

Ołowska, Paulina. "Role Play," *Mousse* (Summer 2016): 149.

MOUSSE

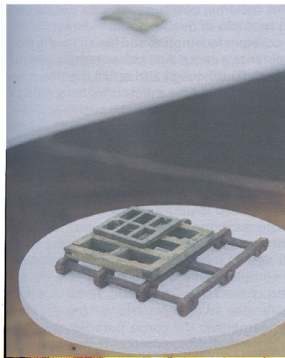
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Paulina Ołowska

"Curating" and "creating" are as close as they sound. For artists nowadays, curating is as common a practice as working with clay. Artists take art history, collections of art, and reproduction of other works and remake them, celebrating them in a new mashed-up-chaos-inducing show. All of this is open-minded, free, and great. Questions like "How large?" don't matter, whereas questions like "What for?" and "Where?" do.

I started curating out of necessity. In 2000 in Gdańsk, Poland with Lucy McKenzie we opened *Dream of Provincial Girl*, a temporary space where young artist-friends from the Baltic states and England could exhibit. I did not think about it as curating; it was just a part of my artistic practice—but with more paperwork. We curated and created temporary spaces since institutions were boring, male, and passé.

still curate since I see no other way to be independent from formulas. It's more of a shortcut: to know an artist is to be one, to know a maker is to make. But please do not take these statements too seriously; maneuvering around titles and occupations is the future. *Prym* by Cezary Bodzianowski illustrates quite beautifully this curating/making dichotomy. *Prym* is a thing. It does not matter what kind of thing, just an ordinary thing. Cezary picked it up, looked at it, and took it to the woodshop. He asked the craftsman to do something with *Prym*—no further instructions; the craftsman agreed. Cezary and *Prym* then traveled to ceramic, metal, marble, and textile workshops. It mutated but stayed as the thing—a "Prym." *Prym* is the primary element of creativity; it is a dialogue, a question, and a thing in one.



Cezary Bodzianowski, *Prym*, 2001.
Courtesy: Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw



Paulina Ołowska was born in 1976 in Gdańsk, Poland. She lives and works in Rabka-Zdrój and Kraków. Ołowska attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (BFA 1996) and the Academy of Fine Arts, Gdańsk (MFA 2000). Her most recent solo exhibitions have taken place at the Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen (2015), Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2014), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2013), Studio Voltaire, London (2013) and Kunsthalle Basel (2013) among others. Recent performances were presented at the Tate Modern, London (2015) and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2012).

From top - Paulina Ołowska and Lucy McKenzie, exhibition catalogue of *Dream of Provincial Girl*, Sopot, 2000. Courtesy: the artists and Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw