

Katarzyna Kozyra

The Winter's Tale

2005–2006

video

11'27"

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

Katarzyna Kozyra's video work tells a fairy tale set in an unusual guesthouse in the middle of a forest. The artist plays the role of a delicate-looking girl who is cleaning up the house surrounded by a group of dwarfs. She is bothered by Gloria Viagra (Berlin's DJ and drag queen), who is the embodiment of Kozyra's ideal of femininity. This role resembles an evil stepmother. The way characters and events are created evokes the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. The work also features the figure of Maestro (Grzegorz Pitula), known from the earlier parts of the series. He is introducing Kozyra into the world of opera. At the end of the video, the artist performs Olympia's Aria from "The Tales of Hoffmann" to his accompaniment. Both characters fight for the favour of their pupil, trying to make her a "real" woman.

"The Winter's Tale" is part of the project "In Art Dreams Come True" realised in the years 2003–2006. Kozyra, who was also a director of the series, played a variety of roles with the help of Gloria Viagra and Maestro. In the series, Kozyra changes her image numerous times – it is a kind of metamorphosis in which the main creators are Gloria Viagra and Maestro. The theme of self-creation is related to the stereotypical perception of gender in society – what is feminine and what is masculine. The character played by the artist looks for her own identity in fairy-tale worlds where everything seems possible.

description: Krystian Kamiński

translation: Krystian Kamiński

English subtitles: Karolina Jung

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