



Ryszard Winiarski | Event – Information – Image

Collateral Event of the 57th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

13th May – 26th November 2017

Palazzo Bollani
Castello 3647, Venice

Promotor:

Starak Family Foundation

Spectra Art Space

www.starakfoundation.org

www.venice2017winiarski.pl

Curator: Ania Muszyńska

The exhibition of Ryszard Winiarski's works presents the oeuvre of one of the most interesting personalities of the Polish art of the second half of the 20th century. An artist, engineer, painter, stage designer, teacher, precursor of conceptual art, and the leading representative of indeterminism. In his diploma thesis of 1966, titled "Event-Information-Image", he defined a mature and innovative concept of a piece of art based on an attempt at transferring the issues of mathematics, statistics, information technology, and game theory to canvas. The masterly intellectual game recorded in the square "Areas" built of black and white modules permitted the artist to vary effects and techniques. He created both relief, kinetic, spatial objects and interactive game boards, surprising viewers with an invitation to participate.

The exhibition demonstrates an impressive spectrum of visual effects of the artist's explorations. Beginning with "Attempts at a visual presentation of statistical distributions" and "Penetration of illusory and real spaces", to "Areas" constructed with mirrors with the use of the third dimension, to irregular "Sets" and randomised "Events". The exhibition is complemented with "Game Parlour" composed of a set of board games of 1976, where we encourage, after Winiarski, active participation in the process of creating visual objects similar to those of the artist's. The painting fields which earlier had been artistically arranged were replaced by plain boards, places for games.

The idea chosen and applied by Ryszard Winiarski has developed into a programme with a prophetic value that could not be foreseen at the time of his activity. His bold vision of incorporating the real information in the painting, binary aesthetics, and use of participation perfectly fit Ryszard Winiarski's oeuvre of the 1970s into such widespread contemporary phenomena as development of visual communication, dominance of digital narrations, universality of participation, popularity of QR codes.

The main exhibition halls of Palazzo Bollani will see the presentation of a total of 37 works by Ryszard Winiarski, dating from 1966–1991. Works come from: Anna and Jerzy Starak Collection, the collection of the artist's family, private collections and the collection of the Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź.

Ryszard Winiarski | Event-Information-Image exhibition is open to public from 13th May to 26th November 2017, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Closed on Mondays.
Free admission.

Location: Palazzo Bollani, Castello 3647, Venice

Starak Family Foundation is non-profit organization based in Warsaw, Poland. It started its activity in December 2008. The Foundation's main goal is to support and promote young, talented people, provide them with optimal conditions for development, and to help them fulfil their dreams and ideas for life. The Foundation also aims to provide access to the latest achievements of science, technology, culture and the economy, and at stimulating various social groups of young people, both in their social and professional life, as well as at conducting activities for the improvement of health and the development of prophylactic health-care. The Foundation is the result of reflections, observations and activity to date of the originators and founders – Anna and Jerzy Starak.

Spectra Art Space was established in 2012, as a venue for presenting and promoting the classics of Polish contemporary art. The source and basis for the main exhibition programme is the private collection of Anna and Jerzy Starak, made available to the general public, constituting a unique review of the classics of Polish art from the second half of the 20th century until today. Spectra Art Space is a professionally prepared cultural event, modelled on tried and tested international practices, which naturally complements the activities of museums and other public institutions. Thanks to major contemporary art exhibitions, cultural events organised by the Spectra Art Space team, the concepts with respect to education, integration and promotion, significant in terms of the goals of the Starak Family Foundation, are being implemented in practice.

Starak Family Foundation | Spectra Art Space

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Artist:**Ryszard Winiarski****1936-2006**

Artist, painter, stage designer, teacher. Precursor of conceptual art and leading representative of indeterminism in Polish art. He was born on 2 May 1936 in Lviv and died on 14 December 2006 in Warsaw.

In the period 1953-1955 he studied at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Łódź University of Technology, and afterwards between 1955 and 1959 he studied at the Faculty of Precision Mechanical Engineering, Warsaw University of Technology, where he earned the Master of Science degree. In 1958, he began attending Aleksander Kobzdej's workshop at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw as an auditing student, where he undertook his studies in 1960 at the Faculty of Painting, supervised by Stanisław Szczepański, Jan Wodyński and Aleksander Kobzdej. In addition, he studied stage design under Władysław Daszewski and typography under Julian Pałka. At the end of his studies he participated in the seminar dedicated to the relations of science and art delivered by Prof. Mieczysław Porębski. In 1966, he completed his studies with the diploma thesis titled "Event-Information-Image", which constituted a theoretical interpretation for the series of paintings called "Attempts to Visually Represent Statistical Distributions". In the same year Winiarski received the main prize at the I Symposium of Artists and Scientists "Art in the Changing World" in Puławy for *an innovative theoretical concept executed by means of art*.

From that moment on, Ryszard Winiarski persistently followed his own original art programme, the sole subject of which were "selected mathematic problems, statistics, games, fortune and other objective and logical processes". The artist "made an attempt to use nomenclature and signage derived from mathematics in his artistic oeuvre, and more precisely from statistics and theory of information. In his opinion, it was possible to build bridges between life, science, technology and art." He does not create "images" but "areas," which come into being based on increasingly more complicated functions of random variables. At the same time the selected method allowed the artist to diversify techniques: he made three-dimensional, relief, kinetic, colourful objects.

In the period 1976 - 1981 he worked in the Institute of Artistic Education, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, as a lecturer, from 1979 as an associate professor. In 1981 he took over the workshop "Problems of painting in architecture and in human environment" at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, where in the period 1985-87 and 1987-90 he acted also as a vice-rector. In 1990 he was awarded the title of Professor. As a guest professor he delivered lectures at HFG in Offenbach in 1983.

Ryszard Winiarski completed more than fifty stage design projects for the theatre and the television, most of them for the Polish Theatre [Teatr Polski] in Warsaw.

In 1996 Ryszard Winiarski became the laureate of the Jan Cybis Award. The award granting ceremony was accompanied by a big retrospective exhibition in the House of the Visual Artist in Warsaw.

Curator:**Ania Muszyńska**

– curator of the Starak Family Foundation Spectra Art Space (since 2012), Starak Collection curator (since 2009), founder of the Foundation PSW Promotion of Contemporary Art, based Warsaw, Poland (since 2005) – deeply involved in the promotion of young Polish artists and cultural education; artistic director and owner of the Program Gallery [Galeria Program] in Warsaw (2002 - 2009), and artistic director and owner of the Renes Gallery in Poznań (1991-2002). She has curated more than 130 exhibitions and more than 30 presentations at the international fairs of contemporary art, cultural animator, the author of numerous papers and publications on contemporary art, organiser of numerous artistic events, creator of cultural education projects, the author of numerous initiatives to support young Polish artists, an expert on building art collections, lecturer, the creator of postgraduate Culture Management programmes; graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań (1993 – diploma in Multimedia, with Prof. Wojciech Bruszewski, Promoter. Theoretical thesis on multimedia communications – Prof. Jerzy Ludwiński, Promoter).

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