

NATALIA SZOSTAK

bio:

Born in 1980 in Szczecin, Poland. At age 19 she left Poland and lived in Paris (1999-2001), San Francisco (2001-2007), and Brooklyn, New York (2007-2009). Currently she lives and works in Szczecin.

Natalia Szostak is a visual artist working in both traditional and new media. The nonmaterial dimension of art and its unique communicative impact are central areas of her interest. While most of her work happens in seclusion, she enjoys collaborating with other people often implicating social art practice techniques. She received a BA in painting from San Francisco State University and an MA in graphic arts from the Szczecin Academy of Art. Winner of the 2009 Emerging Artist Special Award at the International Art Competition held by X-Power Gallery in Los Angeles. Two-time recipient of the Artist Scholarship of the City of Szczecin. She is the founder of the independent project Platerówka, whose main objective is to promote art outside the traditional gallery and museum structure. In collaboration with artists representing various fields of art, since spring 2011, the apartment blocks where Natalia resides have become the platform for public events with the active participation of her neighbors.

education:

- 2012 Master of Art, Graphic Arts, Szczecin Academy of Art, PL
- 2007 Bachelor of Art, Painting & Drawing, San Francisco State University, US

awards:

- 2012 Artist Scholarship of the City of Szczecin
- 2011 Artist Scholarship of the City of Szczecin
- 2011 Rector's Scholarship, Szczecin Academy of Art
- 2009 Emerging Artist Special Award, 2009 International Art Competition, X-Power Gallery, Beverly Hills, California, US
- 2007 Achievement Award for Academic Excellence, San Francisco State University, US

solo exhibitions:

- 2013 PAVILION III, Szczecin Cultural Incubator, Szczecin, PL
- 2012 Holy!, Terminal 08, Gorzow Wielkopolski, PL
- 2012 Living Rooms, Poznanska Galeria Nowa, Poznan, PL
- 2011 A Fleeting Peripheral Phenomenon, Odra Zoo, Szczecin, PL
- 2011 A Fleeting Peripheral Phenomenon, Delta Gallery, Szczecin, PL
- 2010 Every Animal is Ideal in its Essence as You Are, Alter Ego, Szczecin, PL
- 2010 Places of Sacrifice, Lentz Villa/OFFicyna, Szczecin, PL

select group exhibitions:

- 2013 24HSZCZECIN, Klub Storrady, Szczecin, PL
- 2013 III Young Art Review "Fresh blood," Art Gallery SOCATO, Wroclaw, PL
- 2013 SOMA, Studio M13, Amsterdam, NL
- 2013 Holy!, 14 "The Bonds of Culture" Festival, Szczecin, PL
- 2013 Projektraum Experience Art!, Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, DE
- 2013 MusraraMix Festival, Musrara Art School, Jerusalem, IL
- 2012 24 Contemporary Polish Painting Festival, The Pomeranian Dukes' Castle, Szczecin, PL
- 2012 Streetwaves, City Culture Institute, Gdansk, PL
- 2012 Tales of Mystery and Madness, Oliwa Forest, Gdansk, PL
- 2012 Dwunastki, Platerówka, Szczecin, PL
- 2011 International Youth Art Festival, Vilnius, Salcininkai, Eisiskes, Druskininkai, LT
- 2011 V IN OUT FESTIVAL, Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Gdansk, PL
- 2011 Poster Art in Poland, Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Belgium, BE
- 2011 Rainbow Family of Living Light, Platerówka, Szczecin, PL
- 2011 tożSAMOŚĆ, PoMorze Sztuki, Lentz Villa, Szczecin, PL
- 2011 tożSAMOŚĆ, PoMorze Sztuki, Royal Gun Factory, Gdansk, PL
- 2010 T Performance Intermedia Festival, OFFicyna, Szczecin, PL

2009 International Art Competition, X-Power Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2009 Global Identity: Through Our Eyes, Friends of Freie Universitaet Berlin, New York, US
2008 MISC Video & Performance, NY Studio Gallery, New York, US
2008 Mo.tion, The Foundry, London, UK
2008 Creative Cartographies, BAC Gallery, New York, US
2008 Untitled Video Installation, Public Assembly, New York, US
2008 What Does Compassion Look Like, ArtXchange Gallery, Seattle, US
2007 Suite Jesus, 111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, US

social art practice:

2011-2013 Platerówka Project, Szczecin, PL > www.facebook.com/plater92
2013 1/1 Master and Apprentice, Association of Creative Initiatives "ę", Warszawa, PL
2013 NGO ALPHABET, Szczecin Cultural Incubator, Szczecin, PL

catalogues:

Art as Transgression. Terminal 08. Gorzow Wielkopolski 2013
24HSzczecin. Klub Storrady. Szczecin 2013
14 "The Bonds of Culture" Festival. Kana Theatrical Centre. Szczecin 2013
Art as Experience. Terminal 08. Gorzow Wielkopolski 2012
24 Contemporary Polish Painting Festival. The Association of Polish Artists and Designers. Szczecin 2012
International Festival of Youth Art 2011. PoMorze Sztuki. Gdansk 2011
tożSAMOŚĆ. PoMorze Sztuki. Gdansk 2011
¶ Performance Intermedia. OFFicyna. Szczecin 2010
Art Wind Rises 2009. X-Power Gallery. Beverly Hills 2009

publications:

Osajda, Marek. „Cztery szczecińskie adresy" Kurier Szczeciński, 179 (19 153), 2013, 10.
Odrzywolska Alicja. "Wystarczy tylko chcieć i próbować" Kurier Szczeciński, 167 (19 141), 2013, 11.
„Rezerwuar obecności" Kurier Szczeciński, 123 (19 097), 2013, 14.
Osajda, Marek. „Poszukiwanie kawałka ziemi. Artystyczna i życiowa podróż Natalii Szostak" Kurier Szczeciński, 118 (19 092), 2013, 11.
„Zawód Artysta. Warsztaty", Galeria Raster, Warszawa 2012
Gieczys-Jurszo, Aleksandra. „Po co nam festiwal malarstwa?" Magazyn Sztuki, 09.12 (2012)
Przegląd Uniwersytecki, 7-9 (236-238) 2012: 30, 32, 38-39, 45.
Osajda, M. „Uroczą Platerówką" Kurier Szczeciński, 146 (18 418) 2012, 14-15.
Szczepanik, J. „Szczeciński flow. Aż żal wyjeżdżać" Gazeta Wyborcza, 11.07.2012, 2.
Osajda, M. „Różnorodność w całym mieście" Kurier Szczeciński, 132 (18 404) 2012, 14.
„Manifest Emilii Plater" Kurier Szczeciński, 123 (18 395) 2012.
Roller Poster - Young Poster from Poland. www.rollerposter.pl
Gieczys-Jurszo, Aleksandra. „W pułapce subiektywizmu. Rozmowa z Natalią Szostak" SICI, 13.11: 6-7.
„Dwie role ciała" Kurier Szczeciński 202 (68 222) 2011, 12.
Tokarczyk, Joanna. „Artysta jako genius loci." Pogranicza, 87.4 (2010): 128-131.
"Local Artist: Natalia Szostak." San Francisco Bay Guardian, 18 Apr. 2007: 38.

statement:

I base my work primarily on painting. This combined with other techniques (photography, video, object) allows me to achieve a level of complexity that more closely matches my perceptions. The resulting visual statements serve not only as personal commentary but also mark the culmination of a thought process, which having failed at finding its verbal equivalent manifests itself as an image. The body, a source of feeling and information, is the center of my iconography. Relying on it, I create a visual version of my experiences. This way I communicate purely subjective ideas, which fill the troubling gap between religion, science and life.