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**Katarzyna Kozyra – Portfolio of selected works**

Katarzyna Kozyra's performances, quasi-theatrical productions and audience engaging happenings challenge traditional boundaries between artist and audience. Her video work points to some of the most important issues of human existence: identity and transgression. She acts in the realm of cultural taboos referring to the bodily nature of man and to behavioral social stereotypes. While stirring controversy and usually inviting the critics' outrage, Kozyra questions these stereotypes and overcomes them. By unveiling the facts of reality, she forces us to re-examine and newly validate (or not) the settled order of cultural values. Kozyra represented Poland at the 1999 Venice Biennale with her piece *Men's Bathhouse*, for which she received Honorable Mention.

Katarzyna Kozyra was born 1963 in Warsaw, PL. She lives and works in Warsaw, PL and Berlin, D.





## Summertale

Video, 2008, 19:56 min

*Summertale* is the final piece in the series *In Art Dreams Come True*. It brings the three protagonists together to enact a final fantasy and to abstractly but assuredly tie together the series' concurrent themes. The scene is set within a fantastical garden. During their garden work, a group of female dwarves encounter three enormous mushrooms out of which pop Gloria Viagra, the Maestro and Kozyra herself. Although initially the dwarfettes receive the three gracefully, they gradually become distrustful of the motley trio, eventually brutally murdering both the Maestro and Gloria, warning Kozyra, "...They are men. They are evil."







## Faces

Video, 2006-15,

multi-channel  
video installation



*Faces* is a continuation of the investigation of classical screening regarding choreography and dance that Kozyra began in *The Rite of Spring*. The audience, walking among huge projections sees only the dancers' faces during performance. They express extreme emotions, tremendous concentration, and impressive effort. The distorted facial features appear as though masks. But the audience can't see the dancers' bodies. The order is disturbed. The usually invisible face of the dancer this time takes the lead. A number of distinguished dancers took part in this project: Magada Ciechowicz as a white and black swan from *Swan Lake*, Carla Fracci dances to Isadora Duncan's routine, as well as Nazaret Panadero and Andrzej Stasiewicz.



# Looking for Jesus

Video, 2013 - present

The video was shot with a film-crew on location in Jerusalem and provides Kozyra's first-hand account of Jerusalem syndrome, which has been defined as delusional and other psychosis-like behaviour affecting previously balanced tourists of the "the Holy Land". Those affected are from various religions who become inclined to give street sermons, and ultimately go as far as to believe that they have become particular religious figures, most commonly Jesus Christ. During a visit to Jerusalem in 1999, the artist became aware of the syndrome for the first time and set out years later to observe and record it for purposes of studying our own sense of "pretending," "performing," "being," and most importantly, "believing."



