



Joanna Rajkowska

Mask with Badger's Skull and Roe Deer's Vertebra, 2019

Papier-mâché, badger's skull, roe deer's vertebra, animal fur, wire, acrylic paint
26 x 19.5 x 17.3 cm (approx.)

Shoes with Fox's Skull, 2019

Fox skull, animal fur, leather
34 x 12 x 15 cm and 34 x 12 x 14 cm (approx.)

EUR 5.800



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Papier-mâché, badger's skull, roe deer's vertebra, animal fur, wire, acrylic paint



Joanna Rajkowska
Shoes with Fox's Skull, 2019
Fox skull, animal fur, leather



Joanna Rajkowska
Mask with Hare Skull, 2019
Papier-mâché, hares' skulls, animal fur, acrylic paint

25.5 x 16 x 14 cm (approx.)

EUR 3.500



Joanna Rajkowska
Mask with Hare Skull, 2019
Papier-mâché, hares' skulls, animal fur, acrylic paint



Joanna Rajkowska
Mask with Wild Boar's Jaw, 2019
papier-mâché, wild boar's jaw, wire, animal fur, acrylic paint
29.5 x 16 x 15.5 cm (approx.)

EUR 4.700



Joanna Rajkowska
Mask with Wild Boar's Jaw, 2019
papier-mâché, wild boar's jaw, wire, animal fur, acrylic paint



Joanna Rajkowska

Mask with Wild Boar's Skull and Roe Deer's Ribs, 2019

Papier-mâché, wild boar's skull, roe deer's ribs, animal fur, wire, acrylic paint, beeswax
47 x 15.5 x 21.5 cm (approx.)

EUR 4.700



Joanna Rajkowska
Mask with Wild Boar's Skull and Roe Deer's Ribs, 2019
Papier-mâché, wild boar's skull, roe deer's ribs, animal fur, wire, acrylic paint, beeswax

"Whereas much recent eco-art adopts a data-driven approach or a technological aesthetic, Rajkowska instead encourages viewers to use their sensory imagination to explore ways of getting beyond the scientific or philosophical confines of the human mind and body, and to recognise a sense of open-ended shared identity with nonhumans."

Anna Souter, *This is Tomorrow*, 2019

Taking the concept of empathy further, Rajkowska developed a series of masks combining both animal and human elements. She collected objects in the forest near her country house: traces of animals like fur and bones, but also remnants of human existence such as cables and beer cans, insignificant waste items discarded in the forest.

Mask with Roe Deer's Skull and Spine consists of a mask shaped as a human face, made from papier-mâché, and painted a luminous gold. Colourful, spikey strands of hair sprout outwards, which on closer look turn out to be made from thin strips of beer cans. The bone of a deer's spine is sticking out like a tongue, the deer's skull worn on the forehead like a decorative hat, suggesting both a playfulness and something much darker. In *Mask with Badger's Skull and Roe Deer's Vertebra*, Rajkowska has taken parts of two different animals. The mask on top of a steel pole has human dimensions, but the face is coated in fur and has a badger's skull for a mouth. Human and animal are so fully integrated that only the eye sockets, painted in the deepest, brightest blue, remind us that this is, in fact, an object of art, skilfully and thoughtfully put together by the artist.

Part folk art, part magic, part play - these mask-sculptures have an uplifting, life-affirming presence. But at the same time, they hint at something deeper: a powerful, almost shamanic sense of ritual. Adorning human masks with parts of animals, Rajkowska suggests that we can put ourselves in the animals' skin, even become them.

Joanna Rajkowska (b. 1968, PL) is an internationally exhibited multi-disciplinary artist whose practice can be traced at the point where humanitarianism, ecofeminism and socially-engaged art intersect. In her public art commissions and projects, she has unearthed collective trauma, while simultaneously exploring urban space as a platform for disruption, political alertness and cross-pollination of ideas.

Her films, sculpture and installations have been exhibited in major museums, international festivals and biennials, including the 7th Berlin Biennial. Her work "Greetings from Jerusalem", a 15-meter palm tree, is permanently installed in the centre of Warsaw and is considered one of the most iconic works of Polish art.

Rajkowska's work has also been exhibited in the UK; at The Showroom, London, Frieze Projects, the Wysing Arts Centre and the Frieze Sculpture Park. It is currently included in high profile exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, Korea and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Warsaw, Poland. It is featured in major museum collections, including the Museum Susch where it is on permanent display. Rajkowska's latest film, made in collaboration with artist and poet Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman, has been commissioned by Steirischer Herbst this year and is being presented on the Paranoia TV, a digital platform of Steirischer Herbst.