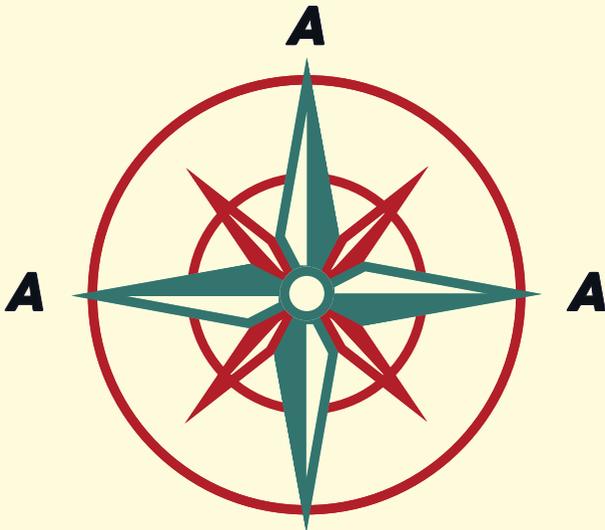


MAGICAL ENGAGEMENT

GUIDE



The 'Magical Engagement' exhibition may be explored by following one of the trails: the activist, the educational one or the trail of magical engagement through art. The trails cross at certain points and share the same segments. Every path has its own guide.



THE ACTIVIST TRAIL



On the activist trail, which is loosely divided into stations in the form of “altars” dedicated to water, air, earth, forest, animals and movements, one can meet entities whose every-day invisible work of care is the foundation of life on earth. The engagement of the activists who work in collectives with the non-human species make it possible to articulate the needs of those co-inhabitants of earth, who can’t speak.



Forest

Forest is an extremely important and rich ecosystem. Thanks to the photosynthesis processes, which occur in the green parts of plants, oxygen is produced and carbon dioxide is consumed. Animals could not breathe without plants. Old rotten trees are vital for proper functioning of a forest. In all types of forests it is possible to distinguish particular layers: groundcover, canopy and unique environment created by tree trunks. Each layer is inhabited by distinctive fauna and flora.



PRO FOREST INITIATIVES:

CHLOROPHYLL OUT THE WINDOW

Residents of the houses behind the White Eagle housing estate in Poznań and the „Niespokojne nogi [Trouble Legs] „ band are protesting and singing against the cutting down of 80 trees under noise barriers as part of the road reconstruction planned by the city.

WILD CARPATHIANS INITIATIVE is a grassroots citizens' movement that calls for protection of the unique nature of the wildest areas of the Carpathian forests from the influence of exploitative forest management and hunting.

LOCALS FOR THE FOREST

residents of Białowieża and the surrounding areas who work for the Białowieża Forest, aiming to protect it from human greed. The group cooperates with Obóz dla Puszczy [Camp for the Forest].

Camp for the Forest – a grassroots group of people working for protection of the Białowieża Forest, which is the last natural forest of lowland Europe. The group holds to the idea of self-organisation. Their goal is to establish a National Park covering the area of the entire Białowieża Forest.

THE BEECH FOREST – Klub Kniejołaza [Forest-walker Club] is an association devoted to protection of nature and sightseeing activities in the area of the Beech

Forest and the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. Logging operations are becoming more and more extensive, and the Forest is the key area for the conservation of West Pomeranian beechwood forests

GOODBYE TO THE CHEST-NUT was an event organised on February 8, 2020 by Rada Osiedla Jeżyce [Jeżyce Residents' Association] and residents of the district. In spite of protests, the tree has been cut down due to the construction of a residential and commercial building.

THE PLANNED TURNICKI NATIONAL PARK – the planned park covers the constantly shrinking area of the relict Carpathian Forest [Puszcza Karpacka], which is home to entities that are vulnerable to human pressure. As it is being turned into commercial forests, it remains under growing pressure of raw materials and forest management. The Carpathian Forest has also been known as a prestigious setting for killing animals for pleasure.

STOP TO LOGGING IN POZNAŃ is an initiative of Poznań residents who oppose unnecessary tree clearings in the city.

THE 40-DAY PROTEST AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOTORWAY WHICH PASSES THROUGH ST. ANNE MOUNTAIN [GÓRA ŚW. ANNY] (APRIL 30 – JUNE 8, 1998).



Air

Air is a mixture of gases and aerosols which constitute the atmosphere of Earth. The increasing amounts of carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitric oxide and dust in the air result in the rising global average temperatures, produce smog, ozone hole and acid rain, as well as negatively influence breathing processes of animals, including humans, and the photosynthesis processes. There is no life without oxygen..

Hanna Husberg, „Blue”, 25 min.

The video is a part of the installation entitled „Often people ask how birds are affected by the air”. It is based on interviews and conversations with Beijing residents about how they feel and perceive the air. The artist is also interested in the way in which this ephemeral being is managed and how it is talked about depending on cultural context. In China, the fog caused by pollution is called „wumai”.

Polish Smog Alert is a social movement bringing together local smog alerts in the entire country, such as Poznań Smog Alert.

Water

Water is the living and sentient matter flowing through continents, valleys, sewer systems, stems, arteries and veins. It is the most common substance in the Universe. It exists in liquid, solid and gas form; it can be found in clouds, planetoids, glaciers, leaves, plasma and tooth enamel. Unfortunately, every third human inhabitant of the planet is deprived of access to drinking water. Every year, on March 22, World Water Day is celebrated in order to show respect and draw attention to the fact that without water there is no life.



WATER PROTECTION INITIATIVES:

FLOW – transdisciplinary artistic activities taking place on the Vistula River and its banks. For artists, curators and social activists, the river is a starting point for being and working together in order to revive the idea of art as an experiment, without any predetermined results and without the necessity to produce objects.

THE MARE FOUNDATION – the main mission of the MARE Foundation is to protect marine ecosystems by calling for social and political changes. We fight for the future in which society develops ecological awareness and sensitivity, and lives in harmony with seas and oceans

THE COALITION TO SAVE THE ROSPUDA VALLEY – a grassroots social movement created by a number of environmental organisations. Thanks to many organised protests, legal actions and, finally, long-lasting barricades in the field, the planned Augustów bypass did not destroy the Rospuda Valley.

SAVE THE RIVERS COALITION – the coalition brings together organisations devoted to protection of Polish rivers, streams and wetlands, as well as scientists, organisations, individuals, local governments and institutions that care deeply about the fate of Polish rivers and aquatic ecosystems.

VISTULA SPIT CAMP – an informal grassroots social movement which decided to express strong

objection to illegal devastation of nature in the area protected by the Natura 2000 network.

RIVER SISTERS – an initiative organised by Kolektyw Matki Polki na Wyrębie [Polish Mothers on Tree Stumps] and Save the Rivers Coalition with an aim of protecting the Vistula and Polish rivers from planned regulations and damming. Siostry Rzek draw attention to the social value of clean and natural rivers.

DAM THE DAM – a series of protests against the construction of the dam in Czorsztyn in the early '90s; the protests lasted for three years. The groups Ruch Wolność i Pokój (WiP) [Freedom and Peace movement], "Wolę być" [I prefer to be] and Federacja Anarchistyczna (FA) [Anarchist Federation] took part in the protests.



Animals

Animals are multicellular heterotrophic organisms with eukaryotic cells. They may have a skeleton or not; they may walk on hundred, four or two legs; they may crawl, swim and fly. Thanks to the developed nervous system, they can feel, form relationships, build societies and cultures, procreate and kill one another.



ORGANISATIONS AND GRASSROOTS GROUPS WORKING FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION:

ANIMAL REBELLION – a sister organisation to XR (Extinction Rebellion), which aims to contribute to the debate on climate change by being the voice of those who cannot be heard – animals.

ANIMAL SAVE MOVEMENT / POZNAŃ I TORUŃ – an international initiative which brings together the witnesses of “farm” animals suffering, and promotes veganism and activism based on compassion.

INITIATIVE FOR ANIMALS BASTA! – members of the initiative fight for animal rights and promote a lifestyle that does not inflict cruelty on other beings; they cooperate with groups and organisations in and outside the country, as well as with the residents of different cities and villages who oppose setting up factory farms.

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT – The ALF branches do not form a unified structure but a collection of autonomous and self-proclaimed groups which operate clandestinely, similarly to Earth First. It is worth mentioning that we only have one holiday, namely “Noc Ziemi” [Earth Night] celebrated from January 1 to December 31 [a reference to a song by the Polish band Guernica y Luno].

WOMEN MUSHROOM GATHERERS AGAINST HUNTERS – an informal group of people who actively oppose killing animals and depriving the space of the forest of human and inhuman beings living in it..

THE CARPATHIAN ANTIHUNTING MOVEMENT – a grassroots initiative created to actively oppose hunting. It operates in the Eastern Carpathians, from the Low Beskid to the Przemyskie Foothills to the Bieszczady Mountains

OUR HEDGEHOGS – the active protection of hedgehogs in Poland, including their rehabilitation and saving baby hedgehogs. The association organises the annual Dzień Jeża [Hedgehog Day] in the Poznań Palm House.

LET THEM LIVE! – a coalition of dozens of organisations whose goal is to put an end to bird hunting. The coalition calls for a moratorium on killing 13 wild bird species which are listed as game animals.

OPEN CAGES – a Polish nationwide organisation founded in 2012, whose members strive to change the fate of farmed animals.

POZNAŃ AGAINST HUNTERS – a group working for wild animals protection, fighting against hunting in Poznań and the surrounding areas.

WORKSHOP FOR ALL BEINGS – the goal of the association is to work for the protection of wildlife, the most precious natural areas

and their natural biological processes. The activities of Pracownia are aimed to preserve complex ecosystems with all their species, processes and natural cycles.

DEER RUT FOR DEER, NOT FOR HUNTERS – a social movement against killing deer during the rutting season, which condemns illegal hunting practices. The campaign is meant to start an informed debate on the real impact of hunting on nature.

OUR BEAVER ASSOCIATION – our main mission is to officially list the European beaver as a strictly protected species, as well as to educate society and officials about beavers' positive impact on our environment, so that they are perceived as allies in the fight against drought. We mediate between beavers and humans. We also fight for wetlands, marshes and rivers.

VIVA! [AKCJA DLA ZWIERZĄT] – an international organisation founded in 1994, which works for animal protection and promotes healthy lifestyle and diet. The foundation organises annual events, such as: Dzień bez Futra [No Fur Day], Ogólnopolski Tydzień Wegetarianizmu [Polish Vegetarian Week], Międzynarodowy Dzień Wegetarianizmu [World Vegetarian Day], Dzień Ryby [Fish Day]

WARSAW ANTIHUNTING MOVEMENT – an informal group of forest walkers

THE FREE COWS FROM DESZCZNO – a grassroots movement for providing care and finding a safe place to live for 190 cows saved from a pre-slaughter transport in the gmina Deszczno.



Earth

Earth is the living, thinking and sentient matter. It is the top layer of the Earth's crust, which is shaped from rock waste through the soil formation processes as a result of the energy flow between pedosphere (soil), biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere. It plays a key role in the circulation of water and matter in the Earth's ecosystem, purifying the environment. In its most active form, it becomes humus, the place of decomposition and synthesis. Every year, on December 5, World Soil Day is celebrated in order to remind human animals about its importance for the ecosystem.



ORGANISATIONS AND GRASSROOTS GROUPS WORKING FOR EARTH AND CLIMATE:

EKO-UNIA – the association supports and coordinates environmental citizens' initiatives whose goal is to implement the constitutional principle of sustainable development (eco-development) by means of: informative and educational activities; political lobbying; seeking and promoting systematic solutions; taking action towards the improvement of the law in regard to environment protection and the implementation of the principle of sustainable development; working towards the civil society development, European integration and equal participation of the Polish society in the European Union

ENDE GELÄNDE – an initiative for climate justice founded in 2019 in Germany, which initiates mass civil disobedience events.

FOUNDATION "DEVELOPMENT YES – OPEN-PIT MINES NO" – the Foundation's most important task is to support citizens' activities that oppose building new open-pit brown coal mines in Poland, including non-governmental organisations, associations and private persons that are against building new open-pit mines, as they struggle with the negative effects of the activity of those already existing. The Foundation is also devoted to promoting the development of the energy engineering based on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and local self-sufficiency.

GREENPEACE – an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1974, which works for the environment protection. Greenpeace has its offices in 55 countries all around the world. The main goals of the organisation are the following: slowing down climate change, forest and ocean protection, stopping whaling, opposing the nuclear energy and promoting renewable energy, opposing genetic engineering, phasing out toxic chemicals.

THE CLIMATE CAMP – an informal group of people who seek to regain climate justice for everyone, not only humans; they actively oppose brown coal mining in Wielkopolska [Greater Poland].

OCCUPY CHEVRON – a protest of the inhabitants of Żurawłów, Rogów, Szczelatyn and Siedlisko, which began in 2013 and was directed against the illegal actions of the Chevron company that planned to search for and, as a consequence, extract shale gas through hydraulic fracturing.

LIMITY JSME MY [We are the limits] – a grassroots citizens' movement against coal mining and coal burning, which brings together people from various activist and non-activist groups from all around the Czech Republic.



SAVE IMIELIN – a social initiative whose aim is to mobilise the inhabitants and inform them about the planned project “Hard coal mining from the Imielin-North deposit,” and to support the measures taken by the City Council in this area.

ECO-PRZYJEZIERZE ASSOCIATION – the main reason for the foundation of the association was the need to formally legitimise its members’ activity for the protection of Ostrowskie Lake and the Gniezno Lake District [Pojezierze Gnieźnieńskie]. The association alerts the inhabitants and authorities to the problem of a drastic decrease in water levels of the lakes located near the Konin Coal Mine

DEFEND POLESIE– a campaign against setting up new coal mines in the area of the UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve, near the Polesie National Park.



Movements

Movements occur within matter: in earth, air, water, forest, objects, animals' bodies, and between them all. They bring things together and draw them apart, create temporary alliances and hybrid collectives. When active, they cut through modernist dichotomies, especially those at the crossroads of naturecultures.



EXTINCTION REBELLION

(abbrv.: XR) – an international socio-political movement which protests against politicians' inaction in regard to climate change, biodiversity loss, and the risk of human extinction. The movement's symbol is an hourglass – the extinction symbol.

disobedience actions. The motto of the group is: Mom is one. There are no compromises in defending Mother Earth!

GAJA CLUB – founded in 1988, one of the oldest Polish social organisations working for the environment protection and animal rights. The club's mission is to protect the planet and preserve the environment and biological diversity for the contemporary and future generations.

FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE (SWEDISH: SKOLSTREJK FÖR KLIMATET) – an international movement of schoolchildren and students who protest during school hours against politicians' inaction in regard to global warming and human-made climate change. It was inspired by Greta Thunberg's strikes in Sweden in 2018.

I PREFER TO BE – an environmental and peace movement created in 1984 and based on the "Na Przełaj" [Cross-country] weekly; it remained active until 1993 and was one of the largest alternative movements in Poland.

GREEN WAVE – a grassroots environmental organisation bringing together anti-capitalism and climate justice; it alerts through the social media about measures destructive for environment, organizes protests and civil



THE ARTISTIC TRAIL



In the process of forming human-and-non-human collectives composed of entities with very different linguistic competencies, it is useful to practise art, considering its inclusive, sensual nature and willingness to experiment. A careful traveller following this trail will surely notice informal combinations of animism, politics, folklore, and feminist passion for the thinking and sentient matter.



Jadwiga Anioła
„Pająk”, 2020

A traditional decoration made from straw and paper, which serves aesthetic and magical functions. “Spiders” are a symbol of happiness and prosperity, they serve as a good omen for the future. The multicoloured “Pająk” created by Jadwiga Anioła has a geometrically complex bell-like structure.

I was born on April 27, 1971 in Poznań. I have been living in Rogalinek, the home village of my parents and grandparents, since I was born. I am a trained cook, but since I was 16 years old, I have been making harvest festival wreaths [wieńce dożynkowe]. Before that, the wreaths in my village had been woven by Maria Dłubała, a housewife living near the church in Rogalinek. One day, she came to me and said that from then on, I would be making the wreaths. I do not know how and from whom she had found out that I might be good at it. She rode a bike and brought a bunch of grain sheaves and other necessary materials, and said that I had to make a wreath for the harvest festival [Dożynki] in our parish. That was the beginning of my adventure with harvest festival wreaths. Since 2002, I have been making scratched Easter eggs [kraszanki ryte]. I have learnt about that tradition at home. At Easter time, my grandmother Anastazja used to dye eggs with natural colourants and then scratch them to create different patterns. Since 2015, I have been decorating eggs using

the batik technique which I have learnt from Danuta Haraszkiwicz, a Folk Artist from Dąbrowa Białostocka. I create different designs according to my own ideas. Moreover, I make ritual bread and pastry products: yeast-dough baskets, yeast pretzels and Easter babkas. Since 2014, I have also been creating straw decorations and crêpe-paper flowers. I have learnt most of the skills from my grandmother Anastazja and my aunts. Since November 2019, I have been the chairwoman of the Wielkopolska branch of the Folk Artists’ Association [Stowarzyszenie Twórców Ludowych] in Lublin





Natala Biało
Σίλφιον, 2020

ceramic fountain (height: approx. 70 cm, without the base) which alludes to the images of the silphium plant on ancient coins.

Silphium (Greek: Σίλφιον – sílphion, Latin: silphium) – a plant whose sap was known and used in antiquity, in the entire Mediterranean region. The plant was attributed with many properties – it was considered a panacea, antiseptic, laxative, contraceptive and abortifacient. It was one of the main exports of the ancient Greek colony Cyrene. The harvested plant was kept in treasuries, and the trade was subject to strict control. The images of silphium on the coins from Cyrene attest to its importance during that period. It supposedly resembled a giant dill plant, and its fruit might have served as a prototype for the heart symbol. As of today, no one has managed to unequivocally identify it as any known species. It is probably one of the first plant species which went extinct as a result of human activity.

Natala Biało, born in 1995 in Bielsko-Biała. She works with 3D graphics and ceramics. A member of the Niemniej [Nevertheless] collective.

Anna Błachno
"Ursus i Amanita" [Ursus and Amanita], 2016

acrylic and agar on a duvet cover

A work from the animalistic series which gives voice to the irresistible desire to depict nature in its realistic form, to present its beauty as it is, without deformation or anthropomorphism, by getting familiar with every blade of grass. Still, realism likes to be magical. Ursus (a bear) enters the world of a secret forest with magical and visionary Amanita (a fly agaric). The canvas – a recycled duvet cover – brings us closer to sleep, and together with Amanita – to a twisted night dream and towards a vision with the summoned power animal.

Anna Błachno – a graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, programme: Visual Arts Education, specialisation: Intermedia Art. From 2011 to 2015, she worked as a lecturer in drawing, painting and sculpture within the Landscape Architecture programme at the Białystok University of Technology. In recent years, she gave up on artistic activity in order to work for nature. Today, she is reaching the point where she can combine both these areas. As a result, she creates works in the traditional veganist painting technique, among others, for example the "Natura 3000" exhibition. She values and creates art which is just like life: **aware, ethical, environmental**, and close to nature, including one's own.

Aśka Borof
Makatki [Makatka tapestries
(2019)

Makatka is a type of an embroidered or painted fabric. Makatka used to come in different sizes, depending on where they were displayed. Long rectangular fabrics were hung above the bed, while the square or diamond ones were placed on the walls. Makatka served a decorative function. They used to depict fairy-tale and religious scenes, flowers and animals. I was a child when I saw a makatka for the first time – I was spending holidays in my grandmother's house in the country. It hung above the bed and smelled like oil paint and dust. From my childhood imagination, I remember a leg of an elephant and a hunting hat. That piece of a dark and obscure fabric made me feel scared and safe at the same time. In my makatka I have combined painting with embroidered flames. It is a recollection of the forest fires in Siberia.

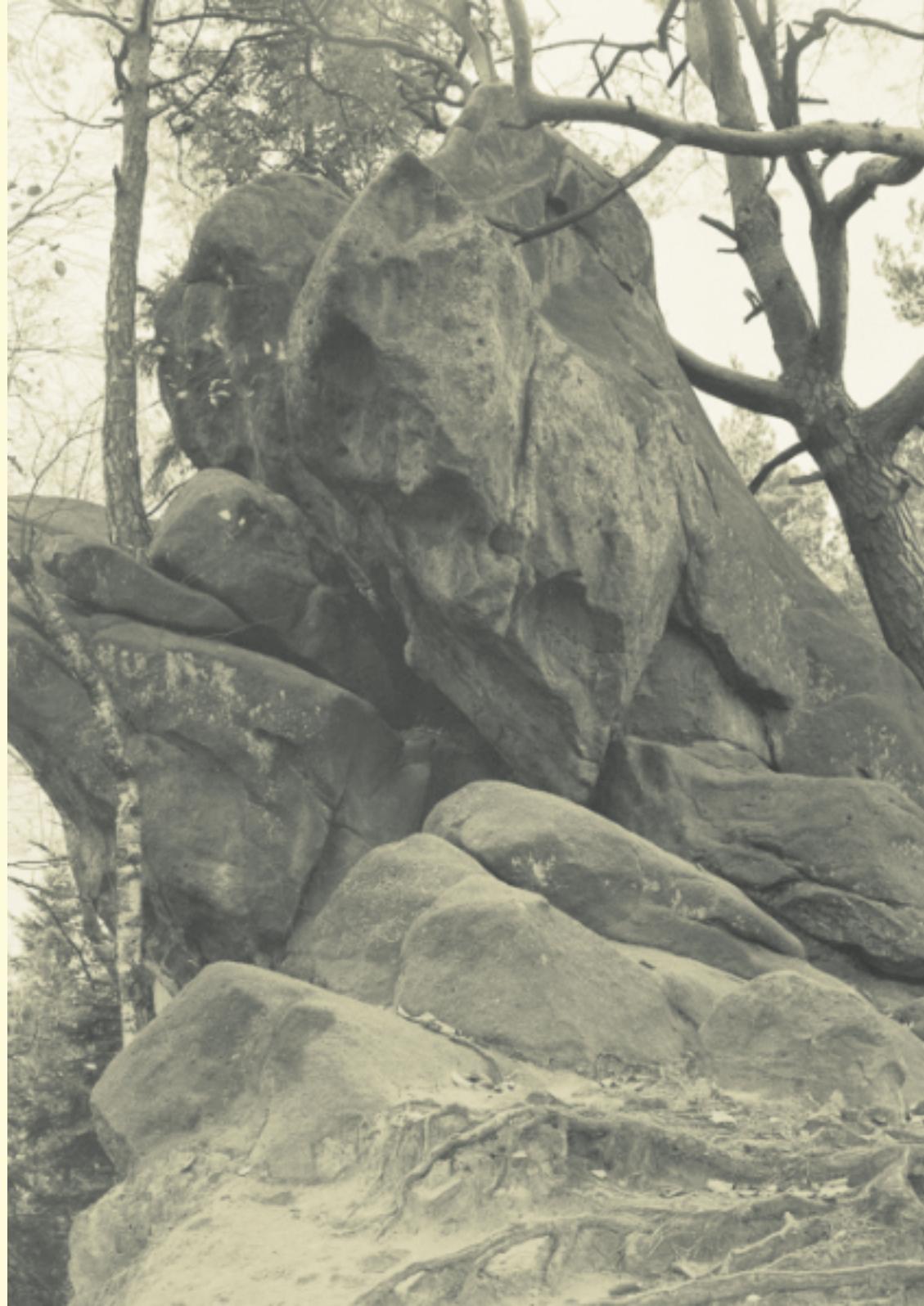
Aśka Borof – a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk; she obtained her degree in Painting and Graphic Arts in 2004. She is a member of the Associated Territories [Terytoria Stowarzyszone] creative group and the Odłam Żdźbło [Grass Blade Fraction] singing and performance quartet; she is also a co-founder of the Trzycórki [Threedaughters] trio and a recipient of the Cultural Grant of the City of Gdańsk.

Damien Brailly
„Diabelski kamień” [Devil's stone],
2019–2020

A series of black and white photographs in different sizes

Devil's Stones [Diabelskie Skaty] are geological formations which stand out from the surrounding area due to their massive size and unusual shape. They stir people's imagination and inspire legends and tales, such as the one about a devil carrying the stones in its claws and then dropping them near Bukowiec. The series of photographs is accompanied by the mapped locations of the stones and a short text about their geological and cultural history. The photographs of the stones address the human tendency to translate incomprehensible natural processes into a system of beliefs. Devil's Stones are glacial erratics, sculptural relics of the glacial period.

Damien Brailly uses photography as a medium for exploring different territories and the ways they are inhabited. For several years now, he has been organising exhibitions in French villages, involving their residents in the process and, at the same time, presenting contemporary artistic practices to a wider and more diverse audience. Recently, he has been working seasonally at a fruit and vegetable farm in a village near Lyon. He spends his free time in Poland, his second home, usually riding a bike.



Ewa Ciepielewska

"Kuskus" [Spilocuscus], "Niebieska pantera" [The Blue Panther], "Nausagi/Zajączek z księżycą" [Nausagi/The Moon Bunny], "Śnieżny samobieżny" [The Self-Speedy Snowy]
Paintings, oil on canvas

The Snow Leopard, Spilocuscus, Bunny and Black Panther emerged from Nature one day, just like you and me. Some time later, each one of them happened to be caught. At different times and in different ways, they all had to give away their images to the Devices, Machines and Inventions. Thanks to that, a lot of People could see them, including me. Small invisible hands came out of my eyes (as they do every time I lift my eyelids), greedily grabbed their flat bodies and dragged them inside. They lived with me forever. I fed them with fiction and popular science books, served with antiqua and blackletter, and they grew bigger and brighter, dispelling the darkness of the maze. I liked to care for them but I felt that it was, naturally, time to let them go. The solution was foreshadowed by a white screen whose size and proportions lured me like an open gate. They emerged from it in the following order: Spilocuscus – an ancestor from the forest, Nausagi the Moon Bunny, the Blue Panther and the Self-Speedy Snowy. They do not eat, drink or flee at the sight of a human, but they silently evoke these flesh-and-blood animals in the name of living in the wild!

Ewa Ciepielewska, a painter, author of open-air performances, activist, nature lover. She was born in 1960 in Wałbrzych. A graduate of the Faculty of Painting at the Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław. She has been a member of the Luxus group since 1982. She lives and works in Kraków. For twelve years, she has been sailing a wooden boat along the whole Vistula River (941 km), downstream and upstream, working towards preservation of the river in its natural state. In 2015, during the waterway journey from Kraków to Orléans in France, together with Kola Śliwińska, she developed and transformed the project of reviving traditional timber rafting into an artistic residency on a boat. One year later, in cooperation with an artist Agnieszka Brzeżańska, she initiated the FLOW/Przeptyw recurrent project whose participants are visual artists, musicians, performance artist and curators. In September 2016, the project had its Berlin edition on the Heimatland barge, a historical unit moored in Alter Hafen. In 2018, Flow/Przeptyw took part in the international exhibition "How to talk with birds, trees, fish, shells, bulls and lions" in Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin.

Michał Chomiuk

"Molfar," oil on canvas, 2013
"Kroćpak i nocnitsas from Praszzywka" [Kroćpak and nocnitsas from Praszzywka], 2005
Short stories

My name is Michał Chomiuk and I was born on Saturday on April 10, 1976 at 9 p.m. in Michów (a small ex-Jewish town located in the Lubartów County in the Lublin Voivodeship). My adventure with painting started very early – as a child I really liked drawing, scribbling in notebooks (and sometimes on school desks too) during classes, and later on also painting. I sketched and drew a lot in those days. In 2000, I got into the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and started to study painting (Faculty of Arts). It all started when my friend's grandmother got me curious by telling incredible stories about the pre-war Michów where devils, demons and magic were all at your fingertips. Fascinated, I started asking other elderly people and taking notes. Mythological and demonological creatures present in folk consciousness play an important role also in my writing (novellas and short stories). I went to various places in Poland: the Polesie, Roztocze and Podlasie regions, the Beskid Mountains, etc., getting to know more and more stories and exploring the ropes of the incredible folk "magic.". Currently I am working on a third book consisting of legends and stories from the Podlasie region (the environs of the Białowieża Forest and Biebrza River). Apart from folk culture and demonology, I have always been very much

inspired by nature – the entire God's Creation: forests, mountains, rivers, ravines, wildernesses [uroczyska], lakes, meadows, and vast areas covered with snow. My love for nature is reflected in my art, as well as is my involvement in the environment protection (I am one of the founders and the chairman of the "Zielona Swoboda" [Green Liberty] association, as well as a coordinator of the majority of its projects and activities). For more than 25 years, I have been organizing autumn-winter patrols fighting against poaching in the Lublin Voivodeship.

Adelina Cimochowicz
„Spizarnia”[The Pantry], 2018
installation

A fragment of the installation dedicated to the DOMIE centre – a supply of more than 150 jars full of pickled goods prepared in late autumn in 2018, during the artist's short stay in Poznań.

“This is how the Pantry started to form. A place for stockpiling, saving food and protecting oneself. By using special shelves for preserves, the artist refers to the techniques of barricading and self-defence. She creates a catalogue of states we experience and a toolkit we could use when faced with the apocalypse. Catering for the end of the world.”

(An excerpt from the curatorial text by Tomek Pawłowski and Katarzyna Wojtozak, which accompanied the “Pantry” exhibition)

Adelina Cimochowicz (born in 1992) – a visual artist working with photography, video, and social and kitchen activities. She examines critical emotional states and psychological breakdowns. She graduated in architecture from the Białystok University of Technology and from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (Faculty of Media Art).

Małgorzata Gurowska
In collaboration with **Monika Rogowska-Stangret**
“MANDRAGORA,” 2015 – 2020
stop motion animation + graphic part
duration of the animation: in an endless loop

Mandragora is a plant that can be healing and poisonous at the same time. It is an inspiration for myths and beliefs, fodder for imagination, fears, and hearsay. It is a human-shaped plant, which stresses the integrity of the world of nature and humans. Mandragora's ambiguity is disturbing, it resonates well with the subject of otherness, non-normativity. Mandragora is disturbing. It is human and non-human. It is neither an animal, nor human, nor plant. It is pure biology and pure culture. Beliefs, superstitions, myths, symbols, signs, languages. Roots, soil, bacteria, fungi, photosynthesis, nitrogen. It is rooted, but it can also be uprooted. Supposedly, it used to grow under the gallows, fed with semen of the hanged men flowing down to the ground, supposedly, when ripped out with the roots – it screams poignantly.

“WOTUM” [Votive offering]
silver, gold / wax

Małgorzata Gurowska is a visual artist, lecturer and curator. In her art, she takes into account the perspectives of other species, especially those exploited and discriminated by humans. For her, art is a tool of intervention and protest. She is an author and co-author of many books focusing on social and political issues, in which she critically describes relations between humans and non-humans.



Yoanna Gwarek
"Zdejmowanie zaklęć kapitalizmu codziennego" [Breaking the spell of daily capitalism]

Drawing on paper, the book of stories, 4 sketchbooks

Projekt Symbiosis [Symbiosis Project] is based on collecting people's stories from different places, cultures, environments and circumstances, then illustrating them and taking them to another place. It searches for roots, for what is important, for new ways and inspirations which can be shared. It is a travelling exhibition, a travelling never-ending non-book. Projekt Symbiosis can fit into a backpack and many a time it has travelled to far corners of the world, to exhibition spaces, as well as to social centres and public spaces.

Yoanna Gwarek is an illustrator and organiser of cultural activities. Born in Warsaw, she lived in Australia from 2015 to 2019, visiting Poland occasionally. In the years between 2016 and 2019 she lived in the land of the Arrernte and Warumungu people in Central Australia, working with Aboriginal communities. She worked in Aboriginal art centres, developing her skills as a flora and fauna illustrator. She creates holistic projects, combining art with intergenerational approach, touching upon social and environmental issues, and preserving local knowledge and language referring to edible and medicinal plants. Since 2012, she has been running the independent Projekt Symbiosis, in which she co-creates the illustrated short stories.

Cecylia Malik
"Łosoś Wiślany"[Vistula Salmon] - a sculpture-raft, made in cooperation with Piotr Dziurdzia.

Objects and documentation of activities from the archive of the Sisters Rivers.

The fish-shaped raft was created for the performance for the eighth Water Critical Mass. Salmon accompanied the rafting of the Vistula River Sisters from Krakow to Gdansk in July 2019. The salmon reached the sea. It was launched on the waves of the Baltic Sea during the Fish Day at Hel, organized by the Marine Station and the Gaia Club. At the exhibition, I will also show the unruly objects of the Sisters Rivers, such as banners, a flag, river nameplates and a part of the "Fashion for Rivers" collection, i.e. hand-embroidered, recycling, engaged swimwear. The installation will be enriched with photos and films documenting the actions of the Rivers Sisters of 2018 and 2019.

Cecylia Malik - Sister of the Rivers - founder of the collective. Cracow resident, artist, activist and ecologist. Co-founder of "Modraszek Kolektyw" and Water Critical Mass. Co-founder of the Squirrel Centre Association [CSW Wiewiórka] - an informal cultural institution and art studio for activists. Author of the project "365 Trees", "6 Rivers" and "Białka's Plaits" - in defense of the Białka River against regulation. An activist involved, among others, in rescuing Zakrzówek in Krakow from the developers. She is active in the Coalition for the Rescue of Rivers, which was established in defense of the last natural rivers in Poland against regulation and partitioning. She is the initiator of the action "Polish Mother's at the Felling". She is the originator of widely discussed happenings and performances. To be happy, she needs beautiful wild nature, every day, not only on a holiday, so she fights for the preservation of the last natural rivers of Europe. Mother of Antek, Urszulka and Ignaś. She works on a grand scale thanks to the support and help of her mother and Sister of the River Anna Malik, and her bro, husband and fellow Piotr Dziurdzia.

Olga Anna Markowska
"Las jest pamięcią" [Forest is the memory], 2016, video, duration: 2:03 A series of photographs in different sizes, 2013-2020 Wax objects

The works presented at the exhibition were created throughout many years and constitute a collection of different series. They are a collection of memories; fairy-tale images from a diary, photographs of loved ones surrounded by beloved nature. Using emotive photographs and videos, the artist proves that nature is not a capitalised artefact, but, above all, our home, the place for meetings, experiences and feelings. In her work, Markowska puts time and space under a magical spell by means of, among others, a thurible, beeswax, and scented oils made from handpicked herbs from the Białowieża Forest.

Olga Anna Markowska (born in 1993 in Łomża) - a graduate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk. An interdisciplinary artist concerned with the topics of memory, silence, music and longing. As a photographer, she takes a close look at the boundaries between nature and body, as well as at the changes and complexities of human relationships. Using different media, she creates multidimensional site-specific installations.



Odłam Żdźbło [Grass Blade Fraction]
„Rytuał” [Ritual], 2020
video, duration: 30:00

The members of the singing and performance group include: Aśka Borof, Agnieszka Błonkiewicz, Anna Darska and Anna Niechwiadowicz. They are all interested in folk culture and music. They take part in various workshops, exploring the secrets of natural singing. The costumes we perform in are made of old sheets, yellowed curtains, a tablecloth with a cigarette burn, and doilies from the unit furniture. The inspiration for the creation of the costumes were bridal gowns from different European countries. On the wedding day a bride dressed in the most festive way possible, to be easily distinguished from the rest of the participants of the celebration. The most outstanding element of the bridal attire was the headwear. Veils, flower crowns, ribbons: these were the main sources of inspiration.

Klaudia Paliwoda
“Zachwyt i Smętek” [Admiration and Smętek], 2016-2019
Video, duration: 12:48

An experimental quasi-documentary about my childhood and coming back to my hometown. Do I have anything in common with the forgotten folk tales about Smętek, Topielec, and Rusalkas? My fascination with the topic seems self-explanatory when I wander across the Masurian fields all by myself, passing by malevolently rustling poplars, in order to reach the lake. I started with a fairy tale and ended with the form of a directed documentary in which the town of Pasym weaves its own story. I feel connected with my native Masuria, where devils, demons and magic epitomise the forces of nature. The action takes place without any dialogues, only one word is said. I decided to create the whole film myself: to play the main character, create the sound, shoot a few scenes and edit them. The camera operator was my only helper. I have worked on this film for two years. During the process I noticed that my story was not complete, the town started to tell its own story. I decided not to stick to the screenplay and focus on the documentary.

Klaudia Paliwoda, born in 1994 in Szczytno, a recipient of the Prime Minister of Poland scholarship in 2012 and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage scholarship (2013).

Matylda Konarska „Magical engagement map”
Production: Matylda Konarska

The map without political borders. The natural ones are marked by rivers, lakes and the sea. This is a slice of the world with a close-up on the areas between the Oder and the Bug, to the Baltic Sea. It shows that climate change is not included in the concept of nation. Droughts, tree felling, soil sterilization, resource extraction, violence against animals and nature returns to people - both those who do it and those who disagree with it - often the other way round with proportional force.

On the map, the places where nature is being destroyed are marked. They require activist and magical intervention. These are not all places, but only the part that is represented on exhibition on the activist route in "altars" dedicated to water, of earth, air, forest and animals. We encourage you to add points and the areas that we missed.

Daniel Rycharski
Strachy [Scares], 2018
Installation, courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw

In the Arsenal Gallery, Daniel Rycharski presents four of his Strachy – the crosses coming from different religious denominations, which were set up in a field to serve a dual purpose. On the one hand, they were to remind the villagers about their homosexual neighbours; on the other hand, their function was to scare away prejudices and wild animals. With the use of barbed wire, the author garnished brightly painted constructions with the clothes of LGBTQ people who lived in the village and experienced discrimination. The artist's first monographic exhibition in the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw in 2019 owed its title to this installation.

Daniel Rycharski is a visual artist and activist. He is involved in artistic activities in the rural areas, and creates rural street art. He was born in 1986 in Sierpc. He lives and works in Kurówek and Kraków.



SIORY [Sistas] / Ola Winnicka

"Występ" [Show], a video performance of the Siory group

The performance of the band founded by Ola Winnicka is a choreographic-sound story about tenderness and sisterly solidarity, giving rhythm to a world in pandemic. Siory is a romantic revolutionism, Joanna d'Arc in a nostalgic, urban-Polish-Mud landscape. The first album "SERCE" [Heart] will soon be released by Sejf & Dym.

The second vocalist and two dancers will also appear in the video recording. Apart from music, an important element of Siory's work is choreography and costumes.

Ola Winnicka - born in Opole, lives and works in Poznań. She is a multimedia artist, illustrator, painter, sculptor, animator and musician. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań at the Faculty of Printmaking. Her activities can be described in short as romantic revolutions. Founder of the Siory group.

Wspólnota międzygatunkowa+ [Interspecies Community+]

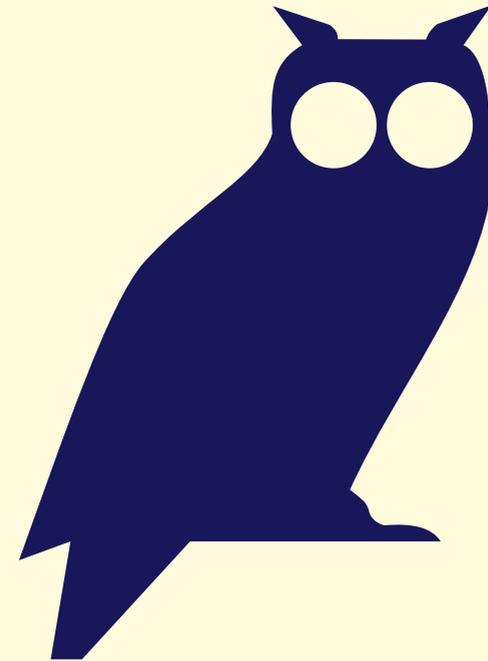
The community grew out of the ground and plastisfer, from the spaces between paving stones. Its purpose is to ruin the paradigm of Earth's submission to man. Uniting above the species divisions, the members demand the abolition of the hierarchical system based on ecocide and sucking the planet from its juices.

As part of the artistic trail of Magical Engagement, the Community will initiate a paving stones' garden by the Gallery, where shadowy plants such as the Buckhorn, Plantago major, or Sagina subulata will inhabit.





THE EDUCATIONAL TRAIL



By choosing the trail of collective development, one can experience the exhibition not only as a space for presentation, but also as a place for action. The trail runs through all of the exhibited objects, maps and "altars," tangles the orders, finds and loses the clues. It is a space for interaction, where seniors and teenagers meet, and the roles of guides, participants, senders and receivers get mixed up. Communication on the trail is multidirectional and poses questions about the role of each of the actants: Who is speaking? What? To whom? Why?

A guided exhibition tour (streaming)

Herbarium tales – a workshop for seniors and teenagers
moderators: Grażyna Wydrowska, Agata Witkowska

During the workshop, the participants will prepare their own commentary on the theme of the exhibition. The situations which have arisen in the last few months, such as quarantine, online education and limited access to culture, will be an important reference point. The aim of the workshop is to critically examine the connections between the pandemic and the climate crisis, as well as to look into the problems that, in the wake of the "new normality," can no longer be put aside. We will work with different tools, such as drama, theatre, photography and film, searching for our own forms of expression.

A guided tour with Extinction Rebellion (streaming)

moderators: Mieszko Świątoplek Sadek, Lena Osuch-Cierniak, Miłosz Lupiński, Dominika Krzyżanowska, Ola Gonera-Tafelska

Extinction Rebellion is a socio-political movement which protests against politicians' inaction in regard to climate change. The movement's symbol is an hourglass, which reminds us that there is less and less time to save different species, including humans, from extinction. Extinction Rebellion is famous for their radical actions during which – as a gesture of civil disobedience – they take over public spaces and stop the traffic. During the guided tour, we will get to know the demands and working methods of Extinction Rebellion, and we will talk about different ways in which we can express our emotions and speak out about the issues concerning the lives of us all, since governments have been deaf to our arguments.

How to make a spider that brings you luck? (a how-to video)

moderator: Jadwiga Anioła

Jadwiga Anioła, a folk artist, will show us how to make traditional decorations called spiders [pająki]. As an old folk saying goes, "Happy the home where spiders galore" [Szczęśliwy ten dom, gdzie pająki są] – this is why people used to hang them so willingly in their apartments. Today, not many people remember about this tradition, and the multicoloured decorations made of straw and crêpe paper are rarely seen under a ceiling. Jadwiga Anioła will show us, step by step, how to prepare a spider, and will also talk about the customs related to its creation.



Urban meadows (an educational film)

moderator: Tomasz Kniola

If the city decided to cut the grass less frequently than they do now, the urban lawns would soon become urban meadows – the areas where vegetation can freely grow and enrich itself with new species. The activists who co-create "Koalicja ZaZieleń Poznań" [Make Poznań Green Coalition] urge us to start appreciating green areas and leave them unutilised, that is stop mowing them so frequently. Thanks to this, the city would have lesser impact on climate change and would reduce its negative effects; it would also increase water retention, reduce the urban heat island effect, increase biodiversity, and result in the better quality of green areas in the city. Sometimes it is difficult to understand its great importance, mostly because the residents of the city got used to close-cropped lawns, so it is a good idea to listen to biologists and ecologists.

Fight drought with herbs – an ethnobotanical meteorological drift (a film)

moderators: Sara Grolewska and Anka Gruszka ("Dziewczyny w Naturze" [Girls in Nature])

In the wake of the climate crisis and unpredictable, harsh weather conditions, we will tell you how people tried to influence the weather with folk magic, and how they coped with the consequences of spells. Did plants have a chance to help or was their power only symbolical? Our drift will take the form of a spontaneous stroll, an unscripted ramble around the city/woods in search of magic plants. We will slip into the roles of sorceresses, weather whisperers and shamanesses who use herbs in order to invoke rain. Using the herbs and plants we will find in the city/woods, we will create magical objects: amulets, wands, talismans and incense for any weather. At the end, we will perform the ritual that will help all inhabitants of Earth – humans, animals, fungi and plants. We would like to invite everyone to watch the film, especially families with children and people interested in ethnobotany, which studies relationships between people and plants, and the traditional use of plants by humans. The authors are two herbalists from the "Dziewczyny w Naturze" [Girls in Nature] association: Sara Grolewska (Sara Dobre Ziele) and Anka Gruszka (Ruta Pindyrynda), who try to practise good ethnobotanical habits of our ancestors and ancestresses in everyday life.

Dating trees (a meeting in the garden)

moderator: Klaudia Lewczuk (Kolektyw Kąpielisko [Bathing Beach Collective])

Klaudia Lewczuk holds a radical view that we are all connected – everyone and everything. According to her, when she fights (together with many other people) for the preservation of an old tree in the city centre, she also fights for the right to clean air, for access to water and shade. The existence of that single tree exerts an influence on many other things and realities, so how can we not love it? After long weeks of lockdown and gazing at the screens, we shyly step into the garden and invite everyone to the meeting which was inspired by speed dating. We will start with a relaxation session and then, sharpening our senses, we will indulge in careful observation of nature in the garden. Typically, during a speed date, two beings share information about each other. We will, therefore, not only gaze at trees, fruit or insects, but also try to tell them something about ourselves and listen carefully to what they have to say, by engaging all our senses in experiencing this extraordinary date.

A good-omen spider – a workshop for children and teenagers

moderator: Paweł Błęcki

During the workshop, we will work together on an object inspired by the traditional folk art. Our collective spider will serve as a good omen for the future of every manifestation of life on Earth. Every participant of the workshop will prepare a separate element or a few elements of the spider, which will ultimately be pieced together. While working on the object, we will familiarise ourselves with the traditional method of making decorations, using mostly plastic objects which were washed ashore by the sea. We will have a chance to talk about the problems related to overproduction and rapid consumption of objects, which entail social, environmental and political risks. Together, guided by the principle of co-creation, and not competition, we will cast a good spell on the demons of the world which is full of inequality and suffering of human and non-human beings.

A support phone line for people who struggle with emotional consequences of climate change

therapist: Joanna Brzezińska

Climate depression is not a figment of one's imagination. Experiencing the climate crisis causes great anxiety in a lot of people. We invite everyone to talk to an experienced therapist who specialises in this field.



Magical Engagement

18.09 — 31.10.2020

The artistic trail:

Jadwiga Anjoła, Natalia Biało, Anna Błachno, Joanna Borof, Damien Brailly, Michał Chomiuk, Ewa Ciepielewska, Adelina Cimochoicz, Małgorzata Gurowska, Yoanna Gwarek, Hanna Husberg, Cecylia Malik, Olga Anna Markowska, Odłam Zdźbło, Klaudia Paliwoda, Daniel Rycharski, Ola Winnicka / SIORY, Wspólnota międzygatunkowa +

The activist trail:

BASTA! Inicjatywa na Rzecz Zwierząt, BRUK kolektyw akcyjno-reporterski, Ende Gelände, Extinction Rebellion, Flow, Fundacja Mare, Góra św. Anny, Grzybiarki Przeciwko Myśliwym, Inicjatywa Dzikie Karpaty, Karpacki Ruch Antyłowiecki, Klub Gaja, Lokalsi dla Puszczy, Limity jsme my, Młodzieżowy Strajk Klimatyczny, Nasze Jeże, Niech Żyją!, Obóz dla Klimatu, Obóz dla Mierzei Wiślanej, Obóz dla Puszczy, Occupy Chevron, Otwarte klatki, Polski Alarm Smogowy, Poznaniacy Przeciwko Myśliwym, Puszcza Bukowa, Ratujmy Imielin, Ratujmy Dolinę Rospudy, Projektowany Turnicki Park Narodowy, Rykowisko dla jeleni - nie dla myśliwych, Siostry Rzeki, Stowarzyszenie Eko-Przyjezierze, Stowarzyszenie Nasz Bóbr, Tama Tamie, Viva! Akcja dla zwierząt, W Obronie Polesia, Warszawski Ruch Antyłowiecki, Wolę Być, Zielona Fala

The educational trail:

Dziewczyny w Naturze: Sara Grolewska i Anka Gruszka, Magdalena Garczarczyk, Jan Kaczmarek, Robert Kalak, Tomasz Knioła, Michael Kurzweil, Michał Michlewicz, Klaudia Lewczuk

Guides:

Paweł Błęcki, Kinga Mistrzak, Zofia nierodzińska, Anna Siekiera

Collaboration:

Marta Bączyk, Julia Dziewit, Matylda Konarska, Marika Opas, Aleksandra Polerowicz, Jarek Rusiński, Karol Wundziński



