

monika sosnowska

wall

may 20 — july 29, 2017

opening

may 20, 12 — 2 pm

monika sosnowska and
frida escobedo
in conversation

thursday, may 18, 7:30 pm

talleres luís barragán
gral. fco. ramírez
col. ampliación daniel
garza

#monikasosnowska

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gob. rafael rebollar 94
col. san miguel chapultepec
11850 mexico city

tue — thu, 11 am — 6 pm
fri — sat, 11 am — 4 pm

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kurimanzutto is pleased to present the **second exhibition by Polish artist Monika Sosnowska** in the gallery. Returning to Mexico she will present a series of new sculptures that reproduce and **transform specific architectural elements found in her native Warsaw.**

Sosnowska looks to architecture as the source material for her work, analyzing 1960s and '70s socialist buildings from Poland where she grew up under the communist Eastern Bloc, and where she continues to live today. **Her sculptures reflect on the Modernist assumptions of functionality and the promise of progress represented in the constructions of that period.** Through her practice, Sosnowska confronts the shifting social and political values embodied in our built environments, inspecting the remains of an era and how it continues to echo in today's daily life.

Dividing the gallery in two halves is a large wall conceived by the artist as a pivotal instrument within the exhibition. This partition wall becomes a sculpture in itself, or rather a large installation composed of several smaller works that depend on it. **Using materials such as metal, PVC and concrete, Sosnowska replicates once-functional structures, transforming them almost beyond recognition.** Pipes, fences, handrails, gates, flag holders and vendor stands are among the basic vocabulary used by the artist. She translates these forms first by constructing small paper models, and then by building 1:1 full-scale works produced in collaboration with industrial workshops. **The resulting pieces are contorted replicas, which combine a certain degree of violence and malleability with the beauty of the alluringly strained and distorted shapes.** An example of this effect can be found in her outdoor sculpture *Fire escape*, on display outside the Museo Tamayo in Mexico City, where she presented a solo exhibition in 2011.

Deformed and crumpled, the sculptures that compose the exhibition at times appear fragile, precariously resting over the wall, while others are forcefully crushed under it. Steel pipes crowned with fist-like cracked concrete blocks, shot-through glass and warped flag holders evoke the cityscape from which they were abstracted. **Sosnowska's treatment makes these elements look unfamiliar, fostering a new way of perceiving both the artwork and the reality around us.**

about the artist

Monika Sosnowska (b. 1972, Ryki, Poland) studied five years at Poznan's Academy of Fine Arts in the painting department. In 1998 she went on to complete two years of postgraduate studies in Amsterdam, at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten. In 2003 Sosnowska was awarded the prestigious Baloise Art Prize in Basel, Switzerland, as well as the Polityka's Passport award given by Poland's most influential weekly, and in 2012 she was a nominee of The Hugo Boss Prize.

Her most important exhibitions have been presented at institutions such as The Contemporary Austin, Texas, United States (2016); Fundaçao De Serralves, Porto, Portugal (2015); Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada (2013); Australian Center for Contemporary Art ACCA, Melbourne, Australia (2013); Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, United States (2013); Public Art Fund, New York, United States (2012); K21 Düsseldorf, Germany (2010); Schaulager, Basel, Switzerland (2008); Polish Pavilion, 52nd Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2007); Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein (2007) and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, United States (2006). Additionally, her work has been included in group exhibitions at museums such as the MCA Chicago, Chicago, United States (2012); Zacheta Narodowa Galeria Sztuki, Warsaw, Poland (2012); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (2010); South London Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2007); Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland (2006) among others.

She has participated in various biennials, such as the 13th Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2017); 9th Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai, China (2013) and the 54th Biennale di Venezia, Italy (2011).

Monika Sosnowska currently lives and works in Warsaw, Poland.

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Monika Sosnowska, installation view of *Wall*, 2017.
Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.

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