

Anna Kola: About the Artist

Anna Kola graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń in 1997. Her diploma project was realized in the Studio of Graphic Design and was awarded Tymon Niesiołowski's Medal. Since that time she has worked in the Section of Intermedia Arts at NCU, currently as an assistant professor, teaching in the Studio of Photography and in the Interdisciplinary Studio. She is a member of the Association of Polish Artists and Designers and the Association of Polish Art Photographers. Anna Kola presented her works at 19 solo exhibitions and more than 100 group exhibitions in Poland and abroad. She has received several awards and distinctions. She works with photography, graphic arts (traditional and digital), stained glass, art glass, and intermedia. Searching for the most effective means of expression, she combines different techniques and media, glass and photography being her favourite.

I use a variety of tools in order to show how I perceive and experience the world. I do not evaluate or compare them, because each of them is different. When we talk about something we use different words, yet we can communicate the same content in many ways. My greatest inspiration is the world around me—nature and people. I look at and contemplate the images that surround me and then I try to reproduce them, choosing various techniques to achieve this aim. I work with art glass, stained glass and graphic arts, but my primary field is photography, which is often the starting point for the works realized in a different medium—I use photography in graphic art or combine it with glass. I feel a strong urge to use a variety of techniques and mixing them. Trying to materialize my reflections and emotions in a different medium, I hope that every time they will carry new meanings and evoke new emotional responses. (Anna Kola)

Selected recent group exhibitions:

2017—Gniazdo / Nest—Borders in Contemporary Polish Art, Polish Academy of Sciences—Scientific Centre in Vienna (Austria)

2017—11th International Textile Art Triennial, Musées d'Angers, Angers (France)

2017—Borders/ Cut Lines, Yermilov Centre, Kharkiv (Ukraine)

2016—9th International Biennial of Miniature Art, "Gaude Mater" Centre of Culture Promotion, Częstochowa (Poland)

2015—New Glass Review 36, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY (USA)

- 2015—4th Bangkok Triennale International Print and Drawing Exhibition, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok (Thailand)
- 2014—4th International Biennial of Graphic Digital Arts, New Gallery, Design Centre, Gdynia (Poland)
- 2014—3rd Guangzhou International Exlibris and Mini-Prints Biennial, Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou (China)
- 2013—10th National Exhibition of Weaving Miniatures, Central Museum of Textiles, Łódź (Poland)
- 2012—7th International Triennial of Graphic Art Bitola, National Institute and Museum, Bitola (Macedonia)
- 2011—10th Quadrennial of Polish Woodcut and Linocut, BWA Art Gallery, Olsztyn (Poland)
- 2011—Miniprint Annual 2011, Lessedra Art Gallery, Sofia (Bulgaria)
- 2011—14th International Triennial of Small Graphic Forms, City Art Gallery, Łódź (Poland)

The following works by Anna Kola are used in this issue of AVANT:

- from the series *Glassy / V*, fused glass, steel, 109x75 cm, 2005 (front cover)
- K-I*, steel, fused glass, aluminum foil, 50x50 cm, 2009 (pp. 13 & 27)
- Remains III*, digital print, 11x16 cm, 2011 (p. 25)
- from the series *Landscapes / T-IV*, fused glass, 50x80 cm, 2010 (p. 63)
- from the series *Landscapes / T-V*, fused glass, 50x80 cm, 2010 (p. 65)
- from the series *Plants*, mixed media (toned photograph, resin), 100x70 cm, 2007 (p. 115)
- from the series *Plants*, mixed media (toned photograph, resin), 100x70 cm, 2007 (p. 117)
- Untitled*, digital print, 49x100 cm, 2010 (p. 167)
- Hand III > IV*, photograph, 35x100 cm, 2007 (p. 167)
- Hand V > VI*, photograph, 35x100 cm, 2007 (p. 167)
- Untitled*, glass, transfer paper, 59x41 cm, 2010 (p. 211)
- K-III*, steel, fused glass, aluminum foil, 50x50 cm, 2009 (pp. 213 & 239)
- Square I*, steel, fused glass, aluminum foil, 67x67 cm, 2009 (p. 237)