

Magdalena Łazarczyk

No man's Land

Exhibition opening:
February 23rd, 2018 (Friday), 7 a.m.,
On until: March 18th, 2018
(Tuesday – Sunday, 12 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

The newest exhibition by Magdalena Łazarczyk in Galeria Labirynt consists of three video clips. From hand-made paper and MDF mock-ups to video editing – everything has been prepared from scratch by the artist only. Video screenings stand in direct relation with the text created for the artist by Mateusz Marczewski as well as with gallery space that becomes an organic part of the artwork. Diligently designed gallery interior is continuation of the video. Elements of architecture in the gallery and those shown in the clip not only refer to each other visually, they were also created with the use of similar materials. What is more, they make a dialogue through medium, scale, time, and movement. Illustrative, poetic text had been created at artist's request and had become an inspiration for her work. References to architecture and music, artist encounter as well as reflections on artistic motion are visible in the text. In reference to those, the writer uses term "no man's land" which becomes the title of Łazarczyk's installation.

Distinctive blue colour of photographic paper background is visible in the videos and covers floor of the gallery. It is not only a starting point for the installation but also its peculiar framing. In a symbolic way, it becomes colour of the Absolute, the place for birth and for death. Łazarczyk says that this exceedingly vibrant and visually attractive colour carries characteristics of no man's land – being its own master, it can be incorporated by any other colour, shape, picture or thought. Everything may happen or nothing.

Three-dimensional geometric figures appear and disappear on flat screen in looped video frames. Their shape can be distinguished through the play of light and shadow. The figures resemble of architectural pieces extracted from some kind of greater composition. The viewers become a part of this composition of unidentified function and purpose. The space of gallery, words, and moving pictures interpenetrate, complement and evoke each other. Emotional and intimate text is a kind of unusual map that helps to unscramble the pictures. At first sight, moments before viewers spot minor flaws in form being the result of handcraft, the pictures appear to be generic, frugal, inherently monotonous and lacking in narration. Cubes, circles, lattice, accordion folded surface – all of those seems to be in the initial phase of creation, the rough cut. Probably it is only digital picture that is being memorised in sleeping imagination of an architect before he manages to read the meaning of this view.

Cold and mainly formal videos of Magdalena Łazarczyk may evoke various feelings such as: bemusement, curiosity, anxiety and even fear of meeting something totally incomprehensible, indeterminate, foreign and chimeric. The blue background of photographic paper effusing from the video covers the floor just under the foot of viewers. It is a sheer space of probability and expectancy that is complemented by imagination with picture, intend as well as energy. On one hand, this space has been diligently designed and examined, but on the other, it still stays open for personal projection. Mateusz Marczewski claims that between action and its outcome there is a straight line. In his opinion, questions about what happens there are simply tactless. Those questions are not non-substantive. The reason is that in this place

words become simply invalid. They leave pure blank space that, by no means, can be seized. Magdalena Łazarczyk profoundly examines this “pure blank space” and tries to seize it at its most intensified phase. *No man's land* – the process and the outcome at once, cause and effect, field that is impossible to describe with words, place perceived by the intuition. Here everything takes new shape just to be shortly revealed and signed under *the significant*.

Magdalena Łazarczyk (born 1985) attended University of Arts in Poznań (Uniwersytet Artystyczny w Poznaniu) and the Faculty of Media Art at Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts (Wydział Sztuki Mediów Akademii Sztuk Pięknych w Warszawie) where she defended her MA. She is the runner-up of Hestia Artistic Journey competition (2014) and 7th Biennale of Young Art “Fish Eye” (2013) as well as Minister of Culture and National Heritage Prize winner (2015). Fields of her artistic activity include: video, photography, installation, and performance. The artist is mainly interested in relation between people and world around them as well as incongruity between sign and object and its concept, function and role in system. Łazarczyk draws inspiration from literature, theory of architecture as well as from world of objects that carry emotional and intellectual burden and create human life both in its basic and existential dimensions. The process of signification appears to be particularly important for the artist. It is an attempt to unravel surrounding reality and reveal purpose through form analysis. At the same time, it is the process of constructing own semantical system of reference and relation. In this system emotions come into being to find their real equivalent.