



Michał Sosna

light

Michał Sosna is an artist whose works, including these presented in the exhibition, visualize the idea of post-pornography in its broad spectrum of diversity — a revolutionary stance that challenges our binary, colonial, enslaving, oppressive, and invariably punitive culture. In its deconstruction and decentralization, post-pornography focuses on affirmative practices, intersectionality, inclusivity, attempting to openly criticize of the patriarchal socio-cultural order.

Having been bound by mechanisms of power for centuries, human body strives to break free, refusing to withstand the prolonged violence against ITSELF and OTHERS. It craves to be autonomous, happy and liberated. Thus, the body enters an arduous struggle to reclaim its enslaved SELF which, in this case, is a SELF that becomes diversified, fluid, open and anarchic. It is the body excluded by the system, seeking recognition through visibility.

Transgender people, queer people, people with disabilities, non-heteronormative and heteronormative people, non-human beings and all deemed different — boldly enter spaces only they dare to tread. They seem to lead the way towards new possibilities, showing this hardened, ethically degenerate world some alternative directions that present the potential to transform the bleak reality we inhabit.

Michał Sosna's gender-related narrative unfolds at the intersection of the real and the imagined. There are black suns here, and white moons, there is the anus — in place of a penis or a vagina — uniting all sentient beings. All boundaries slowly dissolve here — interspecies relations and horizontality prevail — while trans-manifestos are being declaimed in dark city alleys, at nightclubs, amid street fights against police, in forests, near swamps.

Diana J. Torres — a Spanish transfeminist activist, multidisciplinary artist, poet, and author of the groundbreaking book Pornoterrorismo — postulates intrepid breaking of all taboos that, being deeply rooted in our societies, deny freedom to the body. She radically urges us to fight for everyone's right to enjoy their own body, whatever it may be, and their sexuality, however it may appear. She calls for an ATTACK on the established norms and protocols. And she does so rebelliously!

Rafał Żwirek wrote: "Diana has ultimately laid out strategies of tenderness and care, founded on her political and transfeminist struggle. She represents what academia and art often lack: radical freedom and radical joy."

The subjects in Michał Sosna's photographs powerfully invert what is familiar, experienced, and known, punching the Catholic, white, heterosexual Poland right in the face. They have become the political voice of the unwanted identities.

text / katarzyna lewandowska
curator/ rafał placek
assisting curator / katarzyna lewandowska

[_translated from Polish by Katarzyna Podpora_]

