

Martyna Szczęsna

ARTIST STATEMENT

Through inquiries into utopian constructs, fractured topography, notions of place and cultural identity, my work explores the effects of dissonance in both public and personal spheres, how it underscores the narratives we create, personal and collective, and is transmuted into ideological rhetoric. Beginning with the image and what results from its misalignment and interruption: cutting, tearing, flattening so as to render objects and images slippery; surfaces scintillating, dimensions expanding and contracting, always fragmenting, the work pushes past medium specificity to become hybrid sculpture and installation.

The *ARRAY* photographs and sculptures map the psychic landscape of New York's feral corners and their chance ecologies. Familiar forms are multiplied past legibility, evolving into bionic specters that outgrow the frame; an urban vernacular of fences, barriers and infrastructural markers such as the steel road plate. Infestation or resilience in the face of toxic odds?

Injecting a touch of the uncanny, the work amplifies anxieties of a new everyday in which the schisms amidst differing perspectives have finally become readily apparent, even as they parse the same information. As media continues to blur what is real and fake, this work aims to highlight the awful beauty of the surreal world we negotiate each day.

ARTIST BACKGROUND

Born Olsztyn, Poland

Currently Brooklyn, New York

Education/Training

2016 M.F.A., UCLA, Los Angeles, California

2013 International Center of Photography School, New York City, New York

2007 B.F.A., The Cooper Union, New York City, New York

2004 Parsons School of Design, New York City, New York (from 2002)

Professional Experience

Photographer, Dustin Yellin Studio, Brooklyn, New York

Founder and Director, DÅÅB Basement Gallery, Brooklyn, New York (from 2017)

2018 Bullseye Glass Residency, Mamaroneck, New York

2018 Iron Pour Residency, Franconia Sculpture Park, Minnesota

2017 AZ West Wagon Encampment Residency, Joshua Tree, California

2016 Watermill International Summer Program, Water Mill, New York

2014 Artists in the Marketplace (AIM) Bronx Museum, New York City, New York

2014 Kala Artist in Residence, Berkeley, California

2013 Cabin Time 4: Wilderness, Mobile Residency, Grand Rapids, Michigan

- 2013 City College of New York Residency, Runner Up
2012 Elsewhere Collaborative Residency, Greensboro, North Carolina

Selected Exhibitions

- 2019 *In Residence: New York*, Bullseye Resource Center New York Gallery, Mamaroneck
2018 *Picturing a Landscape*, Eduardo Sívori Museum, Buenos Aires, Argentina
2018 *Flat Touch*, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
2017 *Disarming Geometries*, Dorsky Gallery, Queens, New York
2016 *MFA Thesis: Namaste, Motherfucker*, New Wight Gallery, UCLA, California
2015 *The Third AIM Biennial*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York
2014 *Subterraneans*, Blenheim Walk, Leeds College of Art, England, UK
2014 *After Image*, 183 Richards, Brooklyn, New York
2013 *FRAMING SPACE / NARRATING SPACE*, Blenheim Walk, Leeds College of Art, England
2013 *Hidden City Festival*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2013 *Cabin Time 4: Craft House*, Grand Rapids, Michigan
2012 *Resonate and Rebuild*, REVERSE Space, Brooklyn, New York
2012 *The Others*, Gitana Rosa Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
2012 *Proximal Distance*, Storefront Studio, Chicago, Illinois
2012 *Moments*, AMO Studios, Brooklyn, New York
2011 *Young Hearts, Run Free*, PARSE NOLA, New Orleans, Louisiana
2011 *Volume by Vuu Collective*, K&K Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
2011 *Sequence of Waves*, St. Cecilia's Convent, Brooklyn, New York
2011 *Showpaper Presents: A Light in the Basement*, Stanhope Studios, Brooklyn, New York
2011 *Trade School: A Coincidence of Wants*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
2010 *Heed the Machine Illustrious*, St. Cecilia's Convent, Brooklyn, New York
2010 *Skarbczyk*, End of Century, New York City, New York
2009 *Casera Era in Punto de Encuentro*, Havana Biennial, Cuba
2009 *Casera Era trading post at Solar One*, Troutman Studios, Brooklyn, New York
2009 *Plan B*, NURTUREart, Brooklyn, New York
2008 *Cityscapes*, Rock Paper Scissors Collective, Oakland, California
2007 *if the sea were made of whiskey...*, The Cooper Union, New York City, New York

Awards, Honors & Grants

- 2015 Tuition Assistance Grant, Kosciuszko Foundation
2015 Resnick Scholarship
2015 Charles Speroni Memorial Scholarship
2011 Finalist, Jean-Claude Reynal Scholarship
2004 Full Tuition Scholarship, The Cooper Union, New York