

Karolina Balcer



dr Katarzyna Mlynczak-Sachs
GENERAL MANAGER
+48 691 848 309

kontakt@krupagallery.pl
krupagallery.pl

Artist's bio:

Karolina Balcer (b. 1988) is a graduate of the Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław (2014) and interdepartmental doctoral studies at the same school (2017).

The media she uses are painting, video, installations in public space, and more recently tufting (carpet technique) or the textile method in its broadest sense. Her work often deals with architecture, which she treats as a tool for organising social or family life, but also as a refuge. Many of her projects begin with observations of people, social problems, including her own family. Between 2015 and 2019, she co-headed the Wykwit gallery in Wrocław. From 2017 to 2020, she was a member of the Wykwitex art collective. Since 2019, she has been heading the nomadic initiative Why Quit with Iwona Ogrodzka.

Since 2020 she has been working on a family project called Happy Family addressing mental health issues, culminating in a series of exhibitions with an accompanying education programme to raise awareness of mental health and homelessness. The series begins with an exhibition at the Zachęta Project Room. The publication Happy Family — poradnik zdrowia psychicznego [Happy Family — A Guide to Mental Health] will soon be published by Krupa Gallery and the Bęc Zmiana publishing house.

The artist currently lives and works in Warsaw.

Education: E. Geppert Academy of Art and Design, Faculty of Painting and Sculpture, Wrocław, Poland

karolinabalcer.com

Selected awards and residences:

2020 – Honorary distinction of the 14 IN OUT FESTIVAL, Laznia Center for Contemporary Art

2020 – Scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage

2018 – KulturKontakt Austria Artists-in-Residence Programm (AT)

2017 – WARTO cultural award (Wykwit Gallery) Gazeta Wyborcza (PL)

2017 – Nominations for the EMOCJE award, radio Wrocław (PL)

2017 – Nomination (Wykwit Gallery) for the "O" O.pl Award. Polish Cultural Portal in the category of visual arts & photography, (PL)

2017 – Nomination (Wykwit Gallery) for the WARTO cultural award, Gazeta Wyborcza, (PL)

2016 – Sale of the painting 'Pastel residential estate', National Museum, collection of Contemporary Art in Gdańsk, (PL)

2016 – Winning Open Call project, Artloop Festival: Cumulation, State Art Gallery, Sopot, (PL)

2016 – 1st place in the competition for the concept of the exhibition, Nowa Gazownia, Poznań, (PL)

2015 – Winning project in the Fresh Zone competition, ArtBoom Festival, Krakow, (PL)

2014 – Award of the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Radosław Sikorski, 43 Salon Zimowy, Radom, (PL)

2014 – Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland Ewa Kopacz, 43 Salon Zimowy, Radom, (PL)

2014 – Award of the Marshal of Lower Silesia, Promotions 2014, Galeria Legnica, (PL)

2014 – Format Magazine Award, Promotions 2014, Galeria Legnica, (PL)

2014 – The best diploma of the cathedral of painting, The Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design, Wrocław, BWA Awangarda Gallery, Wrocław, (PL)

Individual exhibitions:

- 2022 – *Happy Family, a home counselling centre*, The Arsenal Municipal Gallery, Poznań, PL
2022 – *Happy Family*, Miejsce Projektów Zachęty. Warsaw, PL
2019 – *Private Property*, Gallery BWA Studio, Wrocław, PL
2019 – *Home Alone*, Krupa Gallery, Wrocław, PL
2018 – *Model House*, WUWA, Wrocław, PL
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Selected collective exhibitions:

- 2022 – *Beyond Nuclear Family: Recipes for Happiness*, EFA Project Space. New York (US)
2022 – *Beyond Nuclear Family: Recipes for Happiness*, Jindrich Chalupecky Society, Display Gallery Praga, (CZ)
2022 – *Biennale Zielona Góra - Odnowa/ Renewal*, BWA Zielona Góra (PL)
2022 – *The Discomfort of Evening*, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, (PL)
2022 – *Festival Up to Date*, Białystok, (PL)
2022 – *Safe Space*, Design Gallery BWA, Wrocław (PL)
2021 – *Winter Salon*, Pilipczuk Gallery, Copenhagen, (DE)
2021 – *Festiwal Kukačka*, Ostrava (CZ)
2021 – *Hybrid in, objazdowa wystawa Guovo*, Ostrava (CZ) BWA Wrocław (PL) Galeria Jana Koiniarka, Trnava (SK)
2021 – *Aktualna Sytuacja*, CSW Łaźnia, Gdańsk (PL)
2020 – *Zachęta outdoor campaign*, Warsaw, (PL)
2020 – *New Normativity*, Wrocław Contemporary Museum, (PL)
2020 – *Our bomb is a flower, Why Quit*, IP Studio, Wrocław, (PL)
2020 – *The Virtual Canvas (Why Quit)*, online exhibition
2019 – 44th Painting Biennale Bielska Jesień, Galeria Bielska BWA, Bielsko Biała, (PL)
2018 – *Transcultural Emancipation*, Kunst im Fluc, Vienna (AT)
2018 – 16th edition of SURVIVAL Art Review *Capital*, The Wallenberg-Pachaly palace, (with Wykwitex) Wrocław (PL)
2018 – the 8th International Festival of Ephemeral Art CONTEXTS, 26-30 July 2018, Sokołowsko (PL)
2018 – *Supermarket* – Stockholm independent art fair with Wykwitex Gallery (SE)
2018 – *Festival LUHOvaný Vincent*, Lázně Luhačovice (CZ)
2018 – *Art Now*, National Museum in Cracow (PL)
2017 – 5th Biennale of Urban Art OUT OF STH, OCCUPATION, (with Wykwitex) Awangarda Gallery BWA Wrocław (PL)
2017 – 15TH edition of SURVIVAL Art Review , *Stratification* , The Auditorium of the Faculty of Chemistry of Wrocław University , Wrocław (PL)
2017 – *Wykwitex (Warsaw Gallery Weekend)*, BWA Warszawa, Warsaw (PL)
2017 – *Open Treinnale, CRP* , Orońsko, (PL)
2017 – *Black Spring: The Independent Music Scene of Wrocław in the '80s*, MWW (PL)
2016 – *Przesilenie*, Platan Gallery, Budapest, 2016 (HUN)
2016 – *Przyptyw: Young Polish Contemporary Art*, Mia Station Gallery, Wrocław, (PL)
2016 – *Artloop Festival, Cumulation*, Sopot, (PL)
2015 – 42. Biennale Malarstwa Bielska Jesień, Galeria Bielska BWA, Bielsko-Biała, (PL)
2015 – *System Error'*, Art Museum, Galerii Casa Matei, Cluj Napoca
2015 – *WRO Résumé*, WRO Art Center, (PL)
2015 – 16. Media Art Biennale WRO 2015 Test Exposure, (PL)
2010 – 2014
– *Side Entrance with Maurycy Gomulicki*, Contemporary Museum, Wrocław, (PL)
– *Diplomas of 2014 BWA Awangarda*, Wrocław, (PL)
– *Zaraz: parasitized exhibition*, Studio BWA, Wrocław (PL)

Publications:

- 2022 – *Happy Family. The Mental Health Guide*, published by Fundacja Bęc Zmiana and Krupa Gallery
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Art Fairs:

- 2021 – SWAB Barcelona Art Fair, Spain [Krupa Gallery]