

Agata Bogacka

Avoidants

Sep 19 – Nov 8, 2025

In Agata Bogacka's paintings, formal, psychological, and political questions are inseparable. Relationships between elements, exchanges between backgrounds, colors running into each other, and translucent canvases—all these aspects are abstract in themselves, thus referring to nothing, yet interrelating in parallel with the everyday world. The transparency, the color gradients, the current indefiniteness of the spaces in her paintings are a direct response to renewed instability and uncertainty in the political situation. The series titles, *Avoidants* and *Declarations*, allude to a style of politics in which everyone makes declarations, but no one takes responsibility. The block-like empty areas in *Declarations* do not create a clearly defined space. At the same time, "avoidant" can refer to behavior in which one withdraws from socio-political structures in order to protect oneself.

When speaking in her studio about her motivation, the artist expressed a desire to convey the current psychological and political climate, which can also be understood as a sense of helplessness in the face of events. The changes, the struggle of intellectual and artistic forces in Poland and beyond, result in energy loss and frustration, where art seems to be the only way to make sense. Working intensely in her studio every day, producing images that create communities while also expressing her own sense of being lost or desperate, is the artist's way out.

The emotional approach is surprising in the seemingly planned abstractions, which at first appear more detached

than engaged. Yet those who look closely will discern jagged color boundaries created by torn tape, vaguely defined pictorial spaces, and open structures. By using dark, coarse canvases and allowing their backgrounds and imperfections to contribute to the texture, Bogacka gives the new series of paintings a heightened haptic quality and depth. She continues to experiment with different canvases (both dark and bright) and paint applications, taping techniques, and ways of applying highly fluid paint. In the small-format *Annexation 2*, fragility emerges in a section resembling organic cell growth that seems to spill over into the adjacent surface. Working with a diptych, in which two parts are covered by two contrasting color gradients, introduces a new schizophrenic aspect to her painting.

Bogacka paints herself free in a highly productive way with her new works. For her, painting is a reflective act and, as such, also a reflection on her own position in society. In the two latest canvases from the *Equality Dream* series, which meet on one wall, the colors of the rainbow are applied to unprimed canvas in light brushstrokes that interact with the unpainted surface. The colored area does not visually appear as the foreground but rather as something that emerges from the depths and becomes visible: the hope that colorful diversity, the true colors, will spread is not abandoned.

Carina Plath
Curator at Large,
Sprengel Museum Hannover

Agata Bogacka

Painter, born in 1976 in Warsaw. After she graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw in 2001, she quickly became known for her highly stylized, synthetic, figurative paintings – *a painterly diary of mental states* in which she noted down emotions and feelings she had for her near and dear ones. Over time, her paintings evolved and direct references to reality or fragments of reality became increasingly abstract. Her

most recent works are based on configuration of planes with the use of tonal transition. The gradient she uses symbolizes blurring and setting the boundaries, while directly referencing complex relations existing between people. These relations can be understood more broadly, include various modes of coexistence: political, social, oppressive, or conciliatory. She lives and works in Warsaw.

1. Agata Bogacka
Avoidants 4, 2025
acrylic on canvas
140 x 100 cm

2. Agata Bogacka
Equality Dream 8, 2025
acrylic on canvas
130 x 140 cm

3. Agata Bogacka
Equality Dream 9, 2025
acrylic on canvas
120 x 140 cm

4. Agata Bogacka
Declarations 8, 2025
acrylic on canvas
150 x 200 cm

5. Agata Bogacka
Annexation 2, 2025
acrylic on canvas
60 x 40 cm

6. Agata Bogacka
Declarations 10, 2025
acrylic on canvas
150 x 200 cm

7. Agata Bogacka
Avoidants 1 & 2, 2025
diptych
acrylic on canvas
180 x 260 cm

8. Agata Bogacka
Disagreement 31, 2025
acrylic on canvas
150 x 200 cm

9. Agata Bogacka
Declarations 9, 2025
acrylic on canvas
70 x 80 cm

