



Born Agata Oleksiak, in 1978, in industrial Poland, OLEK's art allowed her to leave her gritty, narrow-minded hometown of Silesia. Through colors and conceptual exploration, OLEK's art examines sexuality, feminist ideas, and the evolution of communication, all with meticulous detail and total candor. OLEK consistently pushes the boundaries of fashion, art, crafts, and public art, fluidly combining the sculptural and the fanciful. With the old-fashioned technique of crocheting, she has taken the ephemeral medium of yarn to express everyday occurrences and inspirations, thus creating a metaphor for the complexity and interconnectedness of our bodies and our psychological processes. OLEK's bursts of bright colors often mask political and cultural critiques woven into the fibers of installations, mirroring her respect for artists and writers. She highlights that which already exists in real time, in our environment.

As an active supporter of women's rights, sexual equality, and freedom of expression, OLEK has used the broad appeal of her work to display her solidarity with those stifled by oppressive laws worldwide. Through her body of work, OLEK has always sought to bring color and life, energy, and surprise to the living space. OLEK's work has been exhibited in galleries, museums, and public spaces worldwide, from Art Basel and Wynwood Walls in Miami to the Brooklyn Museum in New York and The Smithsonian in Washington DC. OLEK currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

EDUCATION

2000 Adam Mickiewicz University. Poznan, Poland. BA in Cultural Studies.

AWARDS

2014 Hans Nefkens Fashion on the Edge. Rotterdam, Netherlands

2011 Sculpture In Situ, Artaq Award. Paris, France

2011 FUND LMCC Grant for performance in public spaces. New York, NY

2009 Award from the *National Endowment for the Arts*. Chashama. New York, NY

2008 Winner of Apex Art Gallery's PBS commercial competition. New York, NY

2007 USArtists International, support for performing arts at international festivals. USA/Poland

2004 The Ruth Mellon Memorial Award For Sculpture, The National Arts Club. New York, NY

RESIDENCIES

2010 Nine month artist-in-residency. Workspace, LMCC. New York, NY

2010 Six month artist-in-residency. Artists Alliance. Lower East Side Rotating Studio Program. New York, NY

2009 Two month artist-in-residency, full fellowship. Instituto Sacatar. Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

2005 Two month fully funded artist-in-residency. Sculpture Space. Utica, NY

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014** *Reality, what a concept!* Soho Grand Hotel. New York, NY
2014 *Let's Not Get Caught, Let's Keep Going.* Stolen Space Gallery. London, UK
2014 *I haven't a single explorer on my planet.* White Walls Gallery. San Francisco, CA
2013 *Santa Ágatha, la torera.* Delimbo Gallery. Sevilla, Spain
2013 *The End Is Far.* Jonathan LeVine Gallery. New York, NY
2012 *I do not expect to be a mother but I do expect to die alone.* Tony's Gallery. London, England
2011 *The Bad Artists Imitate, The Great Artists Steal.* Jonathan LeVine Gallery. New York, NY
2010 *Knitting is For Pus****.* Christopher Henry Gallery. New York, NY
2010 *Kiss Me, I Crochet.* LIU Gallery. Brooklyn, NY
2010 *99 Cents.* G-Train. Brooklyn, NY
2009 *Just Bring Your Clothes.* Supported in part by an award from the *National Endowment for the Arts.* Chashama. New York, NY
2009 *We Mock What We Don't Understand.* Marmara Gallery. New York, NY
2009 *10% What Happens to You, 90% How You React to It.* The Project Space. Brooklyn, NY
2008 *Text Machine.* 45 Bleeker Street Theatre. New York, NY
2008 *Plum Blossom is Beautiful. Blossom is Temporary.* BBBP. Bronx, NY

MUSEUMS

- 2016** Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art. Virginia Beach, VA
2015 *Crocheted canoe.* Pow! Wow! Honolulu Museum of Art. Honolulu, HI
2015 *Kiss me, I crochet,* Brooklyn Museum Artists Ball. The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
2014 *The Future of Fashion is Now,* Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen. Rotterdam, Netherlands
2014 *Sleep with the Fishes.* Honolulu Museum of Art. Honolulu, HI
2014 Brooklyn Museum Artists Ball. Brooklyn, NY
2013-2014 Museum Villa Rot. Burgrieden, Germany
2012-2013 The Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum. Paderborn, Germany
2012 *40 Under 40.* Renwick Gallery. Smithsonian American Art Museum. Washington, DC
2011 *A New Hook. Rethinking Needlework.* Museum Bellerive. Zurich, Switzerland
2010 *Bring Your Clothes.* Commissioned community-based performance. The Brooklyn Museum. Brooklyn, NY
2010 *Interwoven.* Evenings in Performance. The Textile Museum. Washington, DC
2009 *Tessituras,* Museu do Traje e do Têxtil at the Instituto Feminino da Bahia. Salvador, Brasil

LECTURES and WORKSHOPS

- 2014** TEDx Warsaw, Multikino Złote Tarasy. Warsaw, Poland
2014 Teaching crocheting at the municipal jail in Katowice, Poland and together with the inmates created a 20-meter-long crochet wall as part of OLEK's prison-outreach endeavor.
2010 19th Annual Matrilineage Symposium at Syracuse University. Syracuse, NY
2009 LaGuardia Community College. Long Island City, NY
2009 Art Academy. Krakow, Poland
2008 Loyola University, Art and Environmental Studies. New Orleans, LA
2006 Public Art Symposium: "Beyond the Object." Colgate University. Hamilton, NY
2004-2005 The Material for the Arts, Performing Arts Workshops. New York

SELECTED FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

- 2015** *Crocheted Thrones*, Collective Design Fair with Todd Merrill Studio. New York, NY
2015 *You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming*, Hecho en Casa. Santiago, Chile
2015 St+art Delhi. New Delhi, India
2015 *Respiratory System (Crocheted Canoe)*, Pow! Wow! Honolulu, HI
2014 *Endless Outburst*, Miami Art Basel installation with Jeffery Deitch for Club Monaco. Miami, FL
2014 *Love Nest*, Miami Art Basel intervention, Standard Spa. Miami, FL
2014 *Too Hot To Handle*, Swab. Barcelona, Spain
2014 *Women on the walls* curated by Jeffrey Deitch, Wynwood Walls, Miami Art Basel. Miami, FL
2013 *Isis*, collaboration with Alice Mizrahi for Welling Court Walls. Queens, NY
2012 Installation for Bloop Festival. Ibiza, Spain
2012 Crocheted diggers for the Katowice Street Art Festival. Katowice, Poland
2012 Installation for PALP Festival. Martigny, Switzerland
2011 Scope Miami with Jonathan LeVine Gallery. Miami, FL
2011 *No Women, No Art*. Various Crocheted installations in Poznan, Poland
2011 *Festival of Ideas for the New City*, The New Museum. New York, NY
2010 *Knitting is For Pus*****, Scope Art Fair with Christopher Henry Gallery. Miami, FL
2009 *Thank You for Your Visit, Have a Nice Day*, Art In Odd Places: SIGN. New York, NY
2008 *12th Annual Under the Bridge DUMBO Art Festival*. Brooklyn, NY
2007 XIV Annual International Contemporary Dance Conference and Performance Festival '07. Poland

SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONED PROJECTS

- 2014** There is no such thing as part freedom. New York, NY
2014 *"Pocaluj Przyszlosc" (Kiss the Future)*. Katowice, Poland
2014 *L.H.O.O.Q.* Paris, France
2014 Fargo FX Bus. New York, NY
2014 *Believe the Magic* for the Tipi Project. Brooklyn, NY
2013 Miami Iron Side. Miami, FL
2013 *Russia's Pride*. St. Petersburg, Russia
2013 Absolute Open Canvas. San Francisco, CA and New York, NY
2013 Crochet Locomotive. Lodz, Poland
2013 *El Sid*. Seville, Spain
2013 Doggie Diner Heads. San Francisco, CA
2012 *Happiness is an inside job*, installation commissioned by Elements. Hong Kong, China
2012 Crocheted jacare, SESC interlagos. Sao Paulo, Brazil

SELECTED UNCOMMISSIONED PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2014** *Time Bomb*, Museo Subacuatico de Arte. Isla Mujeres, Mexico
2014 *Be a voice not an echo*. Honolulu, HI
2014 *If the Men Could Get Pregnant, Abortion Would Be a Sacrament*. London, UK
2013 Albert Einstein. Washington, DC
2013 Gato de Botero. Barcelona, Spain
2012 Cube in Astor Place. New York, NY
2012 *Crocheted Minotaur*. Martigny, Switzerland
2010 Wall Street bull. New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015** *Surface By Soren Solkaer: Portraits And Paintings Of And By Street Artists*. Allouche Gallery. New York, NY
- 2014** *Project M/6*. Urban Nation. Berlin, Germany
- 2014** *Art Truancy*. Jonathan Levine Gallery. New York, NY
- 2014** *Summer Times*. Curated by Miss Van at Yusto Giner Gallery. Marbella, Spain
- 2013** *The Animal Ball*. London, UK
- 2012** *Make Ends Meet*. Flanders Art Gallery. Raleigh, NC
- 2012** Installation for Anti-Slavery International's Follow Your Art – Street Art Against Slavery. Village Underground. London, England
- 2012** *Synthetic Nature*. Krause Gallery. New York, NY
- 2012** *Purple*. Causey Contemporary. Brooklyn, NY
- 2011** *Otulina*. Kordegarda Gallery. Warsaw, Poland
- 2011** *Miss Danger on the Loose: A Female Street Artist Exhibition*. Lab Art Gallery. Los Angeles, CA
- 2011** *Made Skateboard*. I-20 Gallery. New York, NY
- 2011** *Civilization and its Discontents*. Nars Gallery. Brooklyn, NY
- 2011** *Crest Fest*. Brooklyn, NY
- 2011** *Sing for Hope — Pop-up Pianos*. New York, NY
- 2011** *LaGuardia Community College Alumni Art Exhibition*. Experimental Space at Reis Studios. L.I.C., NY
- 2011** *Suffolk Deluxe Electric Bicycle*. Collaboration with Devan Harlen, NY Studio Gallery. New York, NY
- 2011** *The Sky is Pink, The Room Is Green*. Installation commissioned by Pacific Design Center. LA
- 2011** *Banzai*. Art and Performance Kaleidoscopic Adventure. Brooklyn, NY
- 2010** *Bite: Street Inspired Art and Fashion*. Third Streaming. New York, NY
- 2010** *Collected: Work Space*. Cuchifritos Gallery. New York, NY
- 2010** *T minus 20*. Christopher Henry Gallery and INGNITE. New York, NY
- 2010** *Weaving In and Out*. No Longer Empty. New York, NY
- 2010** *Non-Native NY*. Brooklyn, NY
- 2010** *Stand clear of the closing doors*. Pandemic Gallery. Brooklyn, NY
- 2010** *Excess and Environment: sustainability in a world of consumption*. Art for Global Justice. L.I.C., NY
- 2010** *Glow II*. LKC, Z-Bar and streets. Berlin, Germany
- 2010** *Low Lives II — Crocheted Painting To Shake Hands*. One-night exhibition of performance-based works transmitted via the internet. Berlin, Germany
- 2010** *Crocheted Windows*. ABC No Rio. New York, NY
- 2009** *100% Acrylic 11.07.09 (after Jan van Eyke)*. Part of SAVOIR-FAIRE, the first annual performance series featuring the work of women artists. Soho20 Gallery. New York, NY
- 2009** *Covers*. The Lab Gallery. New York, NY
- 2009** *Zakamarki, BWA*. Galeria Sanocka. Sanok, Poland (catalog)
- 2009** *Viceroy Art*. Viceroy Hotel. Miami, FL
- 2009** *Haute-Kraft*. Posie Kviat Gallery. Hudson, NY
- 2009** NY ART BEAT First Anniversary Exhibition. DAC. Brooklyn, NY
- 2009** *Women Forward*. WAH Center. Brooklyn, NY (catalog)
- 2008** *How the book is made*. New Orleans Biennale. New Orleans, LA
- 2008** *TATENT PReVIEW 09*. White Box. New York, NY

- 2008** *The (Self) Promotion Show*. Apexart. New York, NY
- 2008** *U R HERE*. Installation for Artichoke Dance Company. Brooklyn, NY
- 2008** *Practical to Poetic: Fiber Invitational*. Curated by Ogunsanya. The Art Center. St. Petersburg, FL (catalog)
- 2008** *Women's Vision, Women's Voices*. St. Mark's Church. New York, NY
- 2007** *Made in MFTA*. Citibank. L.I.C., NY
- 2007** *ARTHaus*. Miami, FL
- 2007** *The Liberator* — collaborative work with Naomi White. Supreme Trading Gallery. Brooklyn, NY
- 2007** *Attempting the Impossible*. Anthology Film Archives. Curated by Joseph Latimore. New York, NY
- 2007** *Borborygami*. Installation for Mehr Gallery. New York, NY
- 2007** Interventions at Colgate University. 30th Anniversary of Sculpture Space. Hamilton, NY
- 2007** *and Company*. New 42nd Street Studios. The Construction Company, NY
- 2007** *1000 nows*. Shua Group. Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church. New York, NY
- 2007** *Labatorio di danza contemporanea*. Venice, Italy