



ANDREA ZITTEL, MONIKA SOSNOWSKA. 1:1

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: MONIKA SOSNOWSKA**

Monika Sosnowska was born in Ryki, in south-east Poland, in 1972. From 1993 to 1998, she attended the Academy of Art in Poznan and received her Master of Arts there. 1999–2000 she spent a year in Amsterdam at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten – an important year, during which she took steps that proved essential for her artistic career. After her year at the academy in Amsterdam, she made a conscious decision to return to Poland rather than live in a western European country. The Polish capital, Warsaw, became her new place of residence, where an active, lively, widely appreciated art scene has evolved since the end of the 1980s.

Sosnowska had her first exhibition in Amsterdam in 2000. Since then, her work has been presented regularly in group and solo exhibitions in Europe and the United States.

Sosnowska's exhibition attracting the most attention thus far was the one she installed last summer in the Polish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. In Sosnowska's case, exhibitions are not only opportunities to present her recent work to the public, but very often create the conditions necessary for her to realize a work in the first place.

Monika Sosnowska's works are fictional spaces, mental explorations of space that have taken form. They are almost always constructed on a 1:1 scale, and are often conceived as walk-in spaces. Like her fellow artists who began to work in Poland after 1989, her own heritage and the upheaval of recent years are crucial influences on Sosnowska's creative work. For Sosnowska, this situation is most clearly experienced and read in the cities of Poland. The rapid change to which they have been subjected and its consequences, the numerous signs of breakdown and the traces of past utopias are the foundation from which Sosnowska develops her subversive, anarchic 'space images'.