



KwieKulik



Activities with Dobromierz, 1972-74

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The ZAK BRANICKA gallery is proud to present *Activities with Dobromierz* (1972-74), a work by the artistic duet KwieKulik, one of the most important phenomena of the eastern European neo-avant-garde 1970s movement. *Activities with Dobromierz* has already had much international publicity including showings at Documenta XII in Kassel and the XI Biennale in Istanbul (2009).

KwieKulik was the duet of an artistic working couple Zofia Kulik and Przemyslaw Kwiek, active in the years 1971-1987. In this period KwieKulik carried out countless performances, artistic demonstrations, objects, films and photographs. They placed a private gallery in their own private home – Atelier of Activities, Documentation and Popularisation, in which they organized lectures, exhibitions, and embarked on the documentation of artistic life in the 1970/80s. A lot of art events have been archived by them. Their creativity had a radical, social and political dimension, it was a laboratory form of contemporary art. Among the series of activities realized by KwieKulik belongs: *Chaltury* (Day Job), *Earn and Create*, *Visual Games*, *Political Spectaculars*. Also belonging to this series is *Activities with Dobromierz*, which features at the ZAK BRANICKA gallery.

After the birth of their son, *Dobromierz*, KwieKulik incorporated the child in their art activities for two years (1972- 74). "By combining parent's responsibilities with artwork, we achieve the most variable compositions of our son with subjects of everyday utilities, containers, and surfaces – in situations that inquire our home or outdoor walks – all such compositions are captured on photo slides." The work *Activities with Dobromierz* presents hundreds of pictures taken of their son in different situations. These comprise of both everyday realities and arrangements made by the artists. Sometimes the child is lying among vegetables, on the floor amid a circle of knives and forks, or sits in a toilet bowl or cardboard box.

Art for KwieKulik was the extension of everyday activity. Similar to other art duets of this era such as Abramovic/Ulay (1976-89) or Gilbert&George (from 1968), KwieKulik worked on the boundaries of private life, performance and body art. KwieKulik developed an alternative form of artist's work within the reality of Socialism. The *Actions with Dobromierz*, where the parents manipulate as if using a doll, have a strong political overtone (oppression of the authorities). They are the artists' response to omnipresent manipulation and censorship as well as introducing the absurd to reality (even though the reality of Socialism was absurd enough). Simultaneously, the aim of *Activities with Dobromierz* was to create a visual equivalent of mathematical and logical operations, which Kwiek and Kulik were interested in at the time.

For many years, the activities of KwieKulik were known only among a limited audience, they functioned neither within "the safety of the avant-garde" nor – quite clearly- within "official" art. In the year 1987 Zofia Kulik and Przemyslaw Kwiek parted company and the duet KwieKulik came to an end. From this point on, both artists work independently.



Zofia Kulik

Born 1947 in Wrocław, Poland. Lives and works in Warsaw (Lomianki).
1971 graduated from the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, Sculpture Department.

From 1971, in an artistic duet with Przemysław Kwiek as KwieKulik, they ran in their private apartment in Warsaw, an independent Studio for Art Activities, Documentation and Propagation. Its archives contain slides and negatives of ephemeral Polish art of 70-ties and 80-ties, as well as prints and artists' books. Within the frame of this project they carried through actions and interventions, constructed installations and objects, worked with texts, films, slides and mail-art.

Since 1987 she has been working individually creating black-&-white multiple exposure photographs, objects, performances.

Selected presentations (with Przemysław Kwiek as KwieKulik),
including performances, installations, exhibitions:

1987	Franklin Furnace, New York, USA
1985	Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff, CDN
1984	Dziekanka, Warsaw, PL
1979	De Appel, Amsterdam, NL
1977	Knox Gallery, Buffalo, USA
1975	Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, S
1971	Galeria El, Elbląg, PL

Solo exhibitions (selection, after 1987):

2009	Form is a Fact of Society (KwieKulik), BWA Awangarda, Wrocław, PL
2008	Splendour of Myself, ZAK BRANICKA, Berlin, D Dobromierz X (KwieKulik), Atlas Sztuki, Łódź, PL
2006	Made in GDR, USSR, Czechoslovakia and Poland, LeGuern Gallery, Warsaw, PL
2005	From Siberia to Cyberia, Museum Bochum, Bochum; Kunsthalle Rostock, Rostock, D
2004	Self-portraits and the Garden, Le Guern Gallery, Warsaw, PL Archives of Gestures (1987 – 1991), Starmach Gallery, Kraków, PL, From Siberia to Cyberia 1998–2004, Zacheta Gallery, Warsaw; Bunkier Sztuki, Kraków, PL

1998	The Human Motif IV, National Gallery, Prague, CZ
1997	Symbolic Weapon IV, Polish Pavillion, XLVII Biennale in Venice, I
1996	The Human Motif III, ZONE Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
1995	Still Man, Lombard-Freid Fine Arts, New York, USA
1994	Der Riss im Raum, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, D
1993	All the Missiles are One Missile, State Gallery of Art, Sopot, PL
1990	Idioms of The Soc-ages, Postmasters Gallery, New York, USA

Group exhibitions (selection, after 1987):

2009	Gender Check, MUMOC, Vienna, A 11th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, TR Target Practice: Painting Under Attack 1949-78, Seattle Art Museum, US 3xTAK (KwieKulik), Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, PL Messiahs, MODEM, Debrecen, H Menschenbilder 1620/2009, Zeitgenössische Bildnisse begegnen alten niederländischen Portraits, Museum Abtei Liesborn, Wadersloh, D 6 Biennale Fotografii, fotografia/ideologia/polityka, Posen, PL
2008	Schengen Women, Skuc Gallery, Ljubljana, SLO Revolution, I LOVE YOU, International Project Space, Birmingham, UK, and in Thessaloniki Centre of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, GR Lichtspuren, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, D
2007	1,2,3...Avant-gardes, Centre for Contemporary Art (CSW), Warsaw, PL; Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, E

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