

Pamela Bożek, *From Polish land to Poland*

doctoral dissertation - abstract

Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków

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From Polish land to Poland is a doctoral dissertation as well as an artwork created on the basis of my socially engaged artistic practice. I present the activities carried out from 2008 to 2023.

As an artist, I specialize in creating a strategy of empathic cooperation between artists, cultural institutions, organizations, including non-governmental ones, and people with migration and refugee experience in Poland.

The dissertation *From Polish Land to Poland* is my artistic work, which I understand as presence and involvement in building relationships, creating communities and accompanying emancipation processes leading to social change. I decided to present them in the form of text, which is enriched with photographs documenting the described activities. *From Polish land to Poland* as a collection of postartistic strategies will be presented during the doctoral exhibition at Widna Gallery in Cracow as an artbook and an accompanying audiobook.

The exhibition will also present objects, artifacts and documentation of examples of community, activist, artistic and caring activities analyzed in the thesis (their photographic representation is included in the third part of the thesis). The curator of the exhibition *From Polish Land to Poland* is Anna Batko.

The dissertation/artistic work *From Polish land to Poland* was written in an inclusive language. The apparent inconsistency of the grammatical forms used is a conscious strategy of incorporating diverse perspectives, unsealing and emancipating, and is one of the most important tools of my work as an artist.

The dissertation is divided into four parts. The first part is a personal essay on engagement as representation and alliance. I analyze various perspectives of cooperation, coexistence and participation; I raise issues of accessibility and feminist

practices for social justice, equality, self-determination and emancipation; I look at my own motivations and place them in the context of sister activities of other artists.

The second part of the dissertation presents the situation of people with migration and refugee experience in Poland from the socio-political perspective from 2015 to 2023. It provides a context necessary for understanding the analyzed artistic activities and becomes a background, constructed like a patchwork, into which I weave journalistic texts, voices of artists, cultural texts and descriptions of international procedures.

The third part is devoted to selected artistic and activist activities implemented since 2018, these are: *Polonia. From Polish land to Poland* (2018), *Notebooks from Łuków* (2018), *Your Things* (2019), *Wisa-Vis* (2019), *Polish-Chechen / Chechen-Polish mini-phrasebook* (2019), *Birds of Poland* (2020), *Borderless Help* (2020), *bread is хлеб / خبز / хліб / Баница* (2021), *Encouragement to Care* (2021), *Call for Reinforcements* (2021), PL 2021 PBAM 52.746795, 23.609121 (2022), *Elephant* (2022), *We Give You an Agreement* (2022).

The fourth part is a case study of the *Elephant* - an emergency place of care and creative activities implemented in close cooperation with the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts at Zachęta - National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, which was created in response to the Russian invasion on Ukraine, with refugee children and their carers in mind. I describe in detail the process of creating and functioning of the place, the involvement of people, organizations and institutions that create it, as well as selected proprietary tools and methods of cooperation in the spirit of emancipation pedagogy and the art of caring.

The list of artifacts that will be presented at the doctoral exhibition at the Widna Gallery in Cracow:

1. Artbook *From Polish land to Poland*,
2. Audiobook *From Polish land to Poland* (mp3 file, read by the artist),
3. *Notebooks from Łuków* (object-notebook, illustrative photo on page 98),
4. *Your Things* (object-fabric, illustrative photos on pages 105-108),

5. *Polish-Chechen / Chechen-Polish mini phrasebook* (book, illustrative photo on page 112),
6. *Wisa-Vis #1* (newspaper, photo on page 122),
7. *Wisa-Vis #2* (newspaper, photo on page 122),
8. *Birds of Poland* (object-nest, photographic documentation, illustrative photographs on pages 140-145),
9. *bread is* **хлеб** / خبز / **хліб** / **Белуз** (sourdough),
10. PL 2021 PBAM 52.746795, 23.609121 (object-ring, illustrative photo on page 171),
11. *Elephant* (documentation, selected artifacts, illustrative photographs on pages 224-225).

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Pamela Boich