

Anna Kuterà

Feminist Painting, 1973/2021

8 photographs 35 x 35cm each
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
Edition of 3 +1AP



In her performance, Feminist Painting, from 1973, Anna Kutera spread out a large sheet of paper on her studio floor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław. Using a broom that was dipped in black paint, she started to “sweep” the paper in the same way one sweeps the floor to clear it of debris and dust. Her ironic gesture hinted at the societal expectation that women should unconditionally embrace their domestic role. At the same time, as the title gives away, this performance was a critique of modernist painting and Abstract Expressionism in particular. What comes to mind are the sweeping gestures of masculine bravado demonstrated by the likes of Jackson Pollock. To complicate the meaning of Kutera’s “Feminist Painting” even more, she risked, and possibly welcomed, being rejected by Poland’s male avant-garde artists who regarded Abstract Expressionism as the culmination of artistic freedom: the right of the individual to express oneself without fear of government attempts to censor or instrumentalize the work. Of course, Anna Kutera was very well aware how Western contemporary art was cherished by the Polish avant-garde while its spirit was publicly denounced as “decadent” by the Communist Party. Her defiance of the male-dominated Polish avant-garde and her ironic siding with the Communist regime turns her performance into an act of courage that reveals one thing: The only rules she is willing to follow are the rules she determines herself.
~Wictor Witkowski, on the exhibition *States of Focus*, at the Wrocław Contemporary Museum, Poland, 2019/2020

Anna Kutera works with film, video, photography, painting, installation and performance. She was active within ‘Conceptual Contextualism’ movement as a Feminist practitioner in Poland in the 1970s. In 1975-1980, she co-organised the international movement of contextual art, focused on researching contexts of artistic productions, which extended the concepts and patterns of the then-dominating conceptualism.

Anna Kutera (born in 1952) graduated from the Faculty of Painting, Graphics Art and Sculpture at the State College of Fine Arts in Wrocław (now Academy of Fine Arts) in 1977. Kutera has exhibited extensively in Poland and internationally, most notably in Art Museum Gelsenkirchen, Germany; Galerie Aller Art, Bludenz, Austria; Galerie Kunstpunkt Berlin; Polish Woman’s Film 1970-80, NYC, Oslo, Berlin; Galerie der Künstler, Munich, Germany; Fluss Association, Schloss Wolkersdorf, Vienna, Austria; DANAE Foundation Pouilly, Paris, France; Drents Museum, Assen, Holland; Banff Center, Canada; Documenta 7, Kassel, Germany; Artculture Resource Centre, Toronto, Canada; Neuberger Museum, Museum of City of Copenhagen, Denmark; Museum of Modern Art, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Guggenheim Museum, NYC, USA; State University, NYC, USA; CAYC, Soderteje, Kommun, Sweden; Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Her work is in many museum collections including: The Royal Library of Art, Copenhagen; National Museum in Warsaw; Centre of Contemporary Art, Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw; Museum of Art, Łódź; Foundation DANAE, Paris; Collection BWA Lublin; Municipal Museum Bydgoszcz; Municipal Museum in Chełm; Galerie Rahnitzgasse, Dresden, Wrocław Contemporary Art Museum, National Museum, Gdańsk.



Anna Kutera
Feminist Painting 1 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kutera
Feminist Painting 2 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kutera
Feminist Painting 3 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kuterá
Feminist Painting 4 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kuterá
Feminist Painting 5 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kuterá
Feminist Painting 6 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kuterá
Feminist Painting 7 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP



Anna Kuter
Feminist Painting 8 of 8, 1973/2021
Epson Ultrachrome HDX Ink in Epson Traditional Photo Paper
35 x 35cm
Edition of 3 +1AP