairy-tale stories and alternative narratives or explaining and defusing troublesome issues through sarcasm or irony.

Jagna Domžalska

Jan Baszak, born in Szczecin in 1994, is a Berlin-based artist working with sculpture, installation, and tapestry. He graduated from the Academy of Arts in Szczecin (2019) and the University of Fine Arts in Poznan (2017). Formerly an assistant in Artur Malewski's Sculpture Studio at the Academy of Art in Szczecin (2020-21). He won the prize for the best set design at the Boska Komedia Festival in Cracow (2023).

His sculptures sit between intimacy and melancholia, often using everyday material, particularly black used socks. Growing up in Western Poland, Jan experienced a sense of not fitting into the privileged world surrounding him. This experience led him to form alternative connections with non-human beings. His sculptures act as lenses reflecting the interplay of self-discovery and self-destruction. Inspired by urban environments and memories, his figurative sculptures create an intricate dance between past and future,

human and animal, self and other, posing the question of whether it's a dance of existence or a dance macabre.

Martyna Kielesinska - visual artist, works in video, painting, installation, creating site-specific situations. In her latest realizations she introduces the figure of the protagonist, expanding her practice to include the medium of performance. Graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. In her works she explores themes of aggression, objectification, fitting into social roles and expectations. She is interested in interpersonal relations and the rules of their functioning. She often works with found materials. Her works have been presented in group exhibitions at Dom Krakowski in Nuremberg, BWA Wrocław, Gdansk City Gallery 1, BWA Katowice, and in solo exhibitions at Galeria Podgląd (ING Art Foundation gallery) (2023), Łęctwo Gallery in Poznań (2021), Wozownia Gallery in Toruń (2018), among others. Resident of the LIA residency program in Leipzig (October/November 2020). She lives and works in Krakow.

Paul DD Smith (b. 1983), lives and works in Berlin. He studied English Literature at Sussex University (2001-2003), completed a bachelor's in fine art at Leeds Metropolitan University (2004-2007) and finished his master's in fine art at HFBK Hamburg in Jutta Koether's Klasse in 2017. Notable exhibitions include solo presentations at; 1646, The Hague (2023) and Stroboskop, Warsaw, (2021), a duo exhibition with Wera Bet at Kunstverein am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Berlin (2024) and group exhibitions at; HUA International, Berlin (2024), The Left Place, Reims (2024), Kunstverein Springhornhof, Neuenkirchen (2022); Kinderhook and Caracas, Berlin (2020/21); Zarinbal Khoshbakt, Cologne (2020); Galerie Nord, Berlin (2019), Chert Lüdde, Berlin (2019); Philip Haverkamp Galerie, Berlin (2018); He curated the group exhibition Flow My Tears Christopher Tracey at ACUD Gallery, Berlin in 2020.

Milan Zientara - born in 1999, a fourth-year student of painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. Visual artist involved in painting, drawing and creating objects. In his works he builds a personal mythology, creating ambiguous and interpenetrating worlds. He touches on themes of spiritual transformation, the suffering and joys of self-love, shifting gender boundaries, human psychological systems and animal instincts. He analyzes the impact of the patriarchal system on boys and men. In his practice, he queers male corporeality and sexuality while examining the patterns of how it is perceived in art, culture and everyday life. An admirer of horror cinema, symbolism, spirituality and psychology.

PHOTOS:

WET_TOWEL (1)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (2)

Jan Baszak, *Swan*, 2023, slack socks, upholstery foam, wood, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (3)

Martyna Kielesińska, *Sad Box*, 2020/2024, performance, object: cardboard, oil, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (4)

Jan Baszak, Jan Baszak, *Two Swans on a Lake*, 2024, black socks, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (5)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by: Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (6)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (7)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (8)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (9)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (10)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (11)

Paul DD Smith, *The Flaming Retreat*, 2020, ceramics (glazed and unglazed), painted silk, wood, acrylic paint, chains, LEDs, electronics, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (12)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (13)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (14)

A wet towel will dry you too, exhibition view, photo by Jan Baszak

WET_TOWEL (15)

Martyna Kielesińska, *My Friend Wobble*, 2021, paper, white glue, filler, acrylic, photo by Jan Baszak