



# FRIENDS,

KATARZYNA KOZYRA'S COLLECTION

KATARZYNA KOZYRA FOUNDATION

## **KATARZYNA KOZYRA'S COLLECTION**

# FRIENDS, collection

The **FRIENDS**, collection consist of the selection of 18 different works, a total of 29 photographs [210×297mm printed on 297×420mm Hahnemule paper] signed and numbered by Katarzyna Kozyra in series of 14 separate works (in Arabic numbers) and 6 complete series (in Roman numbers), reflecting the artist's lifetime career.

Katarzyna Kozyra's collection evoking associations with Marcel Duchamp's *Box in a Valise* (1935-41) contains Kozyra's most famous pieces such as *Pyramid of Animals* (1993), *Olympia* (1996) and *Bathhouse* (1997) for which the artist received an honourable mention – one of the highest distinctions ever received by a Polish artist at the Venice Biennial, as well as Kozyra's first work ever presented at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts *Objects [Helmets]* (1991), a portrait of her closed friend and roommate from the flat on Rakowiecka Street in Warsaw, taken during the fourth year of her studies at the Faculty of Sculpture (professor Kowalski studio), in time when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma: *Karaski in Bedclothes* (1992) and the latest project which was created during Kozyra's 6-year research in Jerusalem: *Looking for Jesus* (2018).

29 photographs  
size - 210×297mm  
print - 297×420mm  
material - Hahnemule paper

- I level:** donation from PLN 1000 - one photograph
- II level:** donation from PLN 1800 - two photographs
- III level:** donation from PLN 2500 - three photographs
- IV level:** donation from PLN 3400 - four photographs
- V level:** donation from PLN 5000 - six photographs
- VI level:** donation from PLN 20 000 - complete series of 29 photographs



Objects [Helmets], 1991

[I level]

This archival photograph presents objects from the time of Katarzyna Kozyra's studies at the Sculpture Department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Objects [Helmets] were presented on the first solo exhibition of the artist at the Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts (Warsaw, 19-27.04.1991).



Karaski in Bedclothes, 1992-2018

[I level]

Katarzyna Kozyra photographed her friend and roommate, Andrzej Karas, an artist of statuesque appearance. Kozyra was fascinated by how her model could easily take a woman pose. This is the first work in which the artist's interest in transgender is revealed.



Pyramid of Animals, 1993

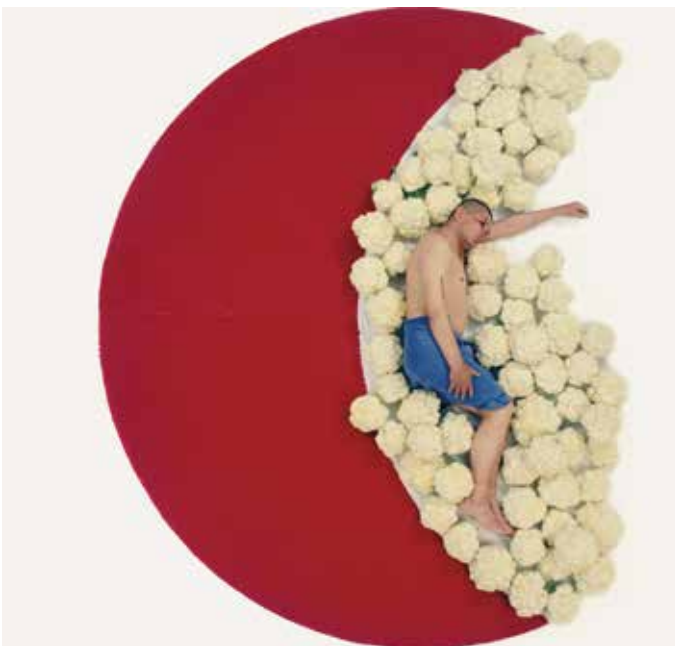
[I level]

Ever since Kozyra's Animal Pyramid, (1993) – her thesis project – gained notoriety in the media, she has been known as the most scandalous artist in Poland. Inspired by the "Travelling Musicians" of the Brothers Grimm, she created a sculpture out of four dead stuffed animals standing one upon the other: a horse, a dog, a cat and a cock.





One of the first evidence of Kozyra's fascination with "non-normative body". The model for this piece was a random man - "a man without a face", whom the artist met accidentally on Wislostrada in the autumn of 1995.



Krzysztof Czerwiński II, 1995

[21 x 21 cm]

**[II level]**





Olympia, 1996

[I level]

In response to media attacks caused by the "Pyramid of Animals", Kozyra creates „Olympia". Kozyra presents herself during chemotherapy, with a shaved head and without makeup, alluding to the canon of a once avant-garde painting, maintaining the full décor of the original and expanding the scene with an additional two frames and a film, instead of a lovely young woman.



Bathhouse, 1997

[I level]

The artist entered with a hidden camera into a women's bathhouse to show what a natural female body looks like, unprocessed for commercial purposes.









Katarzyna Kozyra arranges older people in poses inspired by choreography by Wacław Nijżyński. The artist animates - invigorates old people, puts their bodies into motion, making them perform complicated dance figures of one of the most difficult ballet choreography.



The Rite of Spring, 1999-2002

**[V level]**



**Women are waiting, 1994-1998**

**[I level]**

It is a symptomatic transitional piece – its phenomenon lies in that it showcases perfectly the aftermath of “Olympia” (1996) and foreshadows “The Rite of Spring” (1999-2002), two works wildly different from one another. The models are older women, deformed, like in “Olympia”. It’s the beginning of the Artist’s interest in old age, the passing of time, forms and shapes, capacities of the human body and body as a costume as well as limits imposed by it.





Punishment and Crime, 2002

The title of the work, "Punishment and Crime", is a paraphrase of the title of Dostoyevsky's novel. In Kozyra's work the act of destruction is in and of itself a punishment. The artist looks at the extraordinary and not always legal male passion for paramilitary activities. Masks on their faces soften the effect of danger, without taking away their authenticity.

[I level]



Dance Lesson, 2001

"Dance lesson" is based on Igor Stravinsky's ballet "Petrushka" and is another example of Kozyra's interest in body and choreography in Russian ballet.

[I level]





In this work, Kozyra, looking from a feminist position, uses a number of clichés encoded in culture, referring to images and images of masculinity present in our everyday reality.



Lords of the Dance, 2002

**[III level]**



Faces, 2006

[I level]



Diva. Reincarnation, 2005

[I level]

"Faces", like the "Rite of Spring", has its roots in ballet. The piece presents the faces of dancers in an unnatural, hyper-realistic way, filmed only a few dozen centimeters, presenting their extreme emotions.

The work comes from the series „In Art Dreams Come True”. Kozyra caged both inside the metal construction and the body suit is instructed by a man, Maestro, a severe teacher who publicly chastises her.



Cheerleader, 2006

"Cheerleader" is a music video in the series "In Art Dreams Come True" of Kozyra interpreting Gwen Stefani's song "What Are You Waiting For". Playing around with the clichés of femininity and masculinity. This time the artist takes on the role of the pop-rock star, playing a cheerleader in a men's locker room.

[I level]



Summertale, 2008

"Summertale" was made in 2008 and it concludes a multi-dimensional and varied series "In Art Dreams Come True". In this philosophical tale of a film disguised as a colorful fairy tale nothing is simple or straightforward. Horrific events are in a stark contrast to idyllic pictures.

[I level]





Untitled, 2018

[I level]

Similarly to the work „Lou Salome” from 2005, Kozyra presents the silhouette of the female dominion over men - dogs. This time, her models are United States Marine soldiers and Arab soldiers.



Looking for Jesus, 2018

[I level]

The project was inspired by the so-called Jerusalem syndrome and was carried out by Katarzyna Kozyra in 2012-2018. During many trips to Jerusalem, the artist met with people identifying with biblical characters and tried to reach the sources of their faith.

In the next years the Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation Support Program will be continued with the participation of the other, internationally acclaimed women artists, who will follow Katarzyna Kozyra footsteps and help the Foundation achieve its statutory goals.

# KATARZYNA KOZYRA FOUNDATION

## CONTACTS

### **Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation**

[www.katarzynakozyrafoundation.pl](http://www.katarzynakozyrafoundation.pl)

ul. Bukowa 12

02-708 Warsaw

Poland

[foundation@katarzynakozyra.pl](mailto:foundation@katarzynakozyra.pl)

### **Marek Zaliwski**

President of FRIENDS,

Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation

[mzz@fundacjakatarzynkozyry.pl](mailto:mzz@fundacjakatarzynkozyry.pl)

+48 601 203 495

### **Katarzyna Kucharska**

Director of Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation

[k.kucharska@katarzynakozyra.pl](mailto:k.kucharska@katarzynakozyra.pl)

+48 696 999 389

KRS: 0000423059

NIP: 5213632117

Regon: 146161069

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