



Marta Ostajewska

Monday June 3, 2019 3:15pm
NMNH Library, 1st Floor (Rm CE-107)
National Museum of Natural History

presents:

The cultural revitalization of the post-industrial district of Księży Młyn in Łódź (Poland) - the site-specific actions as a part of the "Filling" project

Ksiezy Mlyn in Lodz is a unique enclave, 'city within a city', the post-industrial district which over the years has been left alone and extremely neglected. It was established on the site of a former mill village by Karol Scheibler. In 1870 he bought the burned spinning from the previous owner and created a factory complex and settlements for workers. Ksiezy Mlyn consisted of textile factories, villas, workers' houses, fire station. There was a school, a hospital, workers houses, a club (the community center), a park. The estate was designed for skilled workers, foremen and their families. Its inhabitants knew one another, worked and spent their free time together. The flats on Ksiezy Mlyn belonged to luxury goods. The situation changed after the war, when the factory was taken over by the communist state. Some of the apartments were changed into first communal flats. In this fast pace this family, safe district changed into a place full of pathology and evening brawl. The neighbourhood trust created through years was brutally destroyed. Due to numerous omissions and deficiencies of funds the estate and factories have been decaying for years. The revitalization began only in 2013. The City Hall renovated the apartments in Przedzalniana Street and allocated studios for artists there. In 2014 the overhaul of the estate started and it continues till today. In 2015 Ksiezy Mlyn was declared a historical monument.

I will show some of the artistic activities that were carried out on the Ksiezy Mlyn between 2013 and 2016, with special emphasis on the series of soundwalks and the project "Filling" (the participatory activities with the residents). I will refer to contemporary oral histories and archival memories of the inhabitants from the sixties and seventies of the 19th century, which are the starting point for creating these actions.

Marta Ostajewska (Poland) Doctor of Fine Arts, performer and visual artist, PhD researcher at the University of Warsaw (Artes Liberales). Her M.A. in Multimedia Design was received from School of Arts in Ghent. She graduated also at the University of Lodz (M.A. in Theory of literature). She has participated in many international projects: Human Hotel: Copenhagen in Denmark, BIO50 in Ljubljana, RIAP2014 in Quebec City, Canada, PAB2015 in Bergen, Norway. She is editor-in-chief of the artistic and scientific magazine Afterimages. She is currently working on her second PhD: "The Body as Archive – the different methods of archiving ephemeral activities".

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