

MARIA ANTO

Maria Anto (1936–2007) was creator of paintings and drawings, she studied at the Faculty of Painting of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (diploma 1960). During the Martial Law in Poland in the early 1980s, she was active in the underground culture movement. A representative of figuration in art, she developed her own individual language of painting. Art critics and historians most often likened Anto's paintings to those by Henri Le Douanier Rousseau, Marc Chagall, Max Ernst, René Magritte, Paul Delvaux and many other, primarily male, artists, as well as to Frida Kahlo. Anto herself disapproved of being typecasted as a Surrealist or fantastical painter. The artist herself attached the most importance to literary inspirations. Anto's creative output embraces oil painting and drawing, portraits, landscapes and images of animals and fantastical creatures. She was a major figure in the Polish art world for several decades. She was one of the few women painters to have achieved considerable artistic success, in 1963 she participated in São Paulo Art Biennial. Maria Anto seems to match the definition of an "anomaly" in Polish art. What is more, she practiced "realism", which she accessed through the route of "naïve" art. The early paintings are permeated with an atmosphere of uncanniness, a fairytale ambiance, a mystery. Figures depicted in portraits demonstrate their own psychological profoundness and individuality.

Her works were shown at nearly 70 individual exhibitions and some 250 group shows in Poland and abroad. Most important exhibitions: São Paulo Art Biennial, Zachęta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, Gallery Cortina in Milan, Galleri Prisma in Stockholm.

Her works are included in collections of National Museum in Warsaw, Museum of Saint Anthony in Padua, Museum of Warsaw, Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Olympic and Sports Museum in Barcelona, Museums in: Słupsk, Chorzów, Kielce, Koszalin, Płock, Olsztyn, Lublin, Białystok, and in public and private collections in many countries in Europe and Latin America and in Canada, United States, Japan and Australia.

education

1950-1954 Fine Arts High School in Warsaw
 1954-1960 Faculty of Painting, Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw

selected solo exhibitions

- 2017** *MARIA ANTO*, Zachęta – National Gallery of Art, Warsaw
- 2002** Museum in Kalisz (with grandfather Ignacy Jasiński 1833–1878)
- 2001** Galeria Miejska, Sandomierz
- 2000** Galeria Dom Michalaków, Kazimierz Dolny
- 1999** Galeria Zbytniewskich, Warsaw
- 1998** Galeria DAP (Artists' House), Warsaw
- 1997** Körmendi Galéria, Budapest
- 1996** Galeria Joannart, Vicenza
 Galeria K.K. „Solidarność”, Warsaw
 Gallery of the Polish Institute, Rome
- 1995** Galeria Leśna, Białowieża
- 1994** Galeria Zbytniewskich, Warsaw
- 1992** Kordegarda Gallery, Warsaw
 Gallery of Contemporary Art, Kołobrzeg
 BWA, Piła
 BWA, Płock
 BWA, Zamość
- 1990** Galeria Zbytniewskich, Warsaw
- 1989** The Hill Gallery, London

- 1987** Piotr Nowicki's Gallery, Warsaw
- 1984** Galeria Siemens-Osram, Munich
Galeria Farbiarnia, Cracow
Home exhibition with G. Morycińskim and J. Modzelewski, Karpińskiego 12 in Warsaw
- 1983** BWA, Zakopane
BWA, Tarnów
BWA, Radom
- 1981** Polish Institute, Vienna
MK Gallery, Dusseldorf
- 1980** BWA, Lublin
- 1979** Piotr Nowicki's Gallery, Warsaw
- 1978** Depolma Gallery, Dusseldorf
L'indiscreto Gallery, Rome
Galeria DAP (Artists' House), Warsaw
- 1976** Galeria Van Dormael, Brussels
Galeria Desa, Cracow
- 1975** Niccoli Gallery, Parma
- 1974** Forum Gallery, Triest
- 1973** Cortina Gallery, Milan
Cortina Gallery, Verona
Galeria Zapiecek, Warsaw
- 1972** BWA, Koszalin
- 1971** Galeria MDM, Warsaw
Cortina Gallery, Milan
BWA, Piastów
- 1970** Galeria Azyl, Toruń
Galeria 10, Warsaw
- 1969** Galeria TPSP, Gdańsk
- 1968** Prosma Gallery, Stockholm
- 1967** Polo Bot Gallery, Caracas
- 1966** Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw
BWA, Lublin
BWA, Katowice
BWA, Bydgoszcz
BWA, Kielce
BWA, Olsztyn
- 1962** Galeria MDM, Warsaw

selected group exhibitions

- 2003** *The Painting of the Year 2002*, Królikarnia – National Museum in Warsaw
- 2002** *The Painting of the Year 2001*, Królikarnia – National Museum in Warsaw
- 2000** *The Book of 2000*, Galeria DAP (Artists' House), Warsaw

- 1995** *The Month of Painting*, Galeria DAP (Artists' House), Warsaw
- 1994** I Triennial of Autoportrait, Radom (prize)
- 1991** Exhibition of Polish Painting, PAN Gallery, Paris *National Gift*, New York
- 1990** *Artists for the Polish Republic*, Warsaw
- 1989** L'art contemporain polonais, Paris
- 1987** VII Triennial of the Metaphor, Łódź
- 1986** *A Child in Painting*, Paris
Art of the Undaunted, Toronto
- 1984** *The Death and the Resurrection*, Digne des Bains
Polish Portrait 1944–1984, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw
- 1983** *600 Years of the Black Madonna*, Vienna
- 1980** *Wizerunek Miasta*, Galeria WAREXPO, Warsaw
25 years of PRL, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw
Ciemne Ogrody, Budapest
- 1979** *Nude*, Hamburg
Erotics, Warsaw
Polish Days, Mexico
- 1976** National Exhibition of Metaphorical Painting, Płock
II Triennial of Painting and Graphics, Łódź (Grand Prix)
- 1975** National Art Exhibition, *Woman's Image*, Sopot (prize)
- 1974** Fine Arts Festival, Warsaw
Exhibition of Polish Contemporary Painting, Baltimore
Festival of Contemporary Polish Painting, Szczecin
- 1972** National Art Exhibition, *Woman in Art*, Radom
Polish Art, Stuttgart
Fine Arts Festival, Warsaw
Painting Exhibition, Varenna (prize)
- 1971** International Biennial, *Sport in Fine Arts*, Barcelona (prize)
- 1970** Fine Arts Festival, Warsaw
- 1969** III Autumn Confrontations, Warsaw
- 1968** Fine Arts Festival, Warsaw
Young Painting, Warsaw
- 1967** *Exhibition of Polish Art*, Belgrade; Zagreb
- 1966** *Young Generation 1960-1966*, Sopot
Fine Arts Festival, Warsaw
Festival of Contemporary Polish Painting, Szczecin
- 1965** *Young Painting Exhibition*, Sopot
Polish Art Exhibition, Buenos Aires, Montevideo
- 1964** Grand Prix International d'Art Contemporain de Monaco, Monte Carlo (prize)
- 1963** São Paulo Art Biennial
Antoniano Internacionale, Padua (prize)