



Potatoes and Onions, 1974 (Details)

Relief, biscuit porcelain, 44.5 × 35 × 3 cm ©Norbert Piwowarczyk / CMWŁ

Antoni Starczewski - Moulding the Ideas

Curated by: Marta Kowalewska, Grzegorz Musiał

Vernissage: September 6, 2024, 5 pm to 9 pm

Exhibition duration: September 7, 2024 to November 16, 2024

Exhibition location: Meraner Straße 7, 10825 Berlin

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 1 pm to 6 pm (or by appointment)

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NADAN is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of ceramic works by multidisciplinary artist Starczewski in Germany during Berlin Art Week 2024. Entitled "Moulding the Ideas" the exhibition showcases selected ceramic works from the artist's oeuvre, highlighting the versatility and depth of Starczewski's sculptural work and emphasizing the significance of his boundary-crossing endeavors.

The avant-garde character of Antoni Starczewski's works resounds with exceptional force today. They are the result of experiments created from the late 1950s to the beginning of the 1980s, when they were an element of public de ceramics in Poland interiors or the heritage of folk culture. These realisations were part of the language of expressing the ideas of linear notation, materialising a very consistently developed concept.

Antoni Starczewski (1924–2000) was one of the most significant Polish artists of the 20th century. Educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź, he was greatly influenced by the teachings of avant-garde artist Władysław Strzemiński. A particular characteristic of his art was the multimedia and multi-layered use of a wide variety of surfaces, techniques and textures, including ceramics, prints, textiles and in-situ projects. Starczewski explored the fields of visual art, music and language and



Wall Sculpture-vase, 1960
Glazed faience, graphite, 25 × 46.5 × 7.5 cm ©Norbert Piwowarczyk / CMWL

combined them in an inimitable way. A fundamental principle of his work was his conscious refusal to differentiate between fine and applied arts. He sought the expression of his ideas in different materials and methods and regarded art as an area in which related statements can interplay in a variety of forms.

Another aspect of his work reflects both the political and social situation as well as the personal perspective of the respective time in Poland. Against this backdrop, his selected



Płaskorzeźba Monoformy, 1974 (Details)
White glazed porcelain, 44.5 × 35 cm ©Norbert Piwowarczyk / CMWL



Arrangement of Fruits and Vegetables, 1973
Terracotta, biscuit porcelain, 15 × 34 cm ©Norbert Piwowarczyk / CMWŁ

works are currently on display at the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin as part of the exhibition “Extreme Tension. Art between Politics and Society. Collection of the Nationalgalerie 1945–2000”.

The works in the exhibition were created between the late 1950s and the beginning of the 1980s and are divided into three groups of works, which can be categorized as wall ceramics, ceramic

installations and prints. They are characterized by their high quality of craftsmanship, their richness of ideas and their original conception. His ceramic works, which are presented in the exhibition, are a testimony to his innovative formal language and his deep understanding of the material.

Antoni Starczewski's works are represented in the collections of major institutions and museums worldwide, including the Tate Modern in London, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome and



Crossed-Out Texts, 1986
Relief, glazed porcelain, 14 × 14.5 cm ©Norbert Piwowarczyk / CMWŁ

the Muzeum Sztuki in Starczewski's hometown of Łódź. His works have also been presented at renowned biennials: the 8th International Biennial Exhibition of Prints in Tokyo in 1979 and numerous participant in the Biennale Internationale de la Tapisserie in Lausanne and at monumental presentation "Presence polonaise" in Centre Pompidou in Paris, 1983.

About the curators

Marta Kowalewska is an art historian and critic, curator of exhibitions and author of texts on art. She is the chief curator at the Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź (CMWŁ), where she curated the 16th and 17th International Triennials of Tapestry and led the curatorial team, which developed CMWŁ's anniversary exhibition Departments Open / Departments Closed. She has put together Polish and international exhibitions, including: The Work That Textile Does, Metamorphism. Magdalena Abakanowicz, Antoni Starczewski. The Idea of Linear Notation in Łódź, THREADS OF A NEW SPIRITUALITY – Kosmos Project (Milan), We Are Textile Culture Net! (Hong Kong). She published essays in books From Tapestry to Fiber Art: The Lausanne Biennials 1962–1995 (Lausanne-Milan), Magdalena Abakanowicz (Tate Modern, London), Magdalena Abakanowicz à Lausanne (Lausanne-Zurich), Abakanowicz. Konfrontacje (Warsaw), Tapta. Flexible Forms (Susch-Berlin). She also edited the books Magdalena Abakanowicz. Metamorphism; Textile Textures. Multithreaded narratives; Antoni Starczewski. The Idea of Linear Notation; Splendour of Textiles and Weave Ideas.

She has published more than seventy articles, critical texts and interviews. She has been on the juries of international textile art competitions and is a board member of the European Textile Network, as well as the chairwoman of the Marta Magdalena Abakanowicz- Kosmowska and Jan Kosmowski



Banded Rhythmic Composition, 1960
glazed ceramic, 231 × 22 cm

Foundation Advisory Board. For the past four years she has been co-managing the project Textile Culture Net.

Grzegorz Musiał — Art historian and critic. He studied art history at the Jagiellonian University, the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London and Leiden University. After graduating, he worked as a curator at the Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź, the first museum of modern art in Europe (founded in 1931). From 1992 to 2007, he ran his own gallery for modern art in Łódź, Gallery 86. Since 2007, he has been the artistic director of the Signum Foundation in Poznan and Venice.

He has curated numerous exhibitions, including: Tina Modotti, Museum of Art in Łódź, 1980; Koji Kamoji – Hole, Moon, Silence, Gallery 86, 2001; Tadeusz Kantor La clase muerta, M U A in Alicante, 2002, To go across the border of the painting, Gallery 86 and Awake and Dream; Luce e movimento and Particolare at the Palazzo Dona in Venice; Antoni Starczewski, The idea of Linear Notation, Central Museum of Textiles, Łódź; The Urge to Create Visions, Sculpture Museum in Orońsko, Poland; Where does your heart belong. Museum of Modern Art in Bremen, Germany. Publication of numerous books on the exhibitions.

Exhibition partners:

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WEEK



Photo material

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Table with an Arrangement of Ceramic Carrots, 1973

Reconstruction of a 1973 assemblage on the basis of photograph

Biscuit and white-glazed ceramic, wooden table, cotton, 182 × 97 × 70 cm ©Norbert Piwowarczyk / CMWL



Crossed-Out Texts, 1986 (Details)

©Norbert Piowarczyk

Crossed-Out Texts, 1986

Relief, glazed porcelain, 14 × 14.5 cm ©Norbert Piowarczyk / CMWŁ



M5, 1981,

embossing on paper, 14 × 14,5 cm ©Norbert Piowarczyk / CMWŁ



Crossed-Out Texts, 1988

embossed printing on paper, 27.8 × 21.7 cm ©Norbert Piowarczyk / CMWŁ



Antoni Starczewski pictured in his home studio with Banded Rhythmic Composition visible in the background, 1960, photo courtesy of 86 Gallery

Antoni Starczewski (1924-2000)

Solo exhibitions (selection from 20 years)

- 2024 Antoni Starczewski: Works on paper - Loww Gallery Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 Antoni Starczewski: The Idea Of Linear Notation — NADAN, Berlin, Germany
Antoni Starczewski: The Idea Of Linear Notation—Central Museum of Textiles, Signum Foundation Gallery, Lodz, Poland
- 2017 Antoni Starczewski (1924-2000) Kompozycje Graficzne—Miejska Galeria Sztuki, Lodz, Poland
- 2017 Living matter—MMS2, Lodz, Poland
- 2014 Antoni Starczewski, Artist and Universe—Galeria Piekary, Poznań, Poland
- 2004 Antoni Starczewski, Rytmu biologiczne—EGO Gallery, Poznań, Poland

Group exhibitions (Selection)

- 2024 Zerreißprobe - Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin, Germany
- 2020 Unity and Diversity—MMS2, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Vanni Scheiwiller e l'arte da Wildt a Melotti—Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (GNAM), Rome, Italy
Summer at Solny Square—Mia Art Gallery, Wroclaw, Poland

- Do not break the Heavenly Seal—Signum Foundation Gallery, Lodz, Poland
 Nähe und Dystans—Brandenburgisches Landesmuseum für moderne Kunst, Potsdam, Germany
 2018 Blick Wendungen—Museum Junge Kunst, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany
 2016 Illegibility. Palimpsests.—Pan Tadeusz Museum, Wrocław, Poland
 Lodz Museum of Art and the Mssa: Encounters of Political Solidarity in Art—Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende, Santiago, Chile
 Illegibility. The Contexts Of Script—Art Stations Foundation by Grażyna Kulczyk, Poznan, Poland
 2013 The Splendor of Textiles — Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland
 2010 Fragmenty życia — Mazowieckie Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej „ELEKTROWNIA”, Radom, Poland
 2009 Awake And Dream / Svegliati E Sogna / — Signum Foundation Palazzo Donà, Venice, Italy
 2007 Collection of Contemporary Art in Center for Polish Sculpture in Orońsko — BWA Contemporary Art Gallery in Katowice, Katowice, Poland
 2003 "Der Text ist eine Lüge"—Dany Keller Galerie - Munich, Munich, Germany
 1999 La Gravure en relief — Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium
 1993 Z Chełmskiej Kolekcji — Galeria Rzeźby, Warsaw, Poland
 1992 Lyon, Łódź : Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland — Musée d'Art Contemporain Lyon, Lyon, France
 1983 Présences polonaises — Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
 1981 IX Exhibition of Polish Graphics — Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland
 1979 *The 11th International Biennial Exhibition of Prints in Tokyo*, (cat.), National Museum of Modern Art – Grand Prix International, Tokyo, Japan

Biennalen

- 2001 49th International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale / Biennale di Venezia — La Biennale di, Venezia, Venice, Italy
 1987 5. Międzynarodowe Biennale, Małe Formy Grafiki, /International Triennial of Small Graphic Forms/, Lodz, Poland
 1986 11th International Print Biennale Krakow 1986, Poland
 1983 3. Międzynarodowe Biennale Małe Formy Grafiki — International Triennial of Small Graphic Forms Poland, Lodz, Poland
 Tapestry Biennial in Lausanne, Switzerland
 1979 3rd Biennale of Sydney: European Dialogue Biennale of Sydney, Sydney NSW, Australia
 1978 1st International Drawing Triennial International, Wrocław, Poland
 1977 The 12th International Biennial of Graphic Arts Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia
 1974 V International Print Biennale, Krakow, Poland
 1974 International Print Triennial, Cracow, Poland

Museum collections (selection)

- GB Tate Modern — London
 Victoria & Albert Museum - V&A — London
 NL Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam — Amsterdam
 Museum Boijmans van Beuningen — Rotterdam
 PL Zachęta National Gallery of Art — Warsaw
 Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw — Warsaw
 Muzeum Sztuki—Lodz
 Miejska Galeria Sztuki—Lodz
 Central Museum of Textiles — Lodz
 National Museum — Szczecin
 Architecture Museum—Wrocław
 US MOCA Grand Avenue — Los Angeles, CA
 IT Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (GNAM) — Rome
 CL Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende — Santiago
 FR Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
 BE Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée — La Louvière
 UY Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales (MNAV) — Montevideo