

Her Own Way

—Female Artists and the Moving Image in Art in Poland: From 1970s to the Present

August 14 (Wed.) – Oct. 14 (Mon., holiday), 2019

This year marks 100 years since March 22, 1919, when diplomatic relations were established between the Japanese government and the Republic of Poland. We will present this exhibition in cooperation to with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, a Polish government-sponsored cultural organization, as a commemorative project to celebrate the centenary of friendship between our two countries. Situated on the Baltic Sea between Germany and Russia, Poland flourished culturally as one of the great nations of Europe, but due to its geopolitical position, it was repeatedly divided and ruled by its powerful neighbors, resulting in great suffering. Under Soviet influence during the second half of the twentieth century it spent the cold war as a socialist country until public resistance brought about democracy and this cultural strength and depth that stubbornly survived through a time of upheaval is what defines the country. Its culture has been introduced to Japan in a variety of ways in the past, but amid the increasingly complicated social situation in Europe today, the aesthetics and awareness of the issues depicted in these works by contemporary Polish artists should provide the viewers in distant Japan with numerous hints and information about the current situation there.

Through the contemporary art of the great cultural nation of Poland, this exhibition will introduce the current state of video expression and the women artists there. The art and movie/video history of twentieth century Poland was narrated by numerous male artists. However, following the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the sudden influx of international economics to Eastern Europe and Poland's admittance to the EU in the twenty-first century, women artists began to make their presence felt, particularly in the field of video expression. In addition, there has recently been a trend to reassess the video expression created by pioneering women artists during the previous century, that has not received the attention it deserves,. Interacting with researchers, curators and associated institutions both inside and outside Poland, this exhibition will present an ambitious interpretation of contemporary Polish art looked at from a new viewpoint.

I. Limited Access—Experiments by the Pioneers | the 1970-1980s

[Co-curator: Marika Kuźmicz]

During the Cold War, female artists working in the East, behind the Iron Curtain, had only minimal access to equipment and training. They were, nonetheless, able to experiment with a variety of approaches to film and video expression. We have invited Marika Kuźmicz, a wellrespected art historian and archivist, to curate this section and to introduce the critical results of her recent research in Poland.

Artists:

Ewa Partum [1945 -]

Natalia LL [1937 -]

Jolanta Marcolla [1950 -]

Jadwiga Singer [1952 - 2008]

Barbara Kozłowska [1940 - 2008]

Izabella Gustowska [1948 -]

Anna Kutera [1952 -]

Teresa Tyszkiewicz [1953 -]

Iwona Lemke-Konart [1958 -]

II-1. Transition—In a Current of Critical Art | Since the 1990s

Following democratization, Polish society achieved economic growth and material affluence as part of the new order in Europe. At the same time, however, it experienced growing income gaps and rapid changes in values. These changes have stimulated the rise of “critical art” in the 1990s devoted to exposing contradictions in society and the darker aspects of human nature.

Artists:

Julita Wójcik [1971 -]

Zuzanna Janin [1961 -]

Katarzyna Kozyra [1963 -]

Joanna Rajkowska [1968 -]

II-2. Perspectives into the Past and the Future

Since the 2010s

Many artists who spent their childhood under the Communist regime but received their higher education after democratization necessarily maintain a certain distance as they look back on and examine the past, interpret current conditions, and test out new perspectives. Among them we find an attitude of interpreting the present to discover new perspectives on the future. While critically observing complex social and political conditions, they pour their creativity into making visually and conceptually diverse video works.

Artists:

Honorata Martin [1984 -]

Bogna Burska [1974 -]

Anna Molska [1983 -]

Karol Radziszewski [1980 -]

Karolina Breguła [1979 -]

Agnieszka Polska [1985 -]

Agnieszka Kalinowska [1971 -]

Alicja Rogalska [1979 -]

II-3. Sensitivity of the New Generation

The characteristics and evaluation of the younger generation of artists born after democratization are still in flux. Here, we present a few captivating examples. Instead of adhering only to the art system exemplified by museums and galleries, they display a positive stance toward the use of accessible media to convey what they have to say to society. They engage in and spur action, self-aware of their own implication in the contradictions of the global economic system.

Artists:

Anna Jochymek & Diana Lelonek [1988 -]

Jana Shostak [1993 -]

Weronika Wysocka [1994 -]



Anna Kutera

Dialog, 1974

Courtesy of the artist



Joanna Rajkowska

Basia, 2009

Courtesy of the artist and l'étrangère Gallery, London

Photo: Marek Szczepański



Karol Radziszewski

Karol and Natalia LL, 2012

Courtesy of the artist and BWA Warszawa, Warsaw



Karolina Breguła
Oh Professor!, 2018
Courtesy of the artist



Zuzanna Janin
Fight, 2001
Courtesy of Zuzanna Janin Studio and lokal_30, Warsaw



Jana Shostak
Photo: Nowak

Exhibition Catalogue:

Her Own Way—Female Artists and the Moving Image in Art in Poland: From 1970s to the Present

Text: Okamura Keiko, Marika Kuźmicz, Anda Rottenberg, Agnieszka Rayzacher

Edited and published: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Associated Events:

Relay Talk by Joanna Rajkowska, Karol Radziszewski and Jana Shostak.

August 15 (Thu.) 18:00-19:30 (open 17:45)

Venue: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum 1F. Studio

Seating Capacity: 50

Entrance Fee: Free with numbered ticket.

* Numbered tickets will be issued at the information desk on the 1st floor from 10:00 in the morning of the same day.

Lecture: Anna Kutera, Marika Kuźmicz and Agnieszka Rayzacher

August 18 (Sun.) 13:30-16:30 (open 13:15)

Venue: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum 1F. Hall

Seating Capacity: 190. Entrance Fee: Free with numbered ticket.

* Numbered tickets will be issued at the information desk on the 1st floor from 10:00 in the morning of the same day.

Lecture: Kasuya Akiko, Barbara Trojanowska and Okamura Keiko

August 31(Sat.) 13:30-16:30 (open 13:15)

Venue: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum 1F. Hall

Seating Capacity: 190. Entrance Fee: Free with numbered ticket.

* Numbered tickets will be issued at the information desk on the 1st floor from 10:00 in the morning of the same day.

Gallery Talk by the Curator

August 16 (Fri.), September 6 (Fri.), September 20 (Fri.), October 4 (Fri.), from 14:00

August 30 (Fri.) from 18:00

The exhibition's curator will present an explanation of the exhibits. Please gather at the entrance to the B1 gallery with a valid ticket (stamped for that day).

* Schedules may change due to unforeseeable circumstances. We kindly ask for your understanding.

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Venue: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum B1 Gallery

Open Hours: 10:00–18:00 (Thu./Fri. 10:00–20:00), however, during the 'Summer Night Museum period, from August 15 (Thu.) to August 30 (Fri.), it will remain open until 21:00 on Thu./Fri., final admission 30 minutes before closing.

Museum Closed: Every Monday (however, the museum will open on Mondays Sept. 16, 23 and Oct. 14 and close on Tuesdays Sept 17 and 24)

Admission: Adults ¥ 500 / College Students ¥ 400 / High School and Junior High School Students, Over 65 ¥ 250

* Thursdays and Fridays from July 18 (Thu.) to August 2 (Fri.) 17:00–21:00, summer night museum discount applies (students, junior/senior high school students—admittance free, adults/people over 65 group prices) * Multiple discounts do not apply

Press contact

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TOKYO PHOTOGRAPHIC ART MUSEUM