

PAŃSTWOWA GALERIA SZTUKI

State Art Gallery in Sopot

Plac Zdrojowy 2

81-720 Sopot

Exhibition *Fragments of Reality. Berlin – Tricity* at the State Art Gallery in Sopot

- **Opening** | 06.06.2025, 6:00 p.m
- **Exhibition duration** | 07.06 -24.08.2025
- **Curator** | Marta Smolińska

Artists: Mehtap Baydu, Zehra Doğan, Ayşe Erkmen, Jeanno Gaussi, Alicja Kwade, Ulrike Mohr, Loredana Nemes, Sandra del Pilar, Sophia Pompéry, Anahita Razmi, Ekin Su Koç, Veronika Witte, Vuslat Doğan Sabanci, Beata Ewa Białecka, Katarzyna Józefowicz, Dominika Krechowicz, Anna Królikiewicz, Anka Leśniak, Dorota Nieznalska, Hanna Nowicka, Agata Nowosielska, Anna Orbaczewska, Hanna Shumska, Katarzyna Swinarska

Performance during the opening: Krzysztof Leon Dziemaszkiewicz in costumes by Alicja Gruca

The group exhibition titled "*Shards of Reality. Berlin – Tricity*" presents works by artists connected to the Tricity and Berlin, many of whom have migratory backgrounds—Turkish, Kurdish, Iranian, Afghan, Romanian, Polish, or Mexican. It maps themes related to the turbulence of the modern world, crises, and the fragmentation of our perception, confronting viewers with both political conflicts and identity shifts, as well as with the sensuality of the world and with dreams, desires, and imaginations concerning contemporary processes on both local and global levels. What unites the artists from Tricity and Berlin is their ability to sharply perceive

the anxieties that define our time. For this reason, the Berlin edition of the exhibition will be titled *"Unruhe / Restlessness."*

Many of the artworks address the issue of violence and the world's oppressive stance toward women. The title of the exhibition references a passage from *The Queen's Peacock (Paw Królowej)* by Dorota Masłowska, a writer born in Wejherowo, who insightfully diagnoses the human condition in the post-2000 era. Masłowska describes the confusion of her protagonist as follows:

"He didn't know what to do with his life, you know that moment when you're sitting in the ruins, touching with your hand the shards of broken reality, wondering whether it's still possible to glue it all back together."

With care and deep engagement, the artists touch these broken fragments of reality with their hands, revealing its shattered state through the forms of their works. In this brief but powerful sentence, Masłowska also highlights the sense of touch—a sense activated by all the artists in diverse and personal ways.

Both Masłowska and the artists invited to the exhibition also possess a keen sense for metaphor: *"It seems that the ability to understand experience through metaphor is another sense, like sight, touch, or hearing—and metaphor provides the only way to perceive and experience a significant part of the real world. Metaphor is just as essential and valuable a part of our functioning as the sense of touch."*

Metaphor, following the definition by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, is an attempt to *"understand and present certain complex aspects of the world around us in terms of primary, physical experience."* Thus, metaphor is not merely a linguistic device, but a way of understanding the world.

The exhibition, therefore, departs from the metaphor of the hand touching the shards of broken reality and presents the unrest that grips us all in the face of the condition of the contemporary world.

The art of the participating artists from Tricity and Berlin makes us aware that there are still strategies for reassembling these shards, allowing us to come to terms—at least partially—with a fragmented reality, despite the unrest that overwhelms our emotions.

Honorary Patronage: *Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Gdańsk*

Project co-financed by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation

Project co-financed by the City of Sopot

Media partners: *artinfo.pl, Dziennik Bałtycki, esopot.pl, NN6T, Prestiż Magazyn Trójmiejski, Rynek i Sztuka, SZUM, trójmiasto.pl, TVP 3 Gdańsk, TOK FM, Gazeta Wyborcza Trójmiasto*