



Pola Dwurnik, Apolonia's Dream Garden, 2011-2012, oil on canvas

Guest Lecture/ Workshop/ Presentation Pola Dwurnik "In Alcina's Land"

Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guestprofessorship for World Literature

Wednesday, 05 November 2014, 14-16h
University of Bern, Uni Tobler, F-123

In Alcina's Land

Pola Dwurnik, Visual Artist and Guest Speaker, Warsaw and Berlin
Dr. Joanna Bator, Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guest Professor, Warsaw

In the sixth canto of *Orlando Furioso*, a heroic epic poem, first published in Ferrara in 1516, Ludovico Ariosto created the character of the wanton sorceress Alcina. Having been transformed by magic into an extraordinarily attractive woman, she makes young men fall in love with her, and when she tires of them, she turns her lovers into trees, waterfalls, stones, or, mostly, animals. In Alcina's land, any plant, any wild bird, or any other creature may be a man from Alcina's past. This is the garden of the subconscious and the desires which lurk in it, the mystery of love and the punishment for succumbing to desire.

In my works I follow the witch Alcina. Using her method, I try to analyze and visualise my subconscious, my past and my future, as well as the fears, obsessions and dreams of the contemporary society. Animals, dragons, hybrids, ghosts, all kinds of incredible creatures surround us and create our world. They have been present here long before we were born and they have been present here all the time.

In addition to the lecture, Pola Dwurnik will also give a small live performance where she will paint her personal Godzilla.

Readings: Michal Witkowski, *Lubiewo*, 2007.



Pola Dwurnik, visual artist and art historian. She was born in 1979 in Warsaw and has been working mainly with oil painting, gouache, various drawing media and mail art. She has been also active as a self-publishing artist, essayist and editor. In 2004 she graduated from the University of Warsaw. In 2004 and 2005 was a resident of Stiftung Laurenz-Haus in Basel. In 2010 was a resident of a mobile art platform The Knot in Berlin, Warsaw and Bucharest. Her works were included in shows in CCA Zamek Ujazdowski in Warsaw, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, MOCAK Museum for Contemporary Art in Kraków, The Contemporary Museum in Wrocław, Kunstsalon Bel Etage in Berlin, Galeria Arsenał in Białystok, Galeria Lokal 30 in Warsaw and in many others in Poland and abroad. Lives and works in Berlin and Warsaw.

www.poladwurnik.com

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