

CURRICULUM VITAE

Agata Zwierzyńska
Born 1972, Warsaw, Poland
Lives in Amsterdam

education

2000-01 MA Fine Arts, Goldsmiths College, London
1992-96 BA Graphic Design, Gerrit Rietveld Academy, NL
1991 graduated from Gymnasium Jose Marti, Warsaw (specialised in Maths and Physics)

solo exhibitions

2007 Artis, Den Bosch
2007 HOMETEL Project installation, Day of Architecture, Lloyd Hotel, Amsterdam
2005 Pictura, Dordrecht
2005 Het Vijfde Seizoen, Den Dolder
2003 HALF WAY HOME at FBKVB [Netherlands Foundation for Visual Art, Design and Architecture], Amsterdam
2003 video installation for public debate with Dutch Minister of Culture, de Balie, Amsterdam
2003 Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
2002 'Pre-Fab No1', ARTIS, s'Hertogenbosch
1998 Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst [AFK]

group exhibitions (selection)

2009 '200 Jaar Prix de Rome', Kunsthal, Rotterdam
2008 'RCA Secret', Royal College of Art, London
2007 'Hotel Gridiron', Netwerk centre for contemporary art, Aalst, Belgium
2006 'RCA Secret', Royal College of Art, London
2005 'How Much Is That Doggie In The Window', Kunstlijn, Haarlem
2005 'PrintROOM', Hotel Mariakapel, Hoorn
2005 'Steal My Idea', de Balie, Amsterdam
2005 'Printing Matters', Witte de With, Rotterdam
2003 'Top Shop', graphic art show & sale, Berlin
2003 'Exhibit 001', Nth Art, Ols & Co Gallery, London
2003 'Anachronismen 2003', Eggenfelden, Germany
2002 'The Last Supper', Panama, Amsterdam
2002 'Commitment', Las Palmas, Rotterdam
2001 'Unbreakable', Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam
2001 '2001 Public Space Odyssey', Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam
2000 '2nd Best', Peblinc, Copenhagen, Denmark
2000 'Hidden', Baby, Amsterdam
1999 'Graphics', Centrum Beeldende Kunst, Leiden
1998 'Winners of the Prix de Rome for Graphic Art', Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam
1998 'Democracy Show', Gate Foundation, Amsterdam
1998 10 years of FBKVB, Kunsthal, Rotterdam
1997 'Rietveld naar de beurs!', Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam

grants, artist in residence, prizes and competitions

2007 residency at Network, centre for contemporary art in Aalst, Belgium
2007 contribution to working budget - FBKVB
2006 project grant for preproduction of stop-motion animation film "Drowning In Nightmares" - FBKVB
2005 residency at Het Vijfde Seizoen (The Fifth Season), psychiatric clinic in Den Dolder
2005 screenplay development grant for animation-film "Drowning in Nightmares" - Dutch Filmfund
2003 basic grant FBKVB
2002 residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, funded by FBKVB
2001 Dutch Crown Prince's wedding coin design competition

- 2001 graduation project prize for the book "A.G.I." - The Ray Finnis Charitable Trust, London
- 2000 distinction at the Rocket Clip Festival, Paradiso, Amsterdam
- 2000 study grant for MA Fine Arts at Goldsmiths - FBKVB
- 2000 study grant - Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds
- 1999 HOMETEL Project subsidy - FBKVB
- 1999 research subsidy for project HOMETEL - Amsterdam Art Foundation
- 1998 winner of 1st prize Prix de Rome for Graphic Art
- 1998 publication subsidy for the Barcelona Project - Mondriaan Foundation
- 1997 starter stipend FBKVB
- 1996 starter stipend FBKVB

projects, publications and performances

- 2007 The HOMETEL Wall at the Lloyd Hotel
- 2006 "Me and I" dummy publication (2 copies)
- 2006 'Photo Studio', 2-hour performance recorded live for the VPRO TV broadcasting company
- 2005 "Drowning In Nightmares" a stop-motion animation film screenplay
- 2005 CLINICVILLE, workshop with 12 other artists, psychiatric clinic in Den Dolder
- 2005 'Me and I' pinhole camera photo series of schizophrenic patients
- 2005 'Pursuit Of Happiness', part of Beyond Utrecht, discontinued
- 2004 project The Last Interview, Beachy Head, UK
- 2004 'The Killer Blonde' Internet Animation - discontinued
- 2002-03 'HALF WAY HOME Image Consulting', Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
- 1997-02 Barcelona Project and publication of book "Underworld" (2002, Artimo, 1500 copies)
- 2001 "A.G.I. alien genetic intelligence" (6 copies)
- 2001 agi.voice - interactive voice-generating software
- 2001 'True a Lie' performance
- 2000 'No Words' Goldsmiths College project
- 2000 HOMETEL Project and book "Trip" (2 copies) & 9 weekly columns in newspaper De Volkskrant
- 2000 "Lust & Gratie", colour photo-series
- 2000 "Sexy" No.3 Very, an erotic/art magazine (self-published, single copies)
- 2000 publication in autonomous art magazine "SEC" #6
- 1999 public art-project at 'De Kweekvijver' Primary School in Oostzaan
- 1999 "Sexy" No.2 Xmas (self-published, 500 copies)
- 1999 "Sexy" No.1 Faces (self-published, 500 copies)
- 1998 "Listen® The Telephone Book. Visitors Guide" (The Best of... 'Listen® The Telephone Book', single copy)
- 1998 30 years of 'Skrien' film magazine, double-spread
- 1999 "Listen® The Telephone Book", winning Prix de Rome publication (single copy)
- 1996 Housewives' Project and book (2 copies)
- 1995 India Project and book "The Calcutta Diaries" (Océ-NL BV/Agata Zwierzyńska 1998, Amsterdam, 100 copies)
- 1995 "The Ten Language Sound Dictionary" Project and book (Idea Books, Amsterdam, 2000 copies)

short films & Internet based work

- 2005-08 "The Suicide of an Octopus"
- 2005 "Together Forever. Martine & Johan"
- 2005 "The Kiss. Simona & Miltos"
- 2004 "Murder Scenes"
- 2002 "Remember"
- 2002 "I'm a Star"
- 2002 "Half Way"
- 2002 regular Internet broadcasts of HALF WAY HOME project reportages
- 2001 "Impossible Pil&Galia"
- 2000 "Tati Tata"
- 2000 "Agata at the Lloyd Hotel"
- 2000 "Listen® The Telephone Book Clip"
- 2000 60 Internet film clips of the HOMETEL project experiences
- 2000- launch of website www.xs4all.nl/~agata

- 1998 "Dear Melany"
 1998 "Snuff Movie"

art festivals, lectures and discussions (selection)

- 2007 Trans Artists - expert meeting
 2007 Berlin-Amsterdam/Amsterdam-Berlin, DAAD, Felix Meritis, Amsterdam
 2005 'Steal My Idea', de Balie, Amsterdam
 2003-04 Prix de Rome committee for Drawing & Graphic Art
 2002 guest lecture at the Sandberg Institute
 2001 'Wonder of Detail' workshop, Art Ac, Den Bosch
 2000 2nd Baltic Seminar on 'Artists in Residence', Newcastle, UK
 2000 The First Rocket Clip Festival, Paradiso, Amsterdam
 2000 on-line seminar HOMETEL Project for the Studium Generale at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kampen
 2000 'Pornography in Art' discussion at Perdu Literature Club, Amsterdam
 2000 'Sample Minds' - Studium Generale at Art Academy in Den Bosch
 1999 'Mooie Dingen' - "Zomergasten Live" at O42 cultural festival in Nijmegen
 1999 guest lecture Rietveld Academy's Photo Dept.
 1998 De Appel, Amsterdam (journal-design & video showcase)

freelance work (selection)

- 2008-09 drawings for the interior of the Dutch Hermitage (Merkx+Girod BV)
 2008 drawings for Julia's pasta take-away shops, logo & interior (Merkx+Girod BV)
 2007 illustrations for the development plans of the Dutch Hermitage (Merkx+Girod BV)
 2006 drawings for the presentation of the transformation of KPN into TNT (Merkx+Girod BV)
 2005 Carpet design, Dutch Queen's 25th Anniversary, Raad van State, The Hague (Merkx+Girod BV)
 1996-98 illustrations for department store Hema, Amsterdam, Rotterdam (Merkx+Girod BV)

PROJECT, PUBLICATION & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (selection)

The Suicide Of An Octopus / Drowning In Nightmares

A stop-motion animation film about suicide inspired by the discovery of a set of objects found at the foot of Beachy Head, the notorious suicide cliff at the south coast of England. See also project The Last Interview and the residency Het Vijfde Seizoen.

Photo Studio

A two-hour performance recorded live for the children's art-program Schepper-de-schep (VPRO, February 2006). In an extreme makeover, using different patients' and employees' of the psychiatric clinic's clothes and make-up, Zwierzyńska hoped to take-on their personalities through physical transformation.

Het Vijfde Seizoen

From March until June 2005 Zwierzyńska stayed at Het Vijfde Seizoen, an artist residency on the premises of the Willem Arntsz Hoeve, a psychiatric clinic in Den Dolder (NL). She worked there on 3 separate projects:

- Clinicville - a workshop with patients and a group of young artists from all around the Netherlands;
- 'Me and I' - a pinhole camera portrait-series of female schizophrenic patients;
- "Drowning In Nightmares" - a script for a stop-motion animation film about suicide, continuation of project The Last Interview.

Me And I

A series of portraits of female schizophrenic patients inspired by the psychiatric photography of the 19th century. Using a handmade camera-obscura Zwierzyńska hoped to capture multiple personalities in a single photograph. The pinhole technique and its long exposure times however proved unsuccessful in working with psychiatric patients. Eventually the newly formed friendships with her female subjects enabled her to impersonate them, dress, make-up and act and pose as if she was them. This pinhole photo-series is the result of a gradual process, of many photographic experiments, and of a great trust relationship built up during the residency. A publication will follow.

CLINICVILLE

A weeklong workshop with and about psychiatric patients organised at the artist residency Het Vijfde Seizoen. Zwierzyńska invited a selection of motivated young Dutch artists, and together with Aaf van Essen (Rietveld Academy, Sandberg Institute) inspired a broad selection of artworks (films, performances,

photos etc), discussions and interesting clashes within the psychiatric clinic. Clinicville also left behind a limited edition hand-numbered publication featuring the immediate impressions of the artists after being confronted with the world of madness.

The LAST INTERVIEW

A project about suicide and the reason why people choose to end their lives. It took place on the cliffs of Beachy Head on the south coast of England, a place notorious for suicides. From mid April 2004 for 4 weeks during the statistically highest suicide rates Zwierzyńska patrolled the edge of the 200m tall chalk cliffs. A resulting one-off performance - live-told story, showing the gathered and made materials, was presented at the Rijksacademy in Amsterdam. The final aims of the project are a publication and a stop-motion animation (see Het Vijfde Seizoen).

HALF WAY HOME Image Consulting at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien

A self-curated residency-in-residence executed during Zwierzyńska's yearlong stay at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. As part of an artwork-generating bureau, based in structure on the common to Germany image consultancy bureaus aiming at helping Eastern Germans adjust to their new Western identity, international artists were invited to stay, perform, produce and co-produce work in her studio for a period of up to 2 weeks. This strategy aimed at portraying the 'perfect' artist of today and pinpointing his/her place in modern culture. As an artist with Eastern and Western background Zwierzyńska did a triple self-portrait showing this culture clash (AGATA East/West). The project resulted in a series of happenings, live and on the Internet (www.xs4all.nl/~agata/half_way_home.html). The participants were Berlin's T2B Crew with live-graffiti, beatbox and a DJ session; Roosje Klap's Club Plak flyposter project on tour from Amsterdam; Sport.01 by Swedish artist- and musician duo: Allen Grubestic and Karl Tuikkannen; street-artist and DJ Raimond Chaves from Columbia. The project ended with a review exhibition of all the produced works, a showcase of the documented video footage, as well as the publication of a tear-off calendar, which is the project's catalogue.

"A.G.I. Alien Genetic Intelligence" photographic novel

A.G.I. is a science-fiction semi-autobiography of a young woman, a sample and collage of literature and personal family albums, divided into years and chapters. Co-edited with British writer and art critic Duncan McLaren "A.G.I." was Zwierzyńska's graduation project at the MA Fine Art course at Goldsmiths College, London (100-pages, full-colour photocopy, hand-bound, 6 copies).

agi.voice

Developed in collaboration with musician John Eacott. This tailored version of SuperCollider, computer software generating endless random loops, transformed Zwierzyńska's voice into a sound piece interactively triggered by viewers. Agi.voice became the bridge between project 'No Words' and the dummy-book "A.G.I.", and was presented at the 2001 Goldsmiths College MA degree-show.

Performance "True a Lie"

As part of a critical studies seminar at Goldsmiths College Zwierzyńska performed a lie detector test while being freely questioned by the public, and allowed to answer only 'yes' or a 'no'. Her reactions pinpointed by the stress-meter and her face expression were enlarged and projected in real-time with amplified sound.

Project NO WORDS

In order to research new ways of communication and to observe and document what happens in her surroundings during this experiment Zwierzyńska seized to speak completely for 4 weeks. One of the many results of this performance was developing agi.voice, computer software generating her own voice in random manner. Another outcome was "The Wall of Words" featuring a collage of words that she most often used and that were most important to her. Finally the project generated an image-diary, a series of 6 booklets showing 'the best of' the thousands of notepads used during the no-words month and an installation 'Agata Cracked-up'.

HOMETEL Project and book "Trip"

A project combining 60 art-acts executed in 60 Amsterdam hotels. For two months Zwierzyńska travelled within the hotel-world (1 hotel a day/night), gathering image- and text-material originating from these hotels and documenting her experiences and self-generated performances (1-day exhibitions, lectures, spontaneous activities with the hotel-guests and staff, etc). The complete process was shown through daily Internet broadcasts, and through weekly self-written and designed columns in 'de Volkskrant'. The gathered objects and documentation served as material for the book "Trip", an atmospheric image travelogue. (full colour, 2 copies)

"SEXY"

An erotic-tinted art magazine that researches the boundaries between pornography and Art. While using images of today's clichés in its design, the print-work and topic, SEXY resembles 60s and 70s 'girlie magazines'. (self designed and published, 500 copies per volume)

"LISTEN® The Telephone Book" Prix de Rome

A phonebook featuring phone-talks, not numbers. After the original plan of tapping a Central London phone booth was upset by a Scotland Yard employee Zwierzyńska scrutinized the library of The British Film Institute for film and theatre scripts featuring phone conversations. One side of these conversations

associatively divided into chapters and combined with photo-illustrations from Zwierzyńska's image-archive formed a book, which won her 1st prize Prix de Rome. Later the book was exhibited at Arti et Amicitiae from where it was stolen. (3000 pages, photocopy on yellow-pages paper, single copy)

The Barcelona Project, "Underworld"

"Underworld", the result of The Barcelona Project, a coming-together of three different disciplines: photography (Michiel van Nieuwkerk), writing (Yoeri Albrecht) and graphic design (Agata Zwierzyńska). The publication is a crime photo-comics, a novel narrated and shot on the streets of Barcelona, a city that served as a natural background for the story of the battle between the Good and the Bad, built around Goethe's classic tale of Faust. The book is a collection of literal en associative samples from films, music, song lyrics, photographs, literature and the media. Artimo published it in 2002. (100 pages, 1500 copies)

The India Project, "The Calcutta Diaries"

A richly coloured personal image travelogue consisting of hundreds of photocopied photos and personal objects generated by the project. The book is the result of a 100 day-by-day diary dealing with women in different layers of society in India (140 pages, photocopy, hand-bound, 100 copies, Océ-Nederland BV and Agata Zwierzyńska).

"The Ten Language Sound Dictionary"

A collection of 50 phonemics personally re-interpreted by 10 poets, writers and translators, accompanied by child-like drawings (2000 copies, Idea Books, Amsterdam, 1995).

SHORT FILMS (selection)

"The Suicide of An Octopus" 18'

A film installation built out of 4 large randomly looped projections. The images & sound are a mixture of stills, stop-motion animation, slides, video and super8 footage. Based loosely on the "Drowning In Nightmares" script it tells the story of a forgotten circus octopus, which committed suicide out of lack of attention. Another story line follows the fate of a woman whose belongings were found on the rocks beneath the notorious suicide-cliffs of Beachy Head. Finally the installation features a 200m camera-drop off those same cliffs.

"Together Forever. Martine & Johan" 5'30" & "The Kiss. Simona & Miltos" 5'30"

Time-slice movies made with 24 'pinhole' cameras made of coffee-cans. The short films feature couples, who met at a psychiatric clinic and continue their relationships against all odds. Here, like in their everyday life, they are frozen in an unnatural embrace posing for the long-exposure of a camera obscura.

"Murder Scenes" 5'30"

A filmic impression of photo installation 'The Last Supper' based on self-made photographs and archive material against a music track by British film composer Anne Dudley (The Crying Game).

"Remember" 5'33"

A nostalgic video impression of the books 'A.G.I.' and 'TRIP', featuring free sampling of the images, double spreads and fragments of photographs streaming to the rhythm of Louie Austen's song "Remember".

"I'm a Star" 3'20"

A film inspired by the music of Arling & Cameron. One of their tracks from the "Music For Imaginary Films" CD remixed with Louie Austen's song "I'm a Star" act as score for an ode to cool men in sunglasses.

"Impossible Pil&Galia" 16'13"

Featuring a fellow student 'always-together' couple Pil&Galia, the short film shows them side-by-side against a sunset background. The moment they start a 15 min long French kiss the sunset dissolves into a slow-motion low resolution firework symphony against a soundtrack of the 50s classic "It's Impossible". The film ends with a close-up of their kiss-marked faces.

"Tati Tata" 3'

Made especially for the First Rocket Clip Festival this short film features a blurred image of a dancing doll-like figure. Lit by glamorous lights the dancer is set against Jacques Tati's "Mon Oncle" soundtrack - looped and slowed down to create a sad circus show atmosphere. The film won a distinction at the festival.

"Agata at the Lloyd Hotel" 3'15"

A dreamscape showing Zwierzyńska repeatedly appearing at the centre of changing background slide-projections (on the bare walls of the future Lloyd Hotel) of interiors reproduced from magazines, simulating cosy surroundings and mystically mingling with the shadow and the image seen on the white cloak of the artist.

"Listen® The Telephone Book Clip" 17'19" & 11'35"

A low-resolution representation of the original Listen® book shown against Ry Cooder's "Paris Texas" soundtrack. The score also includes special sound effects and a phone-dialogue, which is part of Wim Wenders' film and the book's text.

"Snuff Movie" 38"

A short film based on the controversial archive-film-still from Vietnam (Colonel shoots Vietcong soldier at close range in the side of the head). Filmed mostly in the dark the only recognizable image is that of a "snuff movie" scene accompanied by a gunshot. The film should be shown in a small, slightly claustrophobic and dark environment, where the viewer is forced to witness a confronting and shocking scene.