



Kinga Kielczyńska
NADA VILLA WARSAW
May 16-19 2024

OOLONG GALLERY



Oolong Gallery Presents Kinga Kielczynska's
***An Attempt at Soil Healing (Gala)* at NADA VILLA WARSAW 2024**

Warsaw, Poland – May 14, 2024 – Oolong Gallery is thrilled to announce the inclusion of acclaimed artist Kinga Kielczynska in the inaugural NADA VILLA WARSAW 2024. The New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA) is hosting this groundbreaking event from May 15 to May 19, 2024, at the historic Villa Warszawa in Warsaw, Poland. Kielczynska will debut her site-specific installation titled “An Attempt at Soil Healing (Gala)” 2024, composed of various organic and industrial materials, creating an exhibition capture and commentary on environmental and economic sustainability. This installation will be an entrance piece of the exhibition, marking a significant moment for both the artist and Oolong Gallery.

- Materials: Unsold apple trees, salt, water, diffuser, ashes, nitrogen fertilizer, sand, soil, glass, wood trunks, metal, plumbing fixture

The installation features a custom-made graduation tower (PL: *teżnia*) constructed from unsold 2-year-old Gala variety apple trees. The tower’s wooden structure allows saltwater to drip through the trees, creating a healing brine mist (PL: *solanka*). Surrounding the tower, visitors can sit on tree trunk seats to benefit from the therapeutic atmosphere. An aquarium filled with a cross-section of the terrain from Kępa Zawadowska, where the trees grew, stands nearby, displaying layers of organic matter resembling geological artifacts.

Additionally, Kielczynska's work will be available to collect either as a whole or in separate elements:

1. Aquarium: *An Attempt at Soil Healing (Aquarium)*, 2024
2. Graduation Tower: *An Attempt at Soil Healing (Gala)*, 2024
3. Photo print editions of past installation work
4. Video editions from her ongoing projects
5. Illustration works on paper

About the Artist:

Kinga Kielczynska (b. 1972, Warsaw) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work interrogates the relationship between humans and the environment. Educated in Spanish philology at Warsaw University and fine arts at Gerrit Rietveld Academy and Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam, Kielczynska utilizes video, text, drawing, and installation in her practice. Her works, which she refers to as "environments," extend into their contexts, often displayed outside traditional gallery settings. Kielczynska's exhibitions have spanned globally, including Exile Gallery (Berlin), Manifesta 12 (Palermo), MoCAB (Belgrade), Warsaw Under Construction/MOMA (Warsaw), Mediamatic (Amsterdam), Oolong Gallery (Brooklyn, San Diego) and more.

"We are honored to present Kinga Kielczynska's thought-provoking work at NADA VILLA WARSAW 2024," said Eric Laine, Owner / Director of Oolong Gallery. "Her installation addresses pressing issues of ecological sustainability and the impact of capitalist practices on agriculture, offering a unique and immersive experience for visitors."

Event Information:

- Dates: May 16 - May 19, 2024
- Location: Villa Warszawa, Warsaw, Poland
- Website: **NADA VILLA WARSAW 2024**

For more information on Kinga Kielczynska and her work, please visit **Oolong Gallery's website** or contact the gallery: info@oolonggallery.com

For on site inquiries and guidance, please reach out to Oolong Gallery ambassador **Marta Grabowska**: martuga.grabowska@gmail.com | phone: +48 532 318 250

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Instagram: [@oolonggallery](https://www.instagram.com/oolonggallery)

For media inquiries, images, or to schedule an interview with Kinga Kielczynska, please contact the gallery.



Artist Statement:

A DIY prototype of brine graduation tower with the soil profile of Kępa Zawadowska

Medium: Environment

Materials: Unsold apple trees of Gala variety, salt, water, diffuser, soil, ashes, hydrocomplex fertilizer, sand, glass, wood shavings, wood trunks, metal, plumbing fixture.

For NADA Villa Warsaw, Oolong Gallery presents an installation by artist Kinga Kielczynska: a reinvention of the graduation tower made out of unsold apple trees. A graduation tower, or a thorn house is a structure originally used in salt production, removing water from a saline solution by evaporation, increasing its concentration of mineral salts. Traditionally, the tower consists of a wooden wall-like frame stuffed with bundles of brushwood. The saltwater runs down the tower, partly evaporating, and minerals are left behind on the brushwood twigs, releasing into the air. These minerals are believed to have healing qualities, benefiting the respiratory and nervous systems, similar to breathing in sea air. Graduation towers can be found in spa towns in Poland, and the artist chooses to work with apple trees instead of the typical blackthorn twigs. The 2-year-old trees are locally sourced from a tree nursery in Warsaw's Kępa Zawadowska district. If not sold, these carefully cared-for trees are burnt, reflecting the agricultural economy's disturbance due to extractivist capitalist practices by large companies. Alongside the graduation tower, the artist will present sculptural elements depicting a cross-section of the terrain of Kępa Zawadowska, where the trees were growing. Layers of various organic matters are enclosed in aquariums, resembling geological artifacts. The symbolism of the Graduation Tower's healing qualities is essential for the

site's specificity, referencing NADA's location Willa Gawrońskich's difficult past: the headquarters of the SS and police commander during WW2. Kinga Kielczyńska has previously worked with organic leftovers and garden waste, creating temporary installations inside cars, including a collection of bouquets in car trunks. The installation is site-specific and will be publicly presented for the first time, with its size determined by the presentation room's dimensions.

Portfolio

1. <https://exilegallery.org/artists/kinga-kielczynska/>

2. videos:

<https://vimeo.com/390692503>

<https://vimeo.com/kingakielczynska/courtesy-of-infinity?share=copy>

Texts:

1. Feature in Lynx Art Magazine

<https://contemporarylynx.co.uk/top-10-most-emergent-polish-female-visual-artists-now>

2. Interview at the New Institute page:

<https://thenew.institute/en/media/beyond-the-limit/respect-what-you-have>

3. Interview Berlin Art Link:

<https://www.berlinartlink.com/2023/07/07/interview-kinga-kielczynska-bialowieza-forest-poland-wilderness/>

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