

Barbara Gryka

Motorcycle Dance

2020

video

9'25"

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

The video presents a choreographic arrangement based on the Lublin folk dance, which was recreated by people riding motorcycles. The individual manoeuvres of the vehicles correspond to the movements taken from the dance figures – motorcycles go around in a circle, rotate around their axis or make so-called passing.

Initially, the action was supposed to take place with the participation of the audience and, following the example of dance performances, it was to be a stage performance. Over time, this idea evolved, and the artist decided to engage the audience in a different way, and thus try to transfer the action from public to gallery space.

The “Motorcycle Dance” is presented in the form of a four-channel video-installation arranged in the shape of a square. The viewer can stand in the centre of these projections and literally be at the centre of the show.

In folk dance, or in ballroom dancing in general, the man acts as a guide: he leads his partner, watches over the consequences and synchronisation of movements, lifts her and turns her. Here the roles are reversed. Barbara Gryka, dressed in a traditional, female folk costume, gives orders and directs people, mostly men, who perform the choreography. The fact that only one female motorcyclist took part in the project shows how constantly stereotypically “male” this sport is perceived.

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