

miłość

LET'S MAKE MIŁOŚĆ

Alicja Biała, Maja Janczar,
Gosia Kołdraszewska, Jan Możdżyński,
Zofia Pałucha, Patryk Różycki

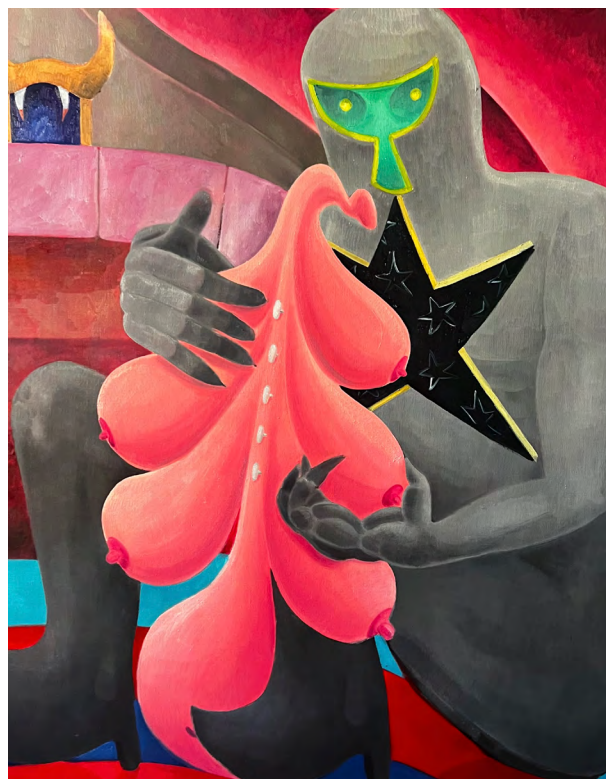
4 Oct – 2 Nov 2024

miłość gallery

29 Downham Road, N1 5AA

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close up of: Jan Możdżyński, *Owner of a Lonely Heart*, 2024, oil on canvas, 140*190cm

Miłość gallery presents its inaugural show, *Let's make miłość*, exhibiting the works of six Polish artists – Alicja Biała, Maja Janczar, Gosia Kołdraszewska, Jan Możdżyński, Zofia Pałucha and Patryk Różycki – and opening the doors to its Haggerston space for a private view on 3 Oct 2024.

Let's make miłość is an introduction to miłość's programme – an exhibition focused on Polish art that sits in opposition to the status quo and examines the oppression imposed by normativity, in the context of Polish and Eastern-European culture. The works, ranging from paintings to etchings and sculpture, explore oppositional experiences – experiences of navigating oppression and liberation, of love, care and compassion. The artists create in the contexts of Polish Christian hetero-patriarchy, while highlighting oppositional histories and re-examining relationships with heritage, nature, home, queerness, and femininity.

With many of the artists exhibited in the UK for the first time, miłość aims to present a cultural niche, often misinterpreted, stereotyped and fetishised in the west. The artists take charge of the presentation of Polish culture, contextualising it with their personal experiences, storytelling and satire. In opposition to domination, according to bell hooks, stands love, and while confronting histories and experiences of violence, the artists find tactics of resistance, love and liberation.

Miłość – meaning love in Polish – is a contemporary art gallery, founded by Aleksandra Moraś and based in Haggerston, celebrating emerging artists from backgrounds underrepresented in the western art world. Inspired by bell hooks' writings, miłość wants to restore care to those historically uncared for – the love ethic and the choice to love are necessary dimensions of liberation.

Alicja Biała (b. 1993) is a multidisciplinary and multimedia artist, based between Poland, Netherlands and the UK. Her work often references pagan motifs, interweaving tradition with the political and personal realities of everyday life, aiming to cut into a cultural past that is at once distant and remarkably close. Both speculative and interrogative, Alicja's practice examines where we have been, and where we might go in relation to Slavic histories, paganism, migration, politics and the formation of cultural identity.

Maja Janczar (b. 1995) is a Warsaw-based artist and a graduate of the Fine Arts Academy in Warsaw, working in painting, sculpture and drawing. Maja draws from the topics of food systems in the context of climate challenges, the possibility of creating human-non-human collectives, and the interiors of Polish homes. She is also part of a flying gallery team, Sen o końcu (Polish for 'A Dream about the End').

Gosia Kołdraszewska (b. 2000) is an artist whose practice is an interdisciplinary exploration of socio-political critique. She works in cycles, dictated by the contexts from which the works emerge, with her former education in art history and theory having a great influence on her art and design. Gosia looks for a storytelling method based in new surrealism and neo-expressionism, balancing on the edge of reality being the only way for her to communicate everyday life. In Warsaw, she runs an art print studio DEFEKT.

Jan Możdżyński (b. 1986) is a Warsaw-based artist who, in the media of painting and sculpture, raises important and personal topics focused on feminism, gender identity, sexual minorities and stigma related to sexual preferences. Queer identities are present in his bodily representations, as well as in the fetish and BDSM motifs depicted on the canvases. In his work, Jan tries to capture situations related to role playing, to disintegrate what is traditionally understood as masculine and feminine. Jan's practice also explores the permeation of the virtual worlds and computer games into the real world.

Zofia Pałucha (b. 1993) is a Wrocław-based artist whose recent body of work navigates the intersection of personal experience and political commentary through a distinctly digital lens. Her artistic practice embraces fragmented visuals from the internet, blending everyday interactions with the virtual world. Zofia's work confronts contemporary political issues, emphasising the intimate realms of sensuality and sexuality, exposing how broader societal structures shape these. The constant flux of her imagery mirrors the instability and complexity of the modern world, where personal and political realms are inseparably intertwined.

Patryk Różycki (b. 1992) is a Warsaw-based visual artist, writer, podcast creator and curator. His paintings and podcasts are an autobiographical account of his personal life and family, focusing on themes of poverty, social inequality, death, origin, identity, emotions, masculinity, and sexuality. He uses his own story as a form of representation of social problems and marginalised people overwhelmed by shame and helplessness. In his paintings, Patryk cares about the lightness of the representation, juxtaposed with the problem usually contained in the title or the content of the work itself.

Private view

3 Oct 2024
6-9 pm
miłość gallery
29 Downham Road, N1 5AA

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