

U-jazdowski

# {Project Room} 2019

28/03—05/05/2019

## Marta Krześlak

### *Party at the Artists' Club*

16/05—23/06/2019

Dom Mody Limanka

04/07—11/08/2019

Jan Moszumański-Kotwica

22/08—29/09/2019

Wiktoria Walendzik

10/10—17/11/2019

Horacy Muszyński

28/11/2019—05/01/2020

Róża Duda and Michał Soja

01/2020

Project Room Awards

## {Project Room}

Series of exhibitions by emerging Polish artists. All exhibitions are prepared especially for this space. Invited artists receive equal budget and support from the Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art. From among the projects presented this year, the international jury will select two exhibitions and award them the First Prize of 20,000 PLN and Second Prize of 10,000 PLN. The winners will be announced in January 2020.

Curator

**Marcin Polak**

Exhibition coordinator

**Olga Kozińska**

Exhibition series curator

Michał Grzegorzek

Exhibition series coordinator

Kamil Kuskowski

Promotion and communication

Justyna Gill-Mackiewicz

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Błażej Szkudłapski

Tomasz Załuski

Text  
Marcin  
Polak

A sensitive, lonely, polluted, moribund really coral reef. Beautiful, if slightly kitschy. Formed of colonies of reef-building coral polyps. The exhibition *Party at the Artists' Club* – on the bottom of the ocean – is a metaphor of visual artists and designers' work in the past, and perhaps today too.

Why have we chosen the ocean bottom with the reef as a leit-motif of the show? Sailing out to a coral reef is an escape to another world, just like art making is. Marta Krześlak found that world and the point of departure for the exhibition when reading about the specificity of visual artists' work in communist Poland.

Krześlak relates to a past that she has no personal experience of. She speaks, therefore, about her notions of it, and her voice bears a discernible trace of nostalgia. She recreates a world she doesn't know, presenting it as a beautiful, colourful land, the creation of which has required heavy physical work. The objects, resembling those from the ocean bottom, have been crafted by the artist specially for the exhibition. The opening-reception party will be a collective performance – a vehicle that will take us to the "ocean bottom" of the imagination.

While Krześlak's project is something like a nostalgic image of the past, it is nonetheless characterized by a certain faithfulness and authenticity. This is because the show has been co-designed by Maciej Jasiński, author of stage designs for televised galas and numerous festivals, including the Kołobrzeg Festival of Soldiers' Song, as well as by Bogdan Mozer, who designed sets for the cult movie *The Academy of Mr. Kleks*.

As part of preparations for the show, we talked to a number of visual artists who were active during the Polish People's Republic era as well as to researchers interested in the subject. The process will be summarized and the exhibition complemented by a discussion, during which we will try to define the roles of the visual artist and the artist, and to decide whether such a distinction makes sense at all.

Thanks to artists' commitment and solid artistic education, post-war Poland saw many outstanding projects realized in the fields of the visual arts and design. We want to look more closely at the conditions of the professional work of visual artists in communist Poland and to compare them with those faced by their counterparts today.

We realize that during the communist period recognized artists did hackwork to make a living and perhaps they weren't interested in publicizing the fact. The subject of such work, though sometimes embarrassing and still poorly researched, can offer an interesting platform for comparisons and for reflection on the contemporary realities of the artist's profession.

## Marta Krześlak

(b. 1994) is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź (2018). She also studied in the Faculty of Media Arts in Warsaw and at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Lyon. Winner of the Grand Prix at the Young Wolves Art Festival, the Grey House Foundation Prize, and the Best Art Graduation Project in Gdańsk, all in 2018. Her works have been presented in numerous group and solo exhibitions in Poland and internationally.

Recipient of research grants from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and the Marshal of Łódź Voivodship. Her artistic preoccupations revolve around dreams, memories, remembered or imagined landscapes. Using found objects, she constructs narratives in which she analyzes the nature of human action, often stressing its absurdity. She lives in Grabina near Łódź.

Ujazdowski Castle  
Centre for Contemporary Art

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