

Kasia Dzikowska

Nationality Polish
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Qualifications

Jul 2007

Masters Fine Arts Multimedia Activity,
Technical University of Radom, Poland

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Teaching Experience

Aug 2020 - Present **Zayed University**
Assistant Professor

Aug 2018 - Jan 2020 **Zayed University**
Adjunct Instructor

Artist
Portfolio

Selected Exhibitions

Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 **Inside/outside: Reveries**, i.e. Art Projects Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
Thin Curtains, DAP 3 Gallery, ZPAP Warsaw, PL
- 2021 **Inside/outside:Reveries**, ZUUSS, Gallery 1 at the Foundry Downtown, Dubai, UAE
Fluid Resistance, Promenade Gallery, ZU AUH, UAE

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 **47th National Biennale ‘Winter Salon’**, Masovian Contemporary Art Center ‘Elektrownia, Radom, PL
Olhando Mais De Perto, Messjana, PT
Sikka22 Festival, Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, Dubai, UAE
Sunny Art Prize, Sunny Art Centre, London, UK
- 2021 **International Autumn Salon of Art**, BWA Gallery, Ostrowiec, PL
Malamegi Lab 19, Finalist, 28 Piazza di Pietra Gallery, Rome, IT
Emerging Art Scene Art Prize, Shortlisted Artist, UAE
Narratives, Etihad Modern Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
A Matter of Space, ZUUSS, The Foundry, Dubai, UAE
RAK Fine Arts Festival 2021, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- 2019 **Emerge III Converging Lines**, Venice, IT
RAK Fine Arts Festival 2019, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- 2018 **National Day Installation**, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Message of Love, Sinyar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
SPE International Women Day Exhibition, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Art and Headlines, Khaleej Times Collaboration, Andakulova Gallery, UAE
- 2016 **Big Picture**, Pro Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Eva 2 Exhibition, Art Plus Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 **Sikka16**, Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, Dubai, UAE
Martyrs of the Nation, Art Plus Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Art Fair Dubai, The Address Hotel, Dubai Mall, Dubai, UAE
Sikka15, Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, Dubai, UAE
RAK Fine Arts Festival 2015, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- 2014 **RAK Fine Arts Festival 2014**, 1st Place Winner, Art Category, UAE
- 2013 **International Postcard Show**, Surface Gallery, Nottingham, UK
Rugby Open Exhibition, Rugby Gallery and Museum, UK
Featured Newcomer to Coventry 2012, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, UK
City of Sanctuary, The Herbert Gallery, Coventry, UK

Participation

- 2022 **Buinho Art Residency**, Messejana, PT
RAK Fine Arts Festival 2022 Juror, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- 2019 **Tolerance**, Group Street Art Initiative, AD Municipality, UAE
- 2016 **World Art Dubai**, UAE
UAE-Oman artists’ retreat, Liwa Art Hub, UAE
- 2015 **TiECon 2015**, Intercontinental Hotel, Dubai, Art motivational speech, UAE
Artist Exchange, Muscat, OM

Artist Statement

As a global nomad, I have the luxury of quiet observation and interpretation of place, community and its individual members, from an outsider’s perspective, no matter where I am in the world. My interest lies in the spiritual aspect of how we perceive ourselves and the world around us, and the connections that we create, whether they be with places, things, or each other.

Art is an act of seeing, transmuting thoughts and feelings into a piece of timeless amber. With the modern pace of life, the tranquility of a lengthy connection with a form, a thought, a memory is a luxury and in itself an object of desire. It is the rawness of metaphysical inner debate, distilled into a lightness of visual thought: a gift from the artist to the viewer.

Part of my process is to associate with my subject on an intimate level, in a state of mindful connection to its inner core. I do not merely want to capture the image with my tools; rather, I want to show the inner essence of meaning and explore it through prolonged observations of a singular subject, aimed at capturing the repetition of changes and constants.

Most of my visual projects oscillate around multiple renderings of the same imaginary, exploring it in methodical ways. I am fascinated by layers of colours and textures, interlocking with each other in a delicate dance of transparency and opacity. It acts as a prism, where the representational aspect of the work has been scraped away, allowing the emotional aspect, based at the core of the image, to take center stage. In essence, my art explores a cyclical aspect of carving out and revisiting parts of everyday life, exploring the raw emotions connected to them.

Biography

Kasia Dzikowska is an Abu Dhabi-based artist. Born in Poland, she earned her MFA in fine arts at UTH Radom in 2007. In 2013, Kasia moved to the Middle East, where she currently resides and teaches Art Foundation courses at Zayed University. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including in the UAE, USA, Europe and the UK.

Kasia is a conceptual artist that works in a wide range of media, including painting, mixed media, digital graphics and installation. She explores strong use of repetition and rhythms through habitual documenting, often connected to socio-gender commentary through elevation of the significance of mundane activities.

Her work is predominantly influenced by the art of Hassan Sharif, Apoloniusz Weglowski and Alberto di Fabio and their intimate connections with their work’s subject matter.

Landscape Stories



Description

We are all built from stories. Stories that shape us, stories that direct us, stories that affect us and others. They create the backdrop of our existence and allow us to reflect on the past, present and future.

Listening to the stories of our elders can be fascinating. Their gaze so often is directed inwards and towards the past. It must feel so alienating and strange to observe changes in the world around them, ones that don't feel entirely relevant to their present surroundings.

This thought was my starting point for Landscape Stories, created during my artist residency at the Buniho FabLab in Messejana, Portugal. This traditional sleepy village, with an aging population and remnants of past glories, preserves a lot of old traditions. Befriending and talking with the older ladies of the village, who are gems hidden behind the protection of the whitewashed walls of their homes, provided me with an opportunity for a peek into the past, where despite the times of hardship, there could be found a great deal of joy.

The work consists of interviews, photographs and laser-cut work, inspired by the landscape and beauty of their aged hands.



Landscape Stories

Lady Ana Julia 1 & 2

Diptych

Laser cut and photograph

30x30 cm

2022

Inside/outside: Reveries



Description

Inside/outside: Reveries, a collaboration between Abu Dhabi based artists Kasia Dzikowska and Sharon Lindenfeld, was created while in isolation during the spring of 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The artworks in this exhibition explore the experience of lockdown and the yearning to connect with the world beyond one's window. A year later, this exhibition reflects on the artists' experience.

Both artists, who live down the street from each other, created a series of works based on 'the view outside', generating diaries of their daily visual experiences. In this exhibition, viewers will experience the perspective of two artists' different views of the same city street through their windows. Both projects are intended to be presented in grid format, to explore the feeling of repetition and time passing and to reflect the gridded shapes of Abu Dhabi's windows. A viewer will be able to follow along as the works will be displayed in chronological order.

Kasia's body of work represents an emotional connection to the static visual landscape unfolding in restricted space. This work is created as mixed media pieces in acrylic, watercolour, plexiglass and MDF, intended for presentation as a multi piece installation. Thus, the viewer can experience looking through window panels, a constant barrier to the outside world at that moment in history.



Inside/outside: Reveries #18
Front and side view

Mixed media with laser cut
30x42 cm
2020



Inside/outside: Reveries #2
Front and side view

Mixed media with laser cut
30x42 cm
2020

Inside/outside: Reveries #3
Front and side view

Mixed media with laser cut
30x42 cm
2020



Inside/outside: Reveries #41
Front and side view

Mixed media with laser cut
30x42 cm
2020



Inside/outside: Reveries #57
Front and side view

Mixed media with laser cut
30x42 cm
2020



Inside/outside: Reveries

full set of 60

Size of installation 205x465 cm
Mixed media with laser cut
2020

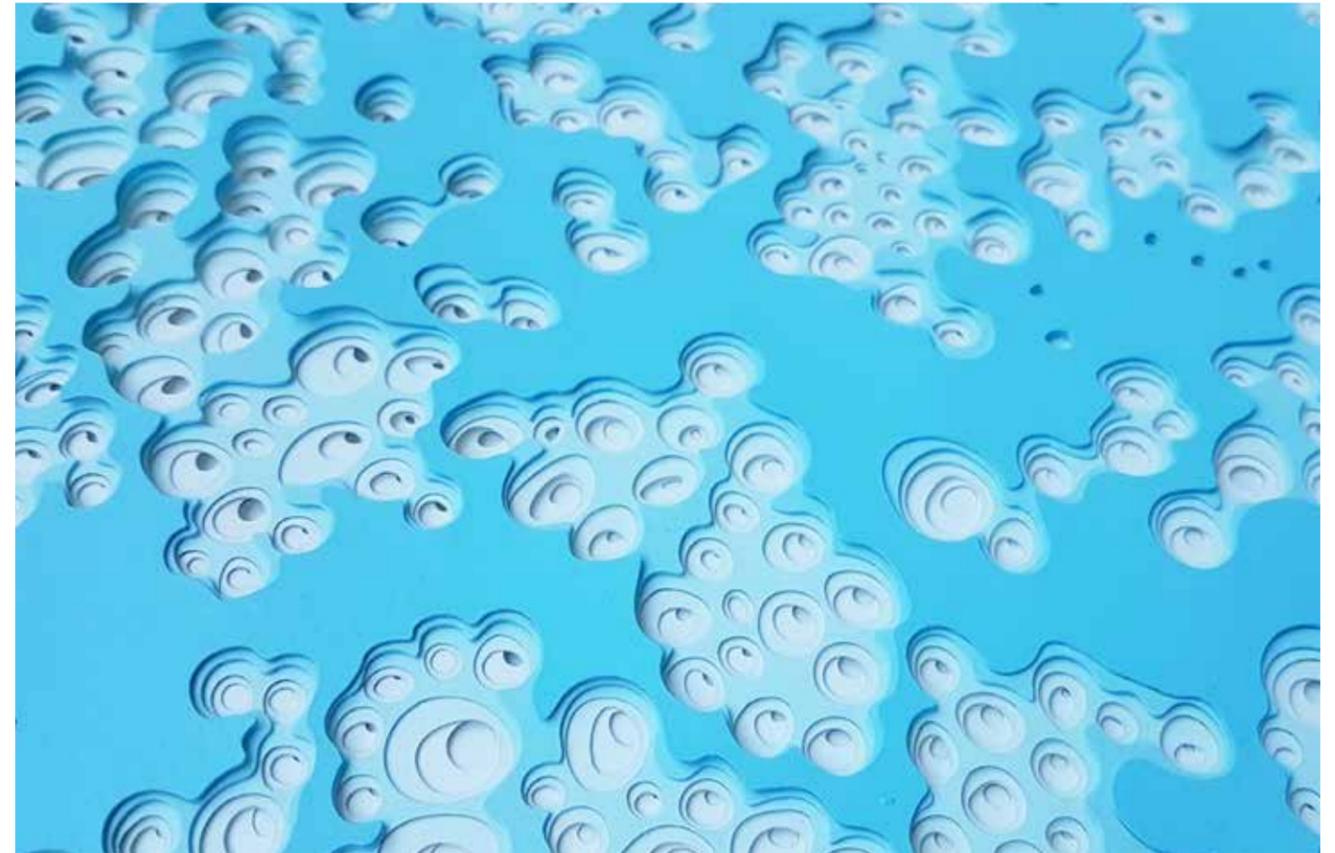
Fluid Resistance



Description

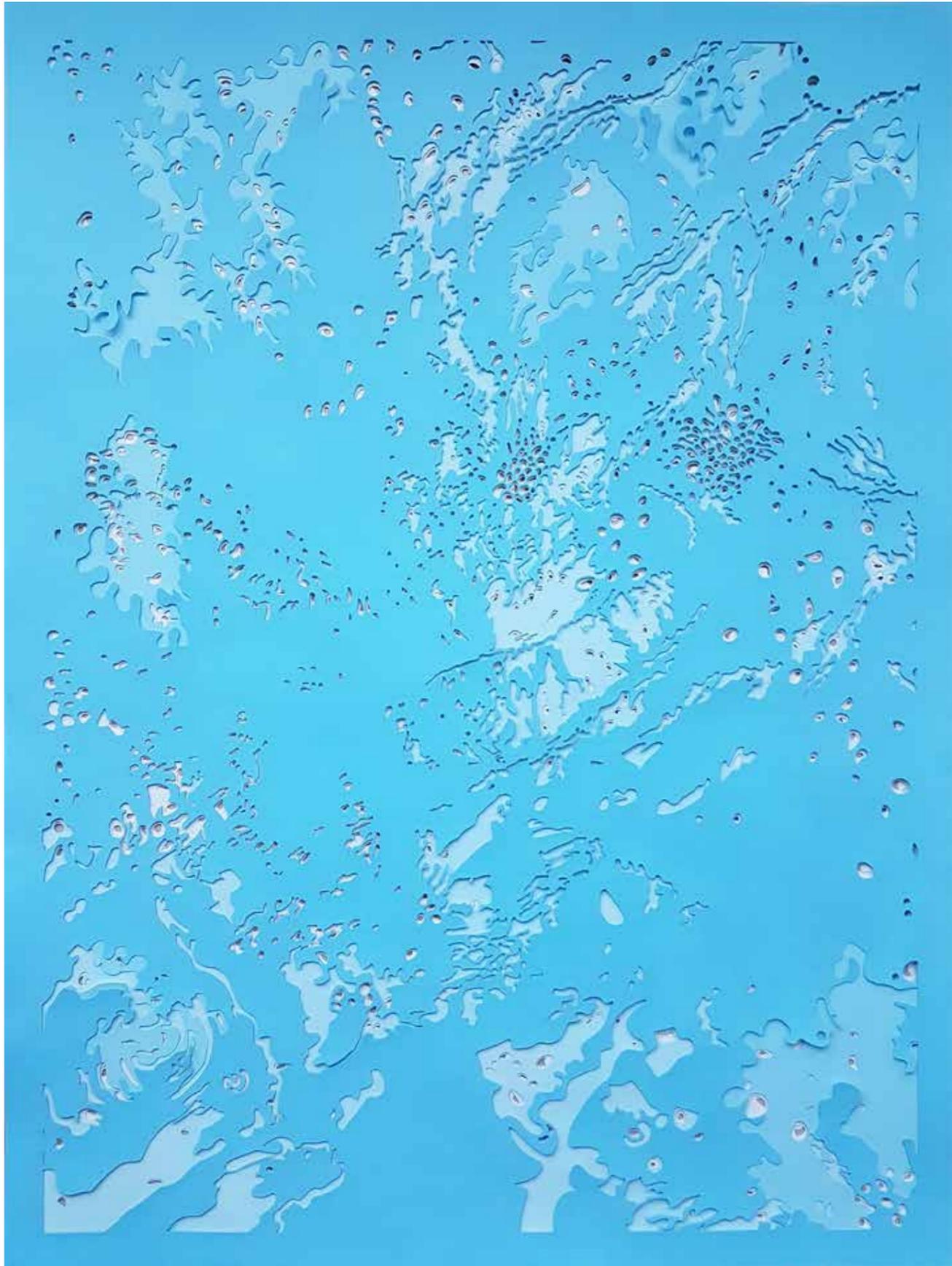
Fluid Resistance is an art project that investigates the presence of energy that creates visible disturbances when an object is moved through a space. The starting point and a reference is the rapid movement of limbs through viscous water, an action that requires an increased amount of energy and is strenuous to perform. Performing movement in water in a way that aims to imitate an effort out in the air, draws similarity to performing an unwanted but necessary act that strains one's willpower to pursue further. Little shapes of air, trapped as bubbles, are a visual reminder of the struggle that, moments earlier, occupied the space.

In a symbolic way, artwork in this project represents undercover resistance against the duress that, although accepted by logic, is rejected by our subconscious. It also celebrates the unrecognized undertakings, that are performed by women and gives them a place to shine.



Fluid Resistance 7 and 13, details

Lasercut on painted paper
2020



Fluid Resistance 6

Lasercut on painted paper
75x100 cm
2020



Fluid Resistance 8

Lasercut on painted paper
75x100 cm
2020

Passing through



Description

Our perceptions of how fulfilled we are as individuals through the passage of time is deeply dependent on our internal mental dialogue, as well as the strength and intensity of the thought paths that we practice in our inner conversations every day. This project is a visualisation of these dialogues and the record of how they are impacting our feeling of contentment from day to day. Passing Through revisits a period of 52 weeks, derived from intimate records of that time, and is showing progression through a mental breakdown initiated by a stressful and hostile environment, through the long, arduous and ultimately hopeful journey of recovery from it.

This is my second project that visits creation as a string of consecutive undertakings, created on a regular basis.



Passing Through 18/14/04/01

Watercolour on paper
50x70 cm
2019



Constellations



Description

This project is an abstract visualization of the complex inter-relationships between members of a family. None of us is an isolated being standing alone. Our family always influences us, whether biological or adopted. We are a produce of our upbringing and interactions with our close ones. Even when we are not close with each other, we are still under each other's influence in subtle ways. These relationships inform our personalities to make up who we are. In Constellations, I explore these relationships in a family, capturing them with symbolic patterns, colours, distances and dimensions to produce a window on how a family sees itself.



Constellations 3 - Aesha

Oil on canvas
150cm x 100 cm
2014



Constellations 1 - Kasia

Oil on canvas
100 x 80 cm
2014

Mothers



Description

This interactive artwork is based around the impact of mother figures on our lives, stimulating a variety of the viewer's senses as they enter into the piece itself and wrap themselves up in it as they would their own mother's arms. This installation is a tribute to the hard work undertaken by mother figures across the globe.

When we are small children, our mother figures are the boundaries of our whole world. They shape us, form us and allow us to grow. Through their eyes we discover, through their hands we are guided and through their hearts we learn right from wrong. Our connection to our mothers is a strong one that invokes many memories, including smell, which will be reflected by each of the figures having its own distinct perfume in the fabric for the viewers to experience.

Stepping into each figure, the viewer can associate each scent with a person or a time in their own lives. The base that was set up by the maternal role models in our lives gives us the foundation upon which to grow, continuing along our lives as we take them with us in our hearts wherever we go, and my piece aims to evoke those feelings.



Mothers

Fabric, wire, perfumes
2016