

# MARTA KRZEŚLAK

portfolio

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# MARTA KRZEŚLAK

My primary fascination is studying the almost imperceptible movement in landscapes—finding the moments in which the agency of the environment can be felt. From this study, I create kinetic installations from objects that carry signs of use and materials that can be easily reshaped or deconstructed. These materials often hold a kitsch aesthetic—shiny bits of plastic and paper, old photographs taken with a flash, glittery paint and pens, scrap metal, second hand motors and lamps—evidence of our human attempts at creating beauty from our own means. In mimicking the natural world's cycles, I use a closed loop of materials, allowing the work to transform from one exhibition to the next.

I like to work site-specific, having circumstances that are partially predetermined, where my role is to excavate the burden of sentiment from a site. In my video works, I use the movement of my own body alongside elements of landscape to situate a feeling of things always in flux. This movement is also performed in a meticulous repetition of gestures, from cutting out thousands of paper stars, to creating a cloud from tiny marks on paper, a meditation on the timescales of natural processes. From this collage of image and material I ask the viewer to sink into the natural world, and realize our interconnection with it.

I graduated from Multimedia Studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź, Poland (2018), studied also at Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Lyon. In 2023 I defended my PhD thesis at Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow.

I have collaborated with many public institutions on site-specific presentations and events. My works were shown at: Museum of Art in Łódź, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Gdańsk City Gallery, MoCA Hiroshima, Brno Industra Art, Temporary Parapet in Bratislava among others. I have been a resident at the Kooshk Residency in Tehran, Meet Factory in Prague and the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York. I have received the Grand Prix at the Young Wolves Festival in Szczecin, the First Prize of the Grey House Foundation in Cracow, and the Gdańsk City Gallery Award for Best Diploma.

My works are in a public collection of Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź.





WEATHER STATION / 2024 / steel masts, wind vane, orbiter, Yagi antenna, CDs, resin stone, propeller, led diodes

Along the Bystrzyca river, we encounter an array of metal masts with kinetic objects swaying with the wind, catching the sun's reflections, emitting sounds, and responding to atmospheric occurrences and the presence of passers-by. I reimagined traditional weather station into a poetic assemblage of objects-instructions that aid in observing and interpreting the phenomena by engagement of senses, surrendering to the imagination, seeking parallels and embracing the present moment. As night falls luminous dots shine up on the masts, transforms the station into a starry constellation. Visitors can step into it, pause for a moment, and "assess" the weather - both external and internal.

as a part of *Riverside Festival*  
Bystrzyca river, Lublin , PL

June - October 2024,  
curators: Agnieszka Cieślak,  
Magdalena Linkowska, Aleksandra Skrabek  
technical support: Bartek Buczek, Mateusz Michałek

[MORE INFO](#)

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

Weather Station during night. When it becomes stellar constellation.

[VIDEO BY NIGHT](#)





NET / 2024 / artificial flower petals, pieces of kites, ribbons, strings, trimmings, lace, Christmas tree decorations, iridescent papers / objects found in used

When choosing objects for this installation, the variety of materials was important to me. I was most interested in those that bounced or refracted light. Most of the objects are linear, making the installation look like a coloured marker drawing in space. The suspended objects ripple gently. A bit harder when someone moves nearby and stirs the air particles, or when a breeze comes in through an open window. Therefore, to watch it, it's worth being there, perhaps lying down on the carpet and observing it like a starry sky or a map of thoughts.

Arlekin Puppet Theatre, Lodz, PL  
14 September - 31 December 2024,  
photo: Habryn/Wawroła

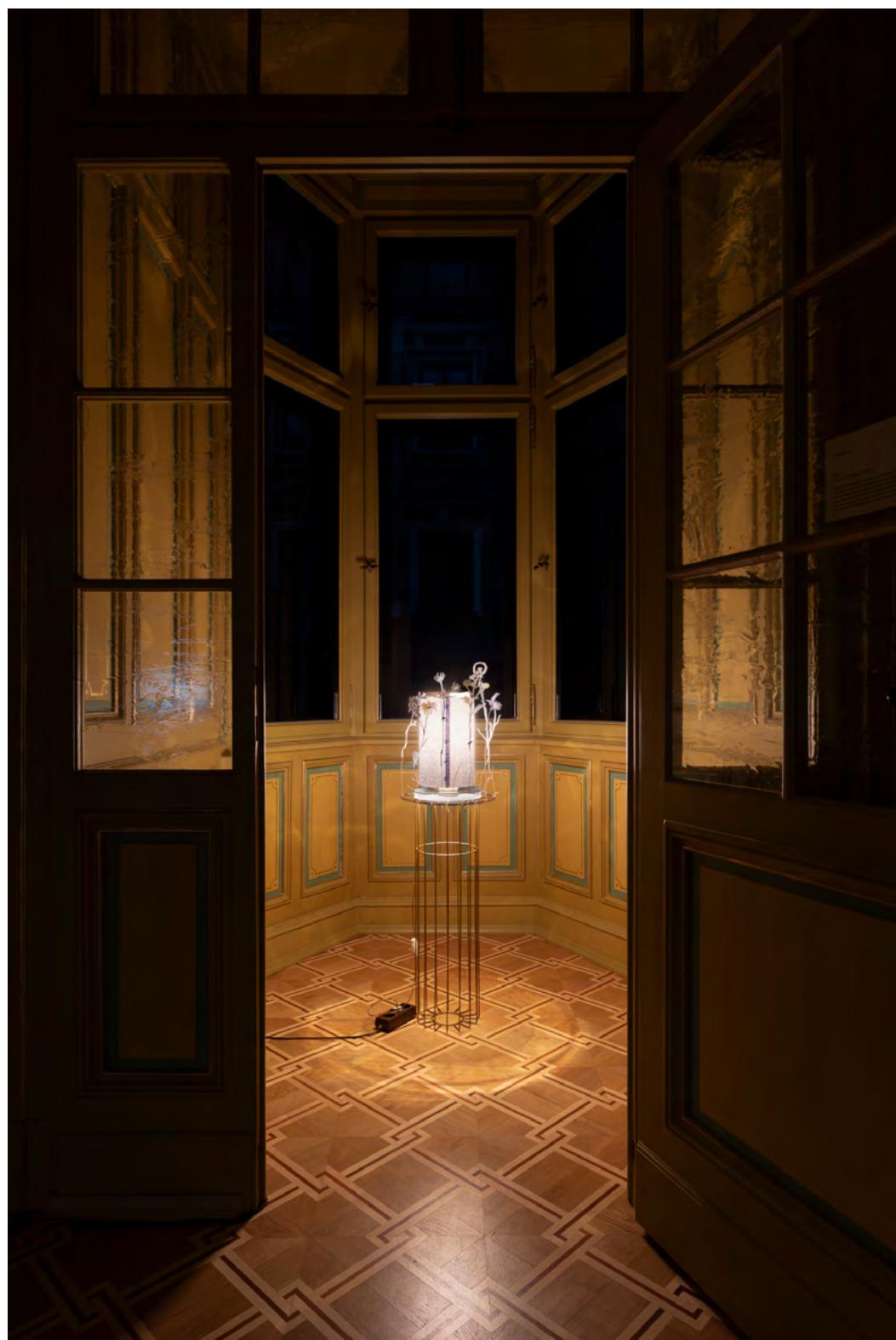
[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)



BLUE / 2024 / duplicate papier, translucent papier, tyvek sheet, steel wire, copper wire, incandescent light bulb, ceramic cylinder, iridescent tape

It is a lantern made of grid papier. In its walls I carved out dandelion blown to pieces. The light shining through the cutouts casts flickers on the walls of the small chamber in which the lantern is displayed. The paper lantern shade rotates in a circle, thanks to the heat of the incandescent bulb inside.

It was inspired by the harmony lanterns (a.k.a. mawari-doro) once used in Buddhist ceremonies to commemorate ancestors. This one is called 'blue' as these are its main colors.



as part of *Kto to wymyślił?* exhibition  
Kamienica Hilarego Majewskiego, Łódź, PL  
15 February - 10 March 2024  
curator: Łukasz Ogórek  
photo: Anna Zagrodzka

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)



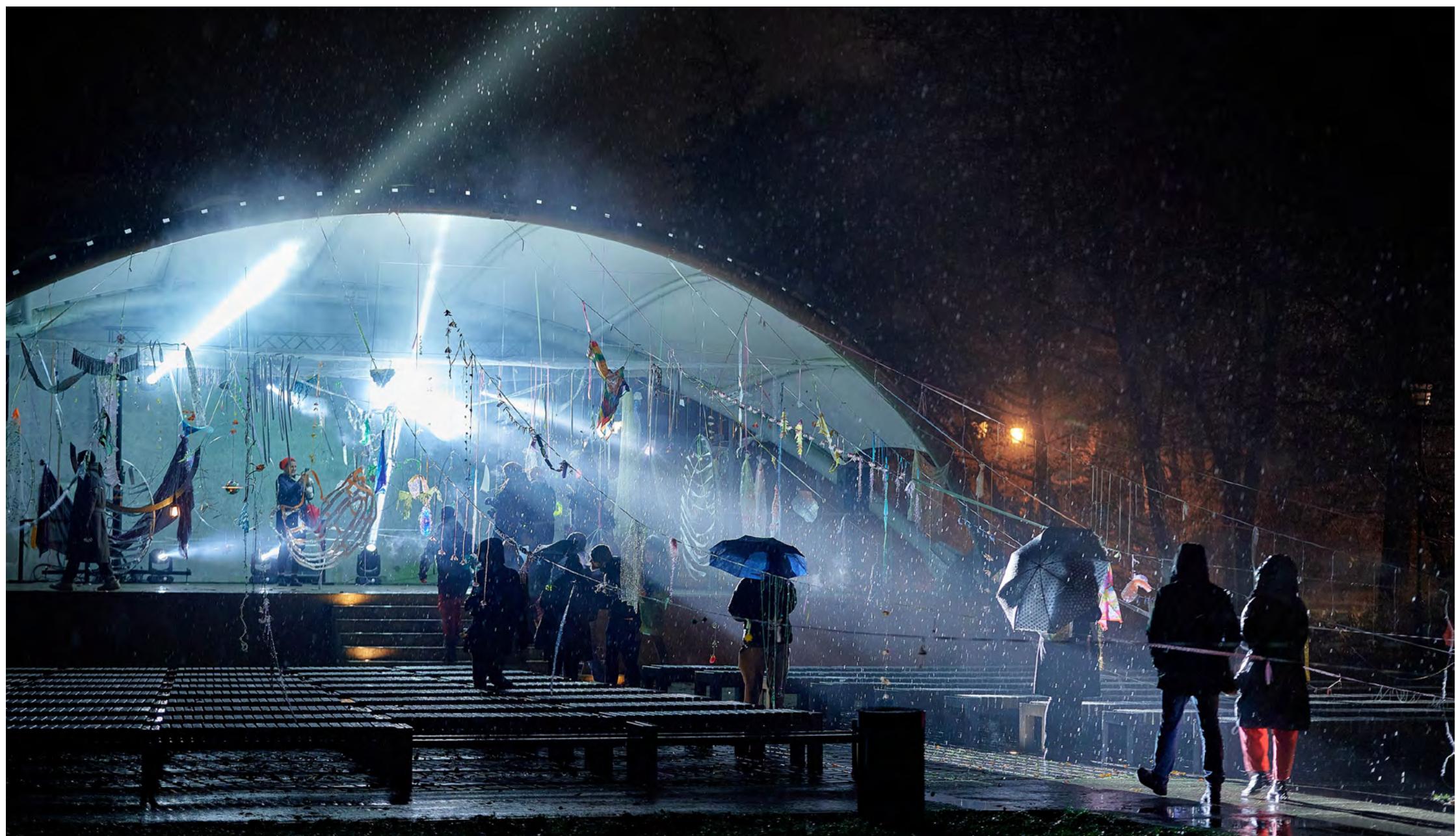


UNDER EYELIDS / 2024 / video projection, tissue papier, grid papier, string, sewing pins, tent frame

A tent sewn from stitched paper, which is a meadow in a storm, a starry sky, a hollowed out mountain, a hill to lie on, a shelter to cry in and a lullaby to hum. Inside the tent, on a grid paper there is a rear video projection, which is a picture that appears in your head when something is like something else was. The transparency of paper provokes color mixing, which alludes to the process of remembering images, recalling and composing them into a new story. Playing with notion of nostalgia to what has passed and shaped one's future.

as a part of *Radical pleasures* exhibition  
Goyki 3 Art Inkubator, Sopot , PL  
27 September- 26 October 2024,  
curators: Kasia Sobczak, Vasco Forconi  
photo: Jan Rusek





MEMORY OF A FAIR / 2023 / objects reflecting light suspended above the amphitheater, 8 pre-programmed mobile stage spotlights, 21 min audio

Inspired by archive footage of fairs organised and documented in the area in the 1990s, I watched uploaded to internet from VHS tapes. The image occasionally stutters, revealing a familiar distortion reminiscent of the pattern on holographic nail tape. I use this tape hanging it, all torn up, in the concert hall. The installation is airy, and the ribbons reach far - like trajectories of explosions, visual representations of thoughts, rays of sunlight, tacky decoration. You are invited to walk around them, lie on a bench or on the stage. I hope the festival nights will be windy, rainy or maybe even snowy? In such conditions, installation will provide the greatest experience.

as part of the *Narrations 14* festival  
Park Oruński, Gdańsk, PL  
17-18 November 2023

curators: Katarzyna Słoboda, Jakub Gawkowski  
photo: Bogna Kociumas-Kos, Michał Algebra

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

SOUND

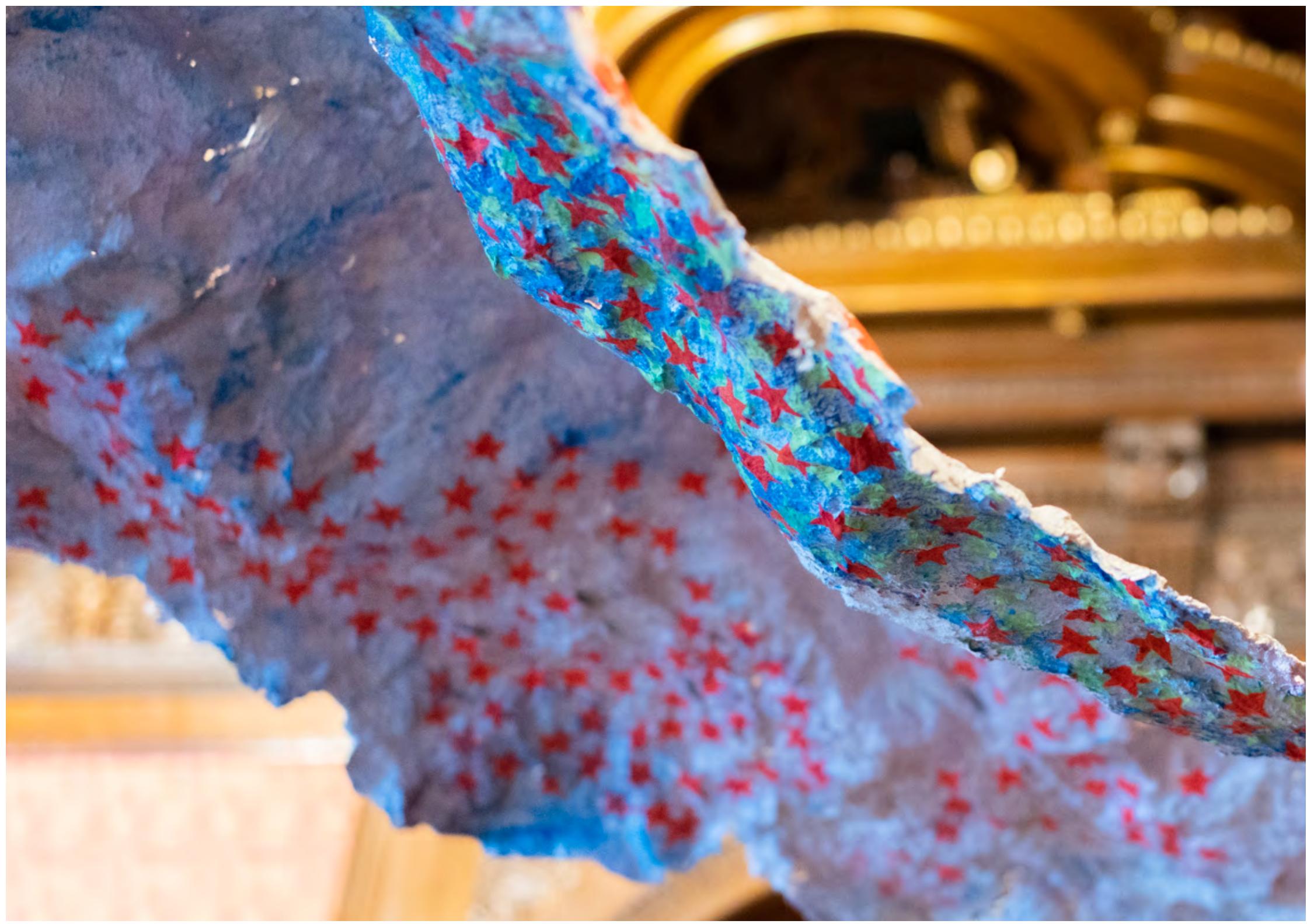




CAVE / 2022 / collage on paper mache

I finished this work in my studio, but broke it into pieces for transportation. After transportation I put it in water and when softened, I glued it again. As a mold for drying, I used a plastic pond shell. So the shape became like a cave. I covered it with thousands of stars from tissue paper, and some patterns of flags of countries and alliances, this way it became a starry sky. Little moisture would be enough for it to fall from the ceiling, and if put in water it would completely dissolve, taking on the consistency of thick cream.

part of exhibition *Time out of joint*  
Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, PL  
03 June - 17 September 2022  
curator: Katarzyna Słoboda  
photo: Anna Zagrodzka



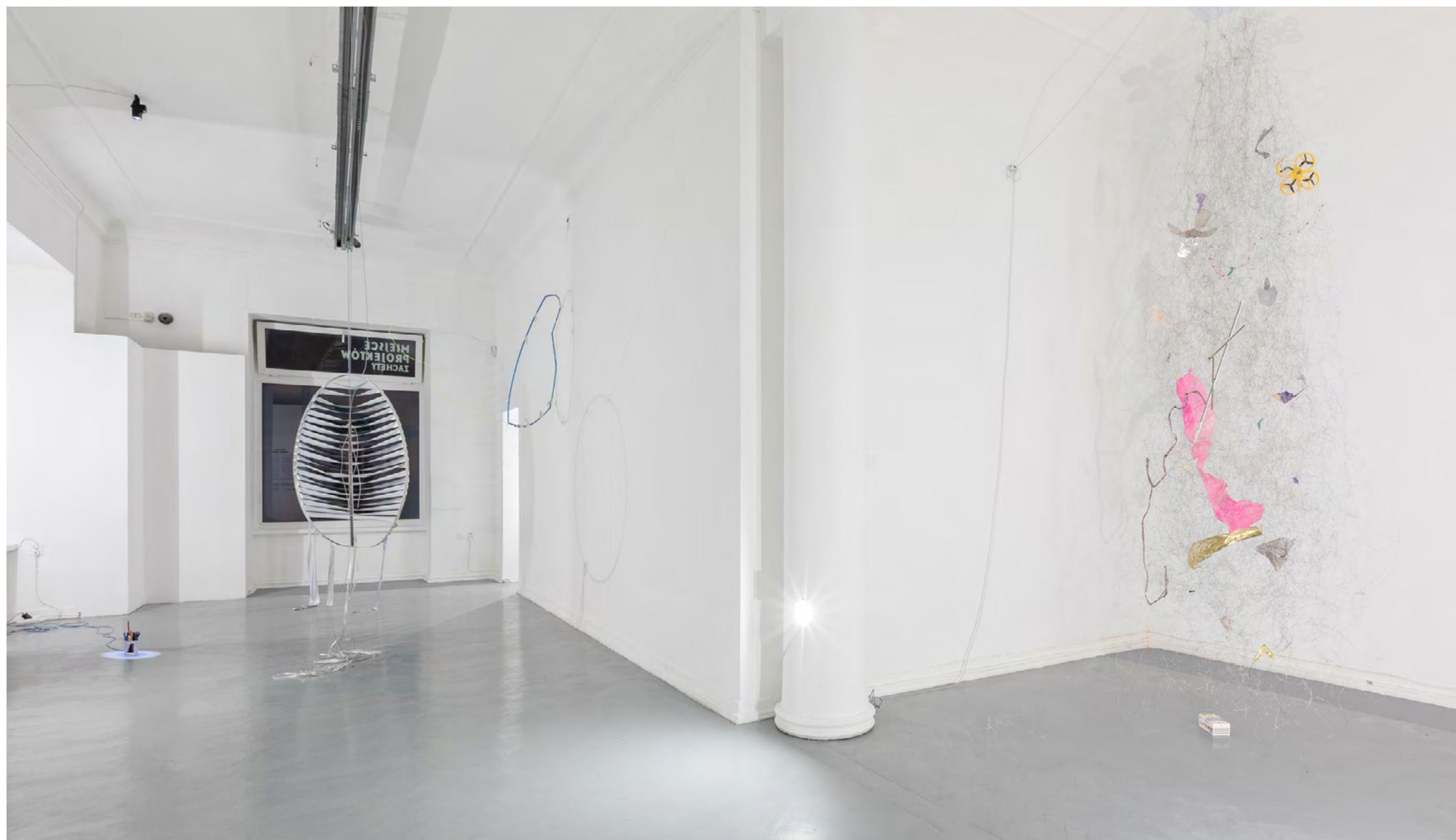


*PODRÓŻ NIE Z TEJ ZIEMI* (a journey out of this world) / 2022 / scenography and costumes for theatre play for children / Animation Theatre, Poznan, PL / director Aleksandra Jakubczak / [MORE INFO](#) / [SUNRISE VIDEO](#)

We are witnesses to a tremendous moment; a unique flight into the unknown depths of our galaxy. However, the mission to conquer the universe turns out to be a journey with a very strange meaning - and a different one for each of the characters in this story.

Mole, who has been digging in the ground up till now, goes on a flight driven by curiosity, an unsatisfied need to 'see' more. The moth Anita dreams of a close encounter with the sun, which for the moth is the greatest form of passage into another dimension. The Commander of the expedition, Roza, is a long-lived tortoise who wants to prove herself to a world that has so far disbelieved in her (the world, and perhaps a little bit herself?) And then there is the Unbearable Child, who found himself in the rocket as a punishment... He too finds in Cosmos the fulfilment of his most essential needs. Because it turns out that the further we move away from what we know, the closer we can come to ourselves.





## MOVING THINGS (solo show) / 2021 / aluminum objects, mini motors, garage rail

As you enter the gallery, you get immersed in a space made of simple mechanisms, video, light and found objects, filled with moving images and objects. It is a collection of maquettes and experiments in the spirit of a laboratory. In the main room, three mechanisms move, flickering in the light and making quiet sounds. Two of them are vortexes - openwork objects spinning on their axis, while the third - circular - traveling along the hall, refers to the sun's daily path across the sky. The circulation of matter emphasizes the use of found materials in the constructions. Juxtaposing them with each other, I do not avoid kitsch but accentuate "garage" and rawness of processing.

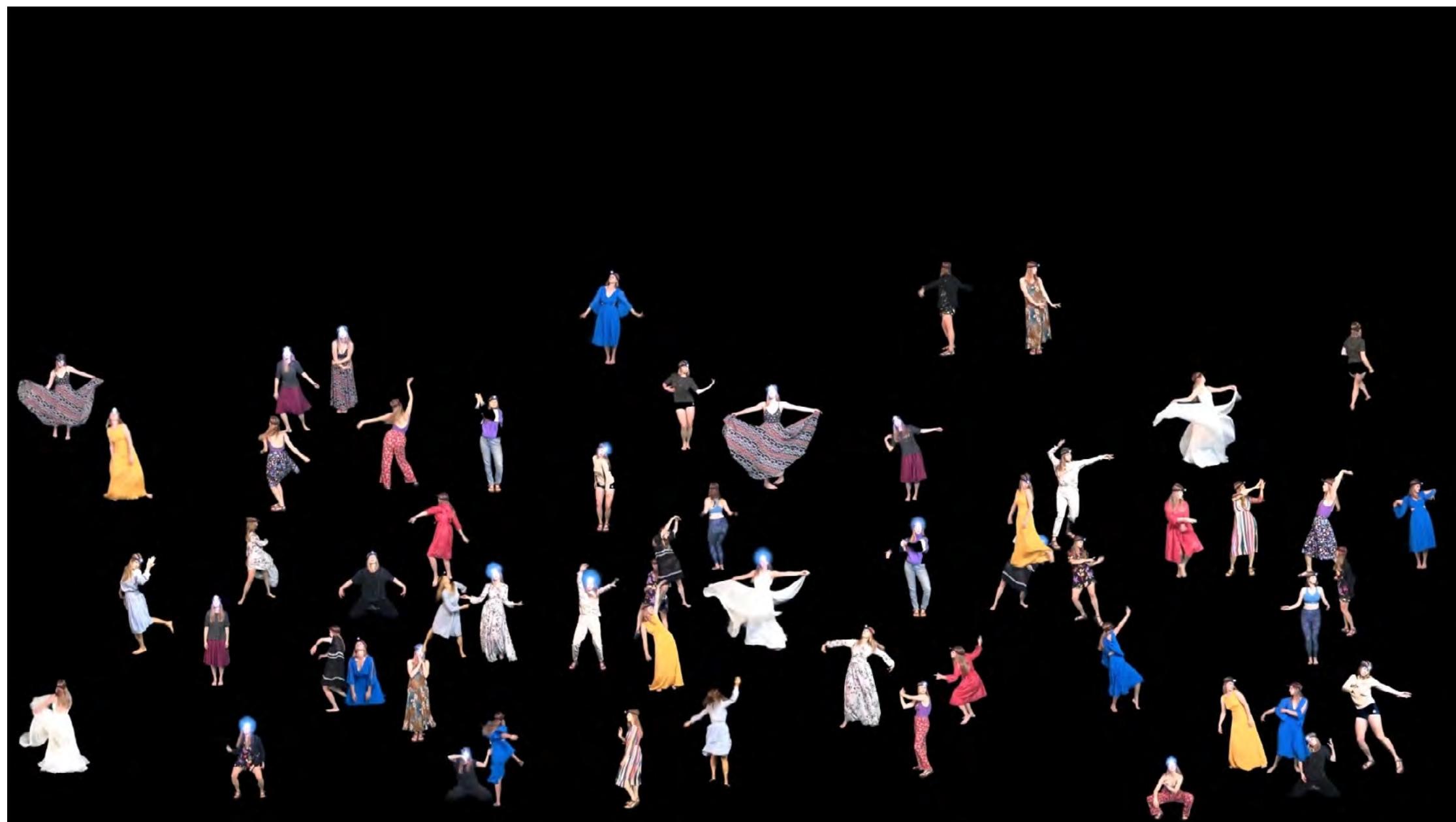
Zachęta Project Room, Warszawa, PL  
10 December 2021 - 20 February 2022

curator: Monika Kopczewska  
photo: Anna Zagrodzka

[MORE INFO](#)

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)







## MOBILE STRUCTURES / 2020 / recycling installation / 400x400x400cm, 600x350x350

Floating planetarium and mobile structure are prototypes of enclaves that allow to travel and be in nature combining public and private. I utilise wooden domes, hand-sewn tents, and forms inspired by vernacular and nomadic architecture. I designed them during the construction process, using readily available materials and acting without prior assumptions, so the forms do not become determined by a need for control. They are intended to stimulate imagination; its boundaries, assumptions, and functions are undefined, and the viewers are left to determine the rules for how to use them.

as part of exhibition *Something in common*  
Museum Of Modern Art, Warsaw, PL  
2 October 2020-13 January 2021  
curators: Natalia Sielewicz, Tomasz Fudala

[MORE INFO](#)

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AURORA (solo show) / 2020 / mini vibration motors, holographic film, metal wire, disco ball lights

The sun constantly emits a stream of charged particles called the solar wind, which as it enters the Earth's ionosphere undergoes reactions that result in shifting colored flares that can be observed in the night sky. The Aurora installation fits into the space of the SOON\_ project, which is located in a glazed building exposed to solar exposure. The installation is made of wires on which vibratory motors are suspended, moving with colored foils. Rotating surfaces emit a slight noise, and the sunlight falling on them reflects multicolored reflections, creating light phenomena that project the entire space around. Each object moves at a slightly different speed, and the rotating elements differ in texture, color and the ability to reflect light.

Spectra Art Space, Warsaw, PL  
18 September - 9 October 2020,

curator: Anna Muszyńska,  
coordinator: Kama Kieremkampt,  
photo: Grzegorz Demczuk

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

[MORE INFO](#)



STARS CRY (solo show) / 2019 / modified bedside lamps, video projections, scrap metal pieces, sound, wooden deck

Marta Krześlak's installation Stars Cry is a bitter-sweet tale about ourselves. Krześlak develops this piercingly sad story tapping into affective, atmospheric, nostalgic emotions coded in our memory. The artist digs deeper into the moments of rapture - immensely grotesque in their visual appeal. Welcome to the predicted distant future. A dream takes you into a parallel world where the only witness is the light of a night lamp standing by the bed. [FULL TEXT](#)

Gdansk City Gallery, Gdansk, PL  
1 August -14 September 2019  
curator: Gabriela Warzycka-Tutak  
photo: Bartosz Górk

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

[SOUND](#)



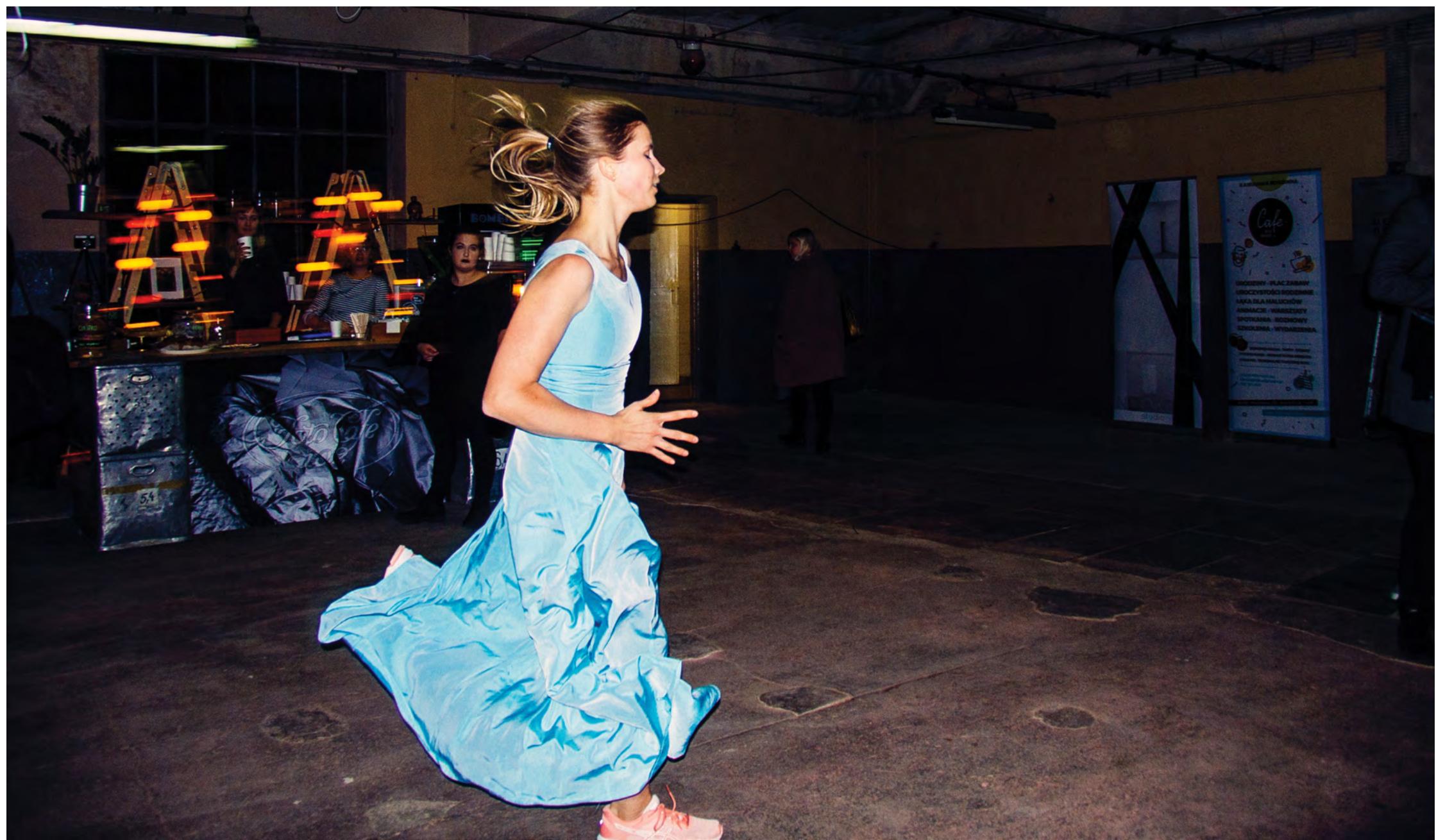
## RUINS OF MY DREAMS (solo show) / 2018 / bouncy castle, audio

The ruins of my dreams is an unnecessary object turned into a sentimental landscape. I try to detach it from its remembered utility and give it a poetic function. I am interested in the aesthetics of plastic, inflatable castles and the absurdity of their indestructibility. I inflate a huge found castle like a fantastic dream and I invite you to walk on its surface. The waving giant is accompanied by pop, love songs from the 90s, sung by me and processed in post-production.

Czynna Gallery, Łódź, PL  
27-29 June 2018  
master diploma in Multimedia Studio of prof Łukasz Ogórek  
photo: Wojciech Bibel

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

[SOUND](#)



## PRETTY NOTHING / 2018 / performance / every 7min for 15 sec

Dressed in a blue second-hand dress, I run through the vernissage. The exhibition is 1500m<sup>2</sup> of post-industrial space on the second floor of an old textile factory. As I run, the polyester dress makes a loud noise, which lets the viewer hear the noise of my outfit before locating me in the space.

The performance is an interpretation of Hu Fang's instruction *Doing nothing is doing everything*. The title is *Pretty nothing*, which can also mean - seemingly nothing, almost nothing.

as part of exhibition *,do it'*  
Lodz, PL

4 October 2018  
curators: Jacek Laube, Karolina Balke  
photo: Karolina Wojtas

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)