

MARTA KRZEŚLAK

portfolio

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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.



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## EDUCATION

2018-2023, PhD degree, Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, PL, *Intermedia*  
2013-2018, Master of Arts, Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz, PL, *Painting and Graphic*  
2016-2017 (two semesters), Warsaw Academy of Art, PL, *New Media*  
2017 (one semester), École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, FR, *Art*

## RESIDENCES

Jul-Aug 2022, International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York City, USA  
Oct-Nov 2019, Meet Factory, Prague, CZ  
Dec 2018, Kooshk Residency, Teheran, IR  
Apr 2015, Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Dresden, DE

## AWARDS and GRANTS

2020-2023, Ministry of Science and Higher Education Scholarship  
2020, Project Room Award, nomination, Centre of Contemporary Art in Warsaw  
2019, I-Portunus, Goethe Institut  
2018, First Prize, Grey Foundation Competition, Grey House Gallery, Cracow  
2018, Grand Prix, Młode Wilki Festival, Szczecin

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Art in Lodz, purchased in 2020

## SOLO SHOWS (selected)

2024, Net, Foyer Arlekin Theatre, Lodz, PL, 14.09-30.12  
2022, Moving Things, National Gallery Project Room, Warsaw, PL, 10.12-20.02  
2021, Home on a windy night, Pracownia Portretu, Lodz, PL, 13.11-20.12  
2021, Ajaoeho, Grey House Foundation, Cracow, PL, 18.02-16.05  
2020, Aurora, Spectra Art Space, Warsaw, PL, 18.09-9.10  
2019, Stars cry, Gdansk City Gallery, Gdansk, PL, 1.01-30.09  
2019, Lagoon, Groszowe Sprawy & Biennale Warszawa, Warsaw, PL, 1-2.06  
2019, Garage sketches, Temporary Parapet, Bratislava, SK, 24.05-14.06  
2019, Party at the Artist's Club, Centre of Contemporary Art, Warsaw, PL, 28.03-5.05  
2019, Fairy Tales, Industra Art Space, Brno, CZ, 6.03-4.04  
2018, Spatial composition, video program, MOCA Hiroshima, JP, 4.12-31.04  
2018, Ruins of my dreams, Czynna Gallery, Lodz, PL, 28.06  
2017, Coral reef, Freedom Square, Lodz, PL, 4.12- 4.03

## GROUP SHOWS (selected)

2025, Ball on a Squire, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, PL, 13.09  
2025, Urszula Broll. Landscapes of a distant down, Rondo Sztuki, Katowice, PL, 26.09-10.01.2026  
2025, They sold us a dream, then took away our sleep, Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome, IT, 1.10-22.11  
2025, Chiaroscuro, Dětská galerie Lapidárium, Broumov, CZ, 18 Apr-7 Jun  
2024, Festiwal nad rzeką, Warsztaty Kultury, Lubin, PL, 1 Jun-30 Oct  
2024, Kto to wymyślił, Kamienica Hilarego Majewskiego, Lodz, PL, 15 Feb-10 Mar  
2023, Czułe punkty, Narracje Festival, Gdansk, PL, 17-18 Nov  
2023, Second skin: Encounters, KODE Lysverket, Bergen, NO, 14 Oct-26 Nov  
2023, Second skin, Central Museum of Textiles, Lodz, PL, 19 May-3 Sep  
2022, Time out of joint, Museum of Art, Lodz, PL, 3 Jun-18 Sep  
2022, Secondary Archive, The National Gallery, Manifesta 14, Prishtina, XK, 22 Jul-30 Oct  
2022, Pyramide de Ponzi, Galerie Valerie Delaunay, Paris, FR, 30 Jun-23 Jul  
2020, Time and Foam, Cracow Art Week, Cracow, PL, 21 Oct-26 Nov  
2020, Something in common, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, PL, 2 Oct-13 Jan  
2019, Honey we built Chernobyl or: a cigar-shaped shelter, Henryk Gallery & Unsound Festival, Cracow, PL, 9 Oct-27 Oct  
2019, From The Belly Of A Circle Comes Out A Square, Matca Art Space, Kluż-Napoka, RO, 29 Mar-13 Apr  
2019, Obrzeża i bocznicie, 18A Gallery, Warsaw, PL, 24-31 Jan  
2019, Czekając aż pstryknie, A- Kumulacje Kaliskie Biennale Sztuki, Kalisz, PL, 7-28 Feb  
2018, Gradient, Grey House Foundation, Cracow, PL, 8 Dec-5 Jan  
2018, Best Graduation Diploma, Gdansk, PL, 4 Aug-9 Sep  
2018, M3, Wschodnia Gallery, Lodz, PL, 10-24 Jun  
2018, A la Flamande 3- Landscape, Propaganda Gallery, Warsaw, PL, 24 Mar-14 Apr  
2017, Changes in perspective - The 16th Hestia Artistic Journey, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, PL, 27 Jun-9 Jul  
2017, 18 May-11 Jun, Biennale WRO 2017 Draft Systems, Centrum Sztuki Wro, Wroclaw, PL, 18 May-11 Jun  
2016, (Nie)obecność, Labirynt Gallery, Lublin, PL, 18 Nov-18 Dec  
2016, Second hand, Wschodnia Gallery, Lodz, PL, 28 May-5 Jun  
2015, The war is over, not for everyone, Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw, PL, 4- 31 May  
2015, Drezno/Łódź Schools of Art, HfBK, Dresden, DE, 16 Apr-17 May





**BALL IN THE SQUARE / set design for a performance and a disco / 2025 / iridescent organza, ribbons, artificial flower petals, festive decorations**

The set design for the Ball in the Square features 13 fabrics suspended above the General Tribune of Central Square. The fabrics, hung 30 metres across the square, move and shimmer with colours. Inspiration for the set came from the polar lights – their fleeting nature, movement and colours. Hosting the Ball, MSN invites the public to enjoy dancing and a performance choreographed by Przemek Kamiński and performed by 40 performers. The performance is an invitation to celebrate the last days of summer and to relive the collective nostalgia for childhood holidays, sunsets on the beach, sleepless nights, heedlessly passing time, summer romances and star gazing.

set design for a performance  
**Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw**  
13 September 2025  
curator: Magdalena Komornicka  
performance director: Przemek Kamiński  
photo: Pat Mic

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UNDER EYELIDS / video installation / 2025 / video projection, tissue paper, graph paper, string, sewing pins, tent frame / dimensions 400 × 400 × 270 cm, video 5:23

A tent made of stitched paper, which is a meadow in a storm, a starry sky, a hollow mountain, a hill to lie on, a shelter to cry in and a lullaby to hum. Inside the tent, on checkered paper, I project an image that is an afterimage, when something resembles something else. The transparency of the paper provokes the mixing of colours, which refers to the process of remembering images, recalling them and composing them into a new story.

part of a group show  
*They sold us a dream then took away our sleep*  
**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**, Rome, IT  
1 October - 22 November 2025  
curators: Kasia Sobczak, Vasco Forconi  
photo: Carlo Romano

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

Objects in this installation are a variety of materials which bounce or refract light. Most of them 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.

site specific installation of theatre foyer  
**Arlekin Puppet Theatre**, Lodz, PL  
14 September - 31 December 2024,  
photo: Habryn/Wawrzóła

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)









WEATHER STATION / public space installation / 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](#)







BLUE / kinetic object / 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**, Lodz, PL  
 15 February - 10 March 2024  
 curator: Łukasz Ogórek  
 photo: Anna Zagrodzka

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)







MEMORY OF A FAIR / public space installation / 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, Gdansk, PL  
17-18 November 2023

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

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

[SOUND](#)









CAVE / object / 2022 / collage on paper mache / 300x180x50 cm, 170x80x30 cm

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*  
**Museum of Art in Lodz**, Lodz, PL  
03 June - 17 September 2022  
curator: Katarzyna Słoboda  
photo: Anna Zagrodzka





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 National Gallery Project Room,  
Warszawa, PL

10 December 2021 - 20 February 2022

curator: Monika Kopczewska

photo: Anna Zagrodzka

[MORE INFO](#)

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)









[VIDEO MOVING THINGS](#)





MOBILE STRUCTURES / recycling installations / 2020 / 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](#)

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)









AURORA / kinetic installation / 2020 / 58 mini vibration motors, holographic film, metal wire, dico 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 Kieremkamp,  
photo: Grzegorz Demczuk

[VIDEO DOCUMENTATION](#)

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