

## Wojciech Gilewicz

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Wojciech Gilewicz, born in 1974 in Bilgoraj, Poland. Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan (1994-1996) and then in Warsaw, where in 1999 he earned a degree in painting (with an additional degree in photography). Lives and works in Warsaw and New York.

He is a painter, photographer, author of installations and videos.

In his works, which usually combine all these disciplines, Gilewicz explores the blurring of distinctions between reality and its artistic representation. A frequent motif of his practice is the replacing of elements of the real world with their painterly replicas. Gilewicz's paintings pretend to be fragments of walls, windowsills, pavements, and for an unaware viewer are utterly indistinguishable from the originals. Sometimes the artist 'corrects reality' by placing 'patch' paintings over dents or holes in a wall. The spectator is able to find the pieces, hidden in the urban tissue by the artist, with the help of specially prepared maps or films documenting the painting process. Gilewicz usually leaves the paintings for a long time in their public-space locations, deliberately exposing them to the effect of sunlight, rain, wind or the human factor. In his practice Gilewicz demonstrates the immense power of the painting medium that is able to perfectly imitate reality, while at the same time, in a way, denying the meaningfulness of painting, because his pictures remain invisible. Gilewicz's paintings are hyperrealistic and non-representational at the same time – they perfectly imitate fragments of reality but when taken out of the reality context and transferred to the gallery, they become purely abstract.

Wojciech Gilewicz is also the author of the photographic series *Them* started in 2002. This series is based on illusion – using graduation filter and double exposure, Gilewicz creates his own look-alike, twin brother, his alter ego and looks at himself through their eyes arranging situations that, seemingly ordinary and everyday, in reality never took place. The traditional photographic techniques used here do not allow for the two characters to get close or touch each other. They work, travel, rest together, they are always together but separate at the same time, divided by an insurmountable distance. The resulting situations are full of psychological tension, alluding to a search for identity and a sense of loneliness, alienation and unfulfillment. The *Them* series photographs can be read on many different levels of interpretation – as a present-day version of the Narcissus story, as a narrative about melancholy, or as homoerotic love.

The leitmotif of Wojciech Gilewicz's practice is a desire to show how relative and changeable our perception of the surrounding world is and how fluid the boundaries between reality and its artistic representation can be. Gilewicz's practice invites a reflection on the mechanisms governing our perception and on the cultural determinants of the way we see things.

## **EDUCATION**

- 1999 **Master's Degree in Painting, Minor in Photography**  
1996 - 1999 **Academy of Fine Arts** Painting Department Warsaw, Poland  
1994 - 1996 **Academy of Fine Arts** Painting Department Poznan, Poland

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selected)**

- 2010 **Entropia Gallery** *Infinity*, Wroclaw, Poland  
2009 **Lubelskie Towarzystwo Zachety Sztuk Pięknych**, Lublin, Poland  
2009 **Foksal Gallery**, Warsaw, Poland  
2008 **Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis**, USA  
2007 **Biala Gallery**, Lublin, Poland  
2007 **Museum of Fine Arts**, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine  
2007 **BWA Gallery** *Revitalisations*, Sanok, Poland  
2006 - 2007 **Entropia Gallery** *The Aporia of Painting*, Wroclaw, Poland  
2005 **TR Warszawa**, Warsaw, Poland  
2005 **Foksal Gallery**, Warsaw, Poland  
2005 **WAA (Warsaw Artists' Action)** *Them*, Warsaw, Poland  
2004 **Fondation Deutsch de la Meurthe**, Paris, France  
2002 **Arsenal Gallery**, Bialystok, Poland  
2001 **Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle / Laboratorium Gallery** *City – Estate – Studio – Apartment*, Warsaw, Poland  
2000 **Biala Gallery** Lublin, Poland  
1999 **Academy of Fine Arts**, Warsaw, Poland

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected)**

- 2010 **ISCP Gallery** *There Has Been No Future, There Will Be No Past* New York, USA  
2010 **Bunkier Sztuki** *Kilkanascie koanow na (nie)istnienie*, Cracow, Poland  
2009 **appendix2** *Like a Rolling Stone 2*, Warsaw, Poland  
2009 **castillo/corrales** *Hello Goodbye Thank You Again*, Paris, France  
2009 **Museum of Contemporary Art BELGRADE: NONPLACES. Art in public space**, Belgrade, Serbia  
2009 **Aspen Art Museum** *Monitaur*, Aspen, USA  
2009 **MoBY (Museums of Bat Yam) Factory**, Bat Yam, Israel  
2009 **Centre of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu** *Lucim lives on*, Torun, Poland  
2009 **Zendai Museum of Modern Art** *Starting Point: Intrude Art & Life 366*, Shanghai, China  
2009 **Studio BWA** *Hidden*, Wroclaw, Poland  
2009 **SculptureCenter** *In Practice*, New York, USA  
2008 **Istituto Polacco di Roma** *Transfert Gallerie Polacche a Roma #6*, Roma, Italy  
2008 **BWA Gallery** *Hidden*, Zielona Gora, Poland  
2008 **Plumbers' Hall** *Around the Coyote*, Chicago, USA  
2008 **BWA Gallery** *External artists. OUT OF STH*, Wroclaw, Poland  
2008 **Biala Gallery** *Remont generalny*, Lublin, Poland  
2008 **Pianissimo** *Distortion of an Unendurable Reality*, Milan, Italy  
2008 **Istituto Polacco di Roma** *Transfert Gallerie Polacche a Roma #2*, Roma, Italy  
2007 **appendix2** *Artists Recommend Artists*, Warsaw, Poland  
2007 **Museum of Art in Lodz** *Multi-way Street annex to the exhibition Beautiful Losers*, Lodz, Poland  
2007 **Paul Robeson Galery** *Imago: The Drama of Self-Portraiture In Recent Photography*, Newark, USA  
2007 **Zacheta National Gallery of Art / Kordegarda Gallery** *Here a Change Occurs*, Warsaw, Poland  
2006 **Real Art Ways** *POZA*, Hartford, USA  
2006 **Centre for Contemporary Art Laznia** *Love and Democracy*, Gdansk, Poland  
2006 **LiveBox at Ravenswood Space** *Place & Interface*, Chicago, USA  
2006 **Zacheta National Gallery of Art** *On Their Own*, Warsaw, Poland  
2003 **National Museum / Krolikarnia**, Warsaw, Poland  
2002 **Bunkier Sztuki**, *Look at me / Spojrz na mnie*, Cracow, Poland

2001 **BWA Gallery** *Goscinna Pracownia Malarstwa Leona Tarasewicza goscinnie w Galerii BWA w Zielonej Gorze, Zielona Gora, Poland*

### **SCREENINGS (selected)**

2010 **Reina Sophia National Museum** *Capitalismus / Les Rencontres Internationales*, Madrid, Spain  
2009 **Pompidou Center** *Capitalismus / Les Rencontres Internationales*, Paris, France  
2008 **West Germany** *A snake on a Tree*, Berlin, Germany  
2008 **Monkey Town** *A snake on a Tree*, New York, USA  
2008 **Foksal Gallery** *Noc Muzeow*, Warsaw, Poland  
2008 **White Box** *DiVA (Digital & Video Art)*, New York, USA

### **AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCES (selected)**

2010 **National Art Studio Residency**, Seoul, Korea  
2010 **National Museum of Contemporary Art Grant**, Seoul, Korea  
2010 **UNESCO-Aschberg Grant**, Paris, France  
2010 **LMCC (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council) Residency**, New York, USA  
2010, 2008 **IAM (The Adam Mickiewicz Institute) Grant**, Poland  
2009 **TAV (Taipei Artist Village) Residency**, Taipei, Taiwan  
2008 **Zendai MoMA Residency**, Shanghai, China  
2008 **ISCP (International Studio and Curatorial Program) Residency**, New York, USA  
2007 **Młoda Polska Grant**, Poland  
2006, 2004, 2001 **Ministry of Culture Grant**, Poland  
2005 **Galichnik Art Residency**, Macedonia  
2004 **Fondation Deutsch de la Meurthe Residency**, Paris, France  
2004 **Fundacja Kultury Grant**, Poland  
1999 **Master's Degree with honors**

### **CATALOGUES AND PUBLICATIONS (selected)**

*Kilkanascie koanow na (nie)istnienie*, Poland 2010  
*ING Bank Collection Fundacja Sztuki Polskiej ING*, Warsaw, Poland 2010  
*Polish Street Art Klucze*, Warsaw, Poland 2010  
*Art Pride. Polish Gay Art Abiekt.pl*, Warsaw, Poland 2010  
*BELGRADE: NONPLACES / art in public space* Salon of the Museum of Contemporary Art and public space, Belgrade, Serbia 2009  
*Factory Bat Yam Museums of Art*, Israel 2009

- *Wojciech Gilewicz* Foksal Gallery, Warsaw, Poland 2009
- *Oni/Them Wojciech Gilewicz* Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland 2009

5 TM Centrum Rzeźby Polskiej, Oronsko, Poland 2009  
*Artibus, Transfert Gallerie Polacche a Roma #6*, Istituto Polacco di Roma, Italy 2008  
*Artysci zewnetrzni. OUT OF STH* BWA Gallery, Wrocław, Poland 2008  
*Remont Generalny* Biala Gallery, Lublin, Poland 2008  
*Entropia, Transfert Gallerie Polacche a Roma #2*, Istituto Polacco di Roma, Italy 2008  
*Transgrsja wyobrazni* Biala Gallery, Lublin, Poland 2008  
*POZA* Real Art Ways, Hartford, USA 2008  
*New Phenomena in Polish Art after 2000* Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland 2007

- *Wojciech Gilewicz Revitalisations* BWA Gallery, Sanok/Warsaw, Poland 2007/2010
- *Wojciech Gilewicz The Aporia of Painting* (DVD + booklet) Entropia Gallery, Wrocław, Poland 2007

*Multi-way Street annex to the exhibition Beautiful Losers. Contemporary Art and Street Culture* Museum of Art in Lodz, Poland 2007  
*Imago: The Drama of Self-Portraiture In Recent Photography* Paul Robeson Gallery, Newark, USA 2007  
*Binary Cities: Lodz – Warsaw* Galeria Manhattan, Lodz; MCKiS, Warsaw, Poland 2006

*Tekstylija bis. Słownik młodej polskiej kultury* Korporacja Ha!art, Cracow, Poland 2006  
*Love and democracy* Centre for Contemporary Art Laznia, Gdansk, Poland 2006  
*On Their Own* Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland 2006  
*V/1 Supermarket Sztuki Tolerate me!* Warsaw, Poland 2005

- *Wojciech Gilewicz* Foksal Gallery, Warsaw, Poland 2005/2010
- *Them* (CD) WAA (Warsaw Artists' Action), Warsaw, Poland 2005
- *Wojciech Gilewicz* Arsenal Gallery, Bialystok, Poland 2002

*Cyklop Nr. 8* Galeria i Muzeum Fotografii Cyklop, Gdansk, Poland 2001  
*Biala 1985 – 2000* Biala Gallery, Lublin, Poland 2001  
*Pozawydzialwe przeginanie w kierunku mozliwosci otwarcia oczu na otoczenie swiatlo nature i medytacje sztuki* Biala Gallery, Lublin, Poland 2000  
*Slask kopalnia tematow* Upper Silesian Culture Center, Katowice, Poland 1999

- individual catalogues

### **WORKS IN COLLECTIONS (selected)**

**Frac Limousin**, Limoges, France  
**Foksal Gallery**, Warsaw, Poland  
**Lubelskie Towarzystwo Zachety Sztuk Pięknych**, Lublin, Poland  
**ING Bank**, Warsaw, Poland  
**Museum of Contemporary Art**, Belgrade, Serbia  
**MoBY (Museum of Bat Yam)**, Bat Yam, Israel  
**Dolnoslaskie Towarzystwo Zachety Sztuk Pięknych**, Wroclaw, Poland  
**Zendai MoMA**, Shanghai, China  
**Zacheta National Gallery of Art**, Warsaw, Poland  
**Museum of Fine Arts**, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine