

Dominika Sergiej

Institute of Art History, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

Artistic experiment in photography on the basis of Polish female artists working from the 1970 ties till 2015.

The theme of the paper is artistic experiment of women artists creating in Poland since the seventies until 2015. The aim of the project is to compare artwork in photography of a very few chosen artists such as: Izabella Gustowska, Natalia LL, Zofia Kulik and Irena Nawrot. All artists used similar media to show their artistic ways of expression. However, they were completely different.

The questions that this work explores are formal similarities and differences in works of these Polish female artists as well as the subjects presented in their photography. The analysis will refer to: multiplication, rhythm, repetition, pattern, ornament, size, composition and design in their visual conceptions. I will refer to the range of topics chosen by those artists as well: the presence of body, nakedness, symbols of power, the role of gender, the role of time. They created in socialist and post-socialist Poland which has a crucial impact on their choices related to their artwork. The context of social, legal, economic and political situation presented in the analysis is taken into account of the present paper. This political change is reflected in the artists' works what I will try to show in the present paper. I will try to identify similarities and differences not only among the artists but also within the timeline showing a different political context and artistic practices which have changed within the time.

I analyse the documents of art galleries, artworks and artists' correspondence as well any type of official or unofficial published material, video and audio ones. I would also interview all artists as I have already started with Irena Nawrot.

On the basis of works made by: Izabella Gustowska, Natalia LL, Zofia Kulik and Irena Nawrot I analyze the relation between official institution and Avant-garde. By analyzing concrete works of art made by those chosen female artists, I demonstrate that freedom of artistic experiment in the Polish People's Republic was present and artistic ways of expression have changed. All these issues will be considered, interpreted and presented for the further enquiries and discussions.