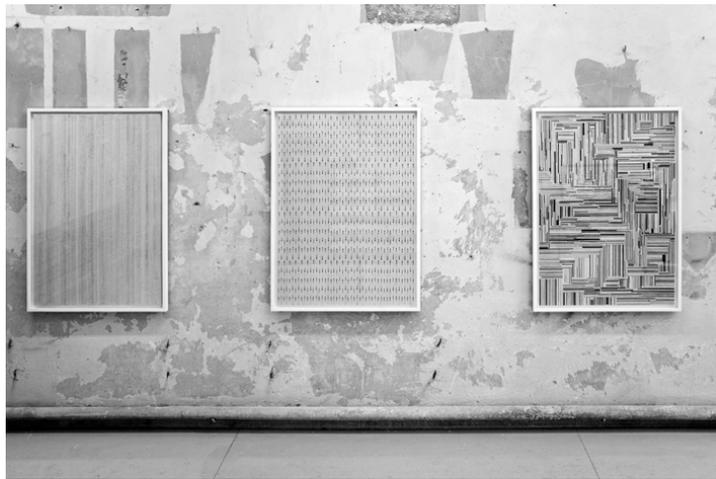


Short Context to Untitled (Non-Spaces)¹



Untitled (Non-Spaces), 2011, Wrocław

Untitled (Non-Spaces), 2011 is a series of collages on canvas composed of cutouts from the blank parts of daily newspapers. Margins, CMYK registration marks and layout graphics are used for material. Presented is a vivisection of a paper that draws attention to the unnoticed and the mute, rather than informative text and images.

The works were first exhibited at the European Congress of Culture at the Centennial Hall in Wrocław, a four-day assembly of international intellectuals and artists. There they hung on a tattered wall of the picturesquely ruined exhibition space. It was a group show curated by Martha Kirszenbaum² about the impact, interpretation and hypnosis of socio-political events.

When asked to contribute to her exhibition I imagined photomontages that exposed Europe's current traumas such as financial crisis, migrants, outsourced labor, terrorism, and ecology. I struggled with the idea for weeks and felt defeated. Collected documentation refused to be an artwork.

Then a sudden thought hit: no text and no image, but the perversity of the overlooked, the shame of the unspoken and the materiality of the intangible. Slight embarrassment shook my body - proof that the direction was right. After two months the works were completed.

They do not demonstrate withdrawal, but stand for the yet unrevealed. The notion of hegemony, struggle, and exclusion is as valid as the notion of monochrome, abstraction and décor. It is a political position for those concerned with politics and an aesthetic one for those interested in beauty. For me these are one and the same.

Acknowledgements: Martha Kirszenbaum and the team of Asenał CCA, Wrocław
Text and works by Anna Ostoya

¹ This text is about the big format canvases. The smaller ones were preparatory and post-production experiments.

² Please Close Your Eyes, 2011, European Congress of Culture, Wrocław, curator: Martha Kirszenbaum, artists: Rossella Biscotti, Claire Fontaine, Anna Ostoya, Aleksandra Domanović, Superflex.