

# Touch the Art



We would like to invite you to an unusual exhibition – you will be able to enter the art works, touch paintings made from soft foam or just move the exhibits around.

It all started with a series of workshops for children that a group of young artists ran last year at *U–jazdowski*. The participants were children of kindergarten and primary school age, and they had a say in the final appearance of the works. The fruit of these workshops can be savoured in the exhibition. You can experience the works – by actually touching them, listening to them and testing what they have been made of.

Throughout your visit, the facilitators will be present in the gallery. They will provide a ‘user guide’ for individual works and tell interesting stories related to them. If there is something that you are not clear about, you can ask them for help.

This guide will help you to navigate the exhibition. Take it with you and touch the art!

## (1) Bartosz Kokosiński *World Mass*, 2019

Project consultant  
Anna Panek

The construction in the centre of the room was made by Bartosz Kokosiński and invented by children whom he met during his workshop. Each participant designed a mock-up of a space that was important to them, and Bartosz combined them all into one and added to it. The work is sufficiently large to accommodate an adult inside it.

Each of us has a place that we like and where we feel safe. For some, it may be the tight space under their bed; for others – a huge meadow. The mass that Bartosz built conveys this diversity.

Touch it. Investigate the materials with interesting textures the artist has used. Can you tell what they are used for?

## (2) Bartosz Kokosiński *Foamee*, 2019

*Foamee*, as the name implies, was made from various types of foam. They are of different colours but what they have in common is that they are all lovely and soft and very snugly. We most often use this material in the form of a sponge in the bathroom or we sometimes sleep on a foam mattress. This time, Bartosz used the material to make an object reminiscent of his earlier works – *Paintings Devouring Reality*. These were canvases on stretchers, especially contorted and bent so as to wrap around various objects that the artist placed inside them. Depending on the theme, these were pieces of furniture, toy cars or clothes. The painting in our exhibition looks more like a sculpture, because it has not been hung on the wall – it can be seen from all sides, and you can snuggle up to it or check its weight.

## (3) Michał Malinowski *Fairy-Tale Creatures*, 2019

Those who need a rest during the visit, can relax or jump about on the unique *Fairy-Tale Creatures* – bright-coloured cushions of different shapes and sizes. They inspire action and story-telling. Messing about on them is great fun!

## (4) Zuzanna Hertzberg *Ż*, 2019

These works by Zuzanna Hertzberg makes it possible for each of us to become a curator, or someone who influences the appearance of the exhibition. Zuzanna’s paintings have been hung on special frames with wheels, which means that they can be moved and juxtaposed at will. The artist has designed a specific configuration for them, and this is where the fun begins – but after that, it’s over to you!

Not only are Zuzanna’s paintings incredibly colourful but they also have interesting textures. Some surfaces are rugged, others smooth.

Touch them and check what effects the artist has achieved by experimenting with different materials. You can also look at the back of the painting, which normally cannot be seen. Can you tell what surface the paintings were made on? With Zuzanna’s works, it’s not just canvas, but also another, surprising material – what is it?

## (5) Justyna Wiśniowska *Bouba*, 2019

The work by Justyna Wiśniowska has been given a mysterious title: *Bouba*. What is it? What colour is it? What shape is it? What does it smell of? Try to imagine it. Are these foam shapes paintings or sculptures – what do you think? Or – could they be both? Each is unique; each a one-off – because it was made especially for this location. In another gallery, *Bouba* would look different – it grows inside the space it’s in, like a mysterious plant or a huge mushroom.

Now, go inside the installation. Touch the shapes that Justyna has made from foam. Test them for yourself and see how soft and bouncy they are. You can also smell them – what does the smell remind you of? Can you find the different textures? Which part of Justyna’s installation do you find the most cosy?

## (6) Krzysztof Topolski *Touching #4*, 2019

Touch the wooden floor, try to lie down or sit on it. What can you feel?

The wooden platform has been made to vibrate by the means of special apparatus installed underneath it. It turns sounds into vibrations – or, acoustic waves into kinetic energy. As a matter of fact, what you are experiencing are musical pieces. In this way, you can receive music composed by Krzysztof with your whole body. His work proves that sounds can be not only audible, but also tactile.

Focus on what you can feel. In which part of the platform can you feel the most vibrations? Does their intensity change? What would the piece of music that you can feel actually sound like? Dance to it!



(7) **Agata Królak**  
*Wow! Abstract!*, 2019

Agata Królak has invited you to create your own story, using magnetic shapes that she has cut out and painted herself. They don't look like anything specific but are, rather, these colourful shapes that you can combine into an abstract picture.

An image is a story made up of shapes and colours. Splashes of colour also have a particular shape and place. All these elements of the composition affect how we see it, even if they don't look like anything that we are familiar with in reality. What matters is the ambience, how many elements there are and how they are related to one another, the contrasts, the monotony... A large surface affects us differently than a small detail.

In front of you there is a huge blank wall and a whole lot of inspiring shapes. Make use of them! Create your own abstract picture. Let's get going!

(10) **Mateusz Kula**  
*The Alliance*, 2019

Come close to the structure by Mateusz Kula. Touch the objects that have been used to make it. Test for yourself what they are made of and what shapes they have. The artist has used readymade objects, some of which you may be familiar with from your own room – these are pieces of furniture and toys made by a popular company. The objects in the other group have not been designed for children. Can you guess who might use them?

Walking sticks, exercise tapes and special pillows are all equipment for the elderly. Think about your grandparents. How do they cope every day? How do they spend their time? Mateusz highlights the fact that – at different stages of our lives – each of us needs special equipment – children need aids for learning to walk, and grown-ups – aids to enable them to continue walking. Can you think of anything else that the world of children and that of pensioners have in common? Mateusz has mixed all the gathered objects together, making them into one, homogenous world – because, after all, every adult still has a bit of a child in them, and each of you will be an adult one day.

(8) **Alicja Bielawska**  
*The Wind Was Blowing and the Sea Breeze Brought Dreams Pouring In*, 2019

Enter Alicja Bielawska's colourful installation. You can get inside across the gently undulating, colourful stripes. See how you feel once inside. Do you think it is a tent, an unusual cloud or an open-work pavilion in the garden? Where could this work be set up? In what surroundings?

The lines of the construction ripple like branches in the wind, the colourful stripes resemble trickles of water, and the grass under our feet has turned red. In the world built by Alice, everything is possible and nothing is permanent. Shapes and colours change depending on the light; they are momentary phenomena. You can move them, watch them flicker, sit down inside the installation, or lie down and dream about the long journeys that we often return to in our dreams.

(11) **Robert Kuśmirowski**  
*PHONOMEN*, 2019

The mysterious *Phonomen* is a collection of apparatus, cabinets and electro-technical boxes, mostly unwanted, which Robert Kuśmirowski has gathered from closed factories and defunct production plants in order to look after them.

The inconspicuous grey contraption that he has brought to the exhibition produces sounds – music that the artist has composed. It has been put together from recorded sounds produced by similar devices such as an army radio transmitter or the radio broadcasting cabinet of the Stalowa Wola Steelworks. The sounds collected from these places became their last, farewell song. Today, such machines and buildings have ceased to exist and modern housing estates are built in their place. Robert wants to save their unique atmosphere from oblivion.

Think of the neighbourhood you live in: has anything changed in it lately? Maybe new buildings are being built? What stood in their place before?

(9) **Anna Panek**  
*Cut'n'Sew*, 2019

Paintings are usually painted on canvas. But Anna Panek has different ideas for painting. Her pictures are made from cut-up and patched together pieces of fabric with interesting textures. Here, the process of painting relies on laying down the pieces of fabric, and matching them up to find the rhythm of the ready-made colours. The lines created by sewing together the individual pieces play a very important role: they are the structure that organises the work. Paint often blurs the boundaries between different colours, but with sewing, the seams provide clear-cut border lines. Have you noticed any familiar shapes amongst them?

If you want to, you can climb one of the brightly coloured platforms and get even closer to the works.

Touch the paintings with your eyes closed – in what way does this change the way that you respond to them? Can you feel colour with your fingers?

(12) **Robert Kuśmirowski**  
*Pass It On*, 2019

Pupils of Bohaterów Pawiaka Primary School No. 210 and Ryszard Kaczorowski Primary School No. 356 guided by Sylwia Łakomiec

The work documents a painting experiment conducted with the pupils of grades 4 and 7 from two Warsaw primary schools under the direction of their teacher Sylwia Łakomiec. The idea for the experiment came from Robert Kuśmirowski. The artist proposed that the pupils play a game of painterly Chinese whispers. The first participant was to copy a reproduction of a painting chosen by Robert, and each succeeding pupil would copy the work of the previous one. In the exhibition we show some of the works that illustrate the sequence of changes that the work has undergone in the process. How does the last picture differ from the first? What do you think caused these differences?

The paintings have been made in a specific order but you can swap them around so as to create your own composition. When you have finished, rehang them as indicated on the photograph.

(13) **Norbert Delman**  
*Totem for the Harpy*, 2019

Norbert Norbert Delman has built an installation with a sculpture of a mysterious creature on the top. In Greek mythology and Roman mythology, harpies were half-woman and half-bird creatures who lived in the sea and caused violent gusts of wind to blow, bringing mortal danger to sailors.

Norbert has tried to appease these dangerous creatures by building for them a totem of their likeness. What does the harpy look like in the artist's vision?

Water bars the path to the harpy. The seas and oceans were once travelled by those who discovered new lands, by castaways and fugitives. During the workshop the children designed and made a raft, which could today be used as a means of transport if the climate were to change drastically. For people drifting on a raft the wind is their greatest ally.

Help us to appease the harpy. Take a piece of paper, fold it to make a ship and float it in the swimming pool.

Artists  
Alicja Bielawska, Norbert Delman, Zuzanna Hertzberg, Bartosz Kokosiński, Agata Królak, Mateusz Kula, Robert Kuśmirowski, Anna Panek, Krzysztof Topolski, Justyna Wiśniowska

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Jazdów 2, Warsaw  
www.u-jazdowski.pl

Animators  
In the gallery, there are facilitators throughout who inspire children to act, talk about individual works and ensure that they are used safely.

Educational and Public Programme  
The exhibition is accompanied by workshops which are part of our ongoing series: for the whole family – {How Does Art Taste?} and {Smykowizje}; for adults – {Art in Perspective}, {Let's Talk About Art}, {Art Knows No Age} and {Teacher in The Centre}. There is also a workshop for organised groups: {Creative School}.

Details, with dates  
www.u-jazdowski.pl and info@u-jazdowski.pl

Holiday Workshop  
Together with the workshop partners, the ING for Children Foundation and the ING Polish Art Foundation, we have prepared a series of holiday workshops intended for groups with limited access to culture.

Information and enrolling  
edukacja@u-jazdowski.pl

Accessibility  
The exhibition (with the exception of one work) is user-friendly for visitors with sensory malfunctions or those with disabilities. All visitors are welcome, regardless of age, ability, knowledge or viewpoint. Taking advantage of the sensory potential of the exhibition, we have group workshops that take into account different communication and visual needs. It is necessary to pre-book a mutually agreeable date for your visit.

Information and enrolling  
edukacja@u-jazdowski.pl

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Workshop Partners

The project has been part-financed from the funds of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage from the Culture Promotion Fund.

Media Partners

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland

FUNDACJA ING DZIECIOM  
FUNDACJA SZTUKI POLSKIEJ ING  
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KPS KPS  
Kadine Bebe.pl