

Summary

ZOFIA REZNIK / Uwaga, ZŁO! ZŁOrzeczy [Caution, EVIL!], Galeria Stolarnia [Carpentry Shop Gallery], Institute of Art History at the University of Wrocław (11–18 January 2014)

The exhibition was prepared by the graduates and students of the Wrocław Academy of Art and Design. The group of eighteen people discussed in various ways the up-to-date issues of evil. Their undertaking matched perfectly with the specifics of Carpentry Shop Gallery. Its desolate interior hosted works that dealt with such issues as consumptionism that becomes a new religion or dialectical and relative character of good and evil. We could also see a dystopian vision of Earth, which will be settled down by bacteria or transgenic mutants covered with plastic. Many of the exhibited works showed an attempt at tackling post-communist zombies, struggling with dead and scary, both material, habitual and spiritual heritage of the late generations. Its oppressiveness evoking neuroses and inner conflicts of “the grown-up world” cause doubts and rebellion, which eventually taken a shape of a “light” exposition without critical sanctimony. Humour and joke appear to be rescue for nightmares of reality, and the young artists’ sense of the space accentuated their extreme sensitivity to non-artistic context.

Will the generation, whose conscious life coincide with the period of the Third Polish Republic, succeed in surviving post humanist crisis and creating new kind of community? By applying a wide range of techniques – from illusionist painting, through minimal object, to postmodern *détournement* – the artists from Wrocław have shown that their method is the rejection of any artistic and ideological fundamentalism. It actually is a strategy of their patron being a dog, which used to be placed at the very bottom of a social hierarchy only to find itself glorified as a man’s best friend and protector. This might be an effective formula of a contemporary artist who appears to be a precarious one.