



KATARY
NA·HOLDA

KATARZYNA HOŁDA | PORTFOLIO

I deal with painting and dollmaking. My main interest is symbolic language of human psyche and it's narration in myths, magic, dreams, rituals, fairy tales etc. In my artistic practice I endeavor to understand deeper meaning of this language and to transform it into visual forms. I am searching for inspirations in religious art from prehistory till middle ages, in art naive and in magical artifacts.

I exhibited at individual and group exhibitions, e.g. Doll Prague – art.dolls faires in Prague, Czech, Ethnographic Museum in Toruń , Wozownia Gallery in Toruń, Otwarta Pracownia Gallery in Cracow, BWA Gallery in Kielce, BWA Gallery in Skierniewice, Baltic Gallery in Słupsk/Ustka, Gardzienice Gallery in Lublin, Labirynt Gallery in Lublin, Zachęta Gallery in Lublin, Lublin Museum.

My works are in private and public collections (Lublin Museum, Lublin Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts).

I studied Art Education at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland (MA in 2000, diploma in sculpturing).

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**Demeter and Kore on The Glob
(Pieta on the Glob)**

tempera on paper, 29,5x42cm, 2019

From about 2012 I have been working on the project myth about Demeter and Kore. My goal was to avoid simple illustrating of fictional layer of the myth and instead of that to break through the anecdote to the core of the myth; to come to the key meaning by rejecting subsequent story plots. As I finally interpret, that key meaning was transformation (of matter and psyche) and examination of this theme became main part of the project.

I am also exploring the similarities between the story of Kore-Persephone and the myth of Christ's death and resurrection. So far I created large series of paintings and drawings on paper titled „**Kore/ Persephone**” and couple of paintings on canvas and paper.



Kore with Vulcano

acrylic on canvas, 40x40cm, 2020

The Kora's body is an allusion to the Christ's body in Pieta. Kore also dies and reborns. The myth about Kore can be also read as a metaphore of decomposition and transformation of the matter into a new being. Vulcano is a channel to the earth's core, or using mythological language - to the hell. Inside the earh the matter burns up, turns into lava and then is thrown outside by the vulcano and takes completely different form.

The painting also symbolizes the rebirth of the psyche through catharsis and evokes the idea of symbolic purification by fire.



KORE/ PERSEPHONE series

The Priestess of Great Goddesses is sacrificing Sacred King. Kore is resurrecting 2
tempera on paper, 20x34cm

A reference to archaic Greek custom of sacrificing the king - the so-called Sacred King – in order to make life rebirth.



The Dream

tempera on paper, 30x30cm, 2019

The scene, I saw in my dream.



Reinkarnation 1

tempera on paper, 30x30cm, 2019

in Wiacek Collection

The motif of black-white naked woman from my dream, placed in a different context – unclear figure from a dream becomes mother of rebirth.



Dreaming Woman with a Dog
tempera on paper, 30x30cm, 2019



MADONNAS series

Annunciation

acrylic on canvas, 80x80cm, 2010

in the collection of Lublin Society
for the Encouragement of Fine Arts

“**Madonnas**” (2008-2011) is a series of 10 canvas paintings, showing Mary as Christian incarnation of pagan goddesses like matriarchal Great Mother (Mother Earth), a goddess of fertility and death and Triangle Goddess of Moon. Esthetic convention of the paintings refers to the way of expressing a deity in ancient and Byzantine Greece.



MADONNAS series

Garden 1

acrylic on canvas,
100x130cm, 2008-11

in private collection



MADONNAS series

**Triangle Moon Goddess (Mother Eve, Maria,
Maria-Magdalene)**

acrylic on canvas, 80x80cm, 2011

in the collection of Lublin Museum, Lublin



GODDESSES series

Artemis

linen canvas, 71cm, 2013

Artemis has the head of a doe or dog (her animal totems). The six breasts show Artemis's relationship with animals. As the goddess of the growing moon, the doll has a crescent moon on her right hand. In the doll's bag there is mugwort (artemisia) - a herb dedicated to this goddess as the lady of meadows and forests. Artemisia is a very feminine plant, it was used medicinally, among others for problems with menstruation, but also, in appropriate mixtures, for abortion.

„**Goddesses**” (2008-2013) is a series of one of a kind dolls, where I continue tradition of the oldest dolls known from prehistory – magic, ritual, religious. My works present pagan goddesses of fertility and death, some of the dolls refer to magic rituals. A doll is made with handcraft techniques what is crucial here, since handicraft is as primal and innate to man as magic thinking (or feeling).



GODDESSES series

Kore

textile, embroidery, 28cm, 2012

Greek goddess Kore depicted at the time of her inner journey, symbolized by a labyrinth. Crossed arms is a gesture of introversion.

The myth about Kore/ Persephone can be read as a metaphor for spiritual development, which begins with mental destruction and, through introspection, leads to rebirth in a more mature form. The cross-labyrinth embroidered on the belly of Kora is a symbol of the life path and meditation, and the arms are crossed over the breasts - focus in oneself, inner journey.



GODDESSES series

Aborigine Doll (Mother Earth Giving Birth)

textile, embroidery, 28cm, 2012



MOTANKAS series

Baba Yaga

textile, 37cm, 2015

GODDESSES series

Hecate

textile, 32cm (length),
2012

Motanka – traditional Slavic doll connected with white magic, known from pagan times. Made of old cloths without sewing.

Baba Yaga (in Polish Baba Jaga) is a witch from Polish and Slavic folklore. In pagan times she was goddess of live and death. In a legend two children lost in the forest – Jaś and Małgosia – came to her house. The story about their stay at Baba Jaga's is considered to be mataphor of initiation and growing up.

Hecate - Greek Goddess of magic, death, illumination. Her atributes are among others black dogs.



Urban Witch (Baba Yaga)

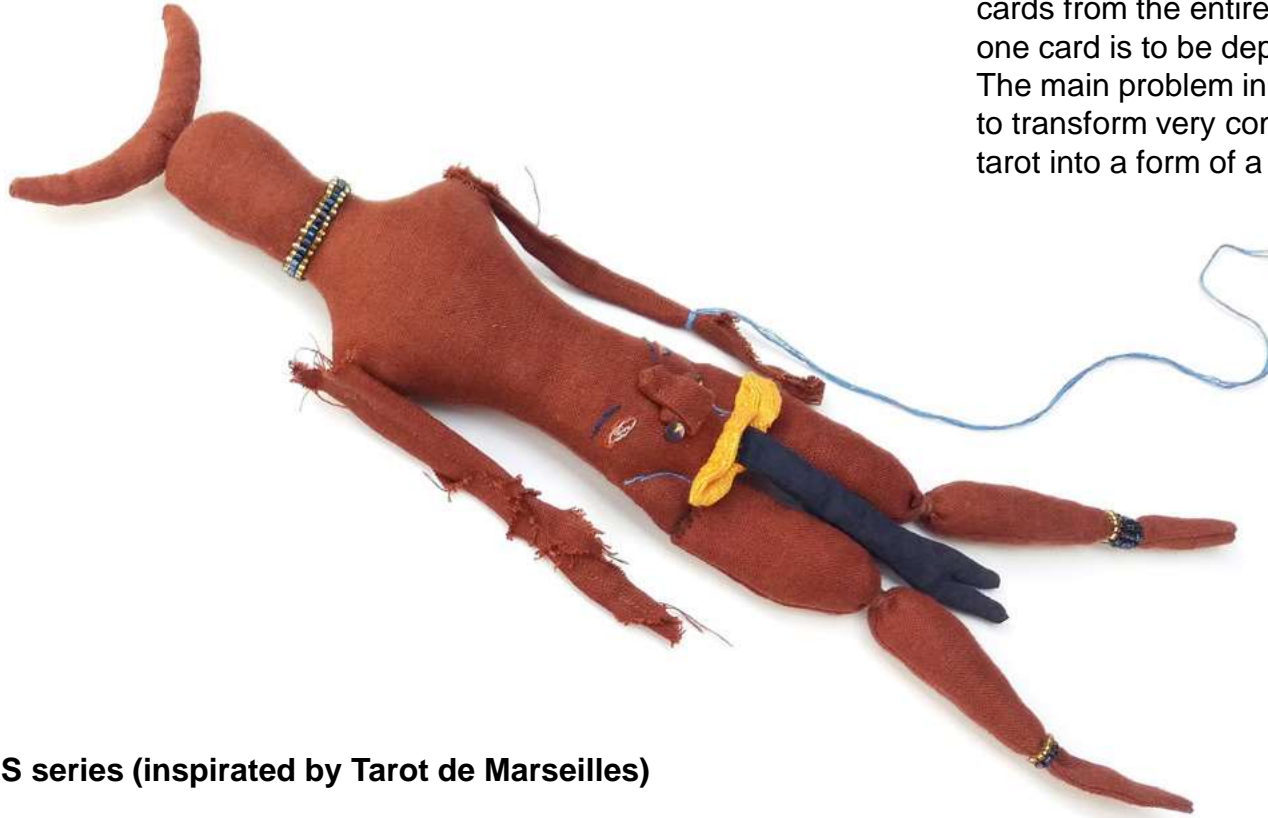
porcelain, textile, 46cm, 2019

Porcelain body parts made by me during artist residence in **Ćmielów Design Studio** in **Porcelain Factory in Ćmielów (Poland)** in 2016.

The Baba Yaga doll is an allusion to today's rebirth of witchcraft and the interest in magic and paganism among middle-class urban women. Hence her dress code, unusual for Baba Yaga but typical for modern witches. The dolls Baba Yaga is holding in her hand are Hansel and Gretel (in Polish Jaś i Małgosia). At the same time, they are motankas - traditional Slavic magic dolls.

Contemporary porcelain dolls are usually realistic and full of laces; rococo or Victorian. For me – too realistic and too Victorian. My goal is to make modern porcelain dolls, which are more close to contemporary art and design.

„**Tarot Dolls**” is a project in process started in 2017. The project assumes that I will choose a few or a dozen or so cards from the entire tarot deck. Every one card is to be depicted by one doll. The main problem in this project is how to transform very complex language of tarot into a form of a doll.



TAROT DOLLS series (inspired by Tarot de Marseilles)

The Devil

textile, embroidery, glass beads, 41cm with horns, 2017

3rd Prize in International Competition in Doll Making
during Doll Prague Biennale 2017



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