



AS YOU CAN SEE POLISH ART TODAY

February 15 – June 1, 2014

Vernissage: February 14 at 7 pm

Curators: Sebastian Cichocki and Łukasz Ronduda

As You Can See: Polish Art Today is the first comprehensive presentation of cutting-edge Polish art in over a decade, structured around the most interesting works, approaches and topics present in contemporary art in recent years. The curators have deliberately opted for the conservative format of an artistic salon, moving the emphasis away from experimentation with the structure of the exhibition onto the works of art themselves. Yet, this is a singular salon: critical, liberating, psychedelic, often brutal and perverse, dense and ambiguous.

The aim of the exhibition is to provide a guide to facilitate exploration of the territory of contemporary artistic phenomena for a broad spectrum of viewers interested in contemporary culture. The exhibition is about a specific time and place. It arrives at a distinct moment – a few years after the stabilization of the position of Polish art in the international arena and the notable professionalization (as well as radicalization) of art institutions. The present situation seems a dream come true for earlier generations of artists, for whom a presence on the art scene inevitably involved a struggle both for the shape of the relevant institutions and the position of the artist in society. However, it does not follow that all the problems have now been resolved; paradoxically, the new status quo has led to new tensions at the interfaces of the institution vis-à-vis the artist and the artist vis-à-vis the public.

The exhibition focuses on how artists attempt to define their social role, fulfill their obligations towards viewers and negotiate their relationships with institutions. *As You Can See: Polish Art Today* is a review of ways of seeing and perceiving, desiring, being together or alone, understanding reality and connections to the past as well as the future. The exhibition concerns the artists' immediate private space and their building of relationships with everyday objects or architecture but it also relates to the, still unrelenting, territory of social change; it sets out to modify the world with artistic tools.

The exhibition *As You Can See: Polish Art Today* is centered on the most up-to-date Polish art scene, grouping works and artistic phenomena into a series of narratives. These include the exhaustion of avant-garde strategies and the seeking of inspiration in areas that may previously have been considered 'disgraced', such as non-professional art, craft or academicism. There are new allies of 'bourgeois' art and the new countryside art (contemporary folk art) – produced counter to recent proclamations that contemporary art is an exclusively urban phenomenon.

For the duration of the exhibition, the anthropomorphized Emilia pavilion will be gazing at the city through its wide-open eyes (Paulina Ołowska's painting on glass, based on a poster by Jerzy Kolecki). The exhibition presents not only *as things might be seen* but also how to access visually all that art makes *visible*.

Address: Emilii Plater St 51

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 12-8 pm

Admission free.

Organized by: Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw

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