



Szymon Kobylarz

Szymon Kobylarz takes paranoid projections of science as his source of inspiration. He is interested in quasi-scientific absurdities and the border on which rationality and obsession fester. This theme presented itself in his thesis exhibition for which he composed the fictional interior of an institution offering Euthanasia. The rooms, cloned to a smaller scale, fuse the lack of ambiguity of a reception area with the eeriness of planning suicide.

Science and obsession also meet in Mr. Jan Kolano's Cell (Cela Pan Jana Kolano, 2008). Kobylarz reconstructed the story of Jan Kolano, a murderer and a genius, based on various media sources. Kolano spent 20 years in prison where he worked without any scientific instruments to make discoveries that were later awarded recognition by trained and equipped scientists.

*Civil Defense: Mr Kowalski, 2009, object, 150x80x90 cm*



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### *Echelon*

Szymon Kobylarz refers to the controversial, powerful system of electronic data transmission control that is subjecting contemporary life to ever-greater control and scrutiny. The artist particularly focuses on how inhabitants of cities feel observed by the networks of urban cameras supposedly intended to ensure their safety. The consciousness of being controlled gives birth to a fear of the excessive limitation of freedom. On the one side, we have an intrinsic desire to feel safe and protected and on the other, we start to feel a loss of control over our own lives. It is out of this sort of Orwellian dichotomy that the artist – who is particularly interested in questions that dwell between themes of science, technology, the military and conspiracies revolving around these fields – extended his project, inviting viewers to imagine and contemplate their own questions and potential answers: Are the white balls a modernist sculpture, Doppler radars most likely used within the Echelon or a symbol of a person's enslavement by national policing systems?





*Echelon*, 2009, installation, prod. Zacheta National Gallery of Art

## Szymon Kobylarz

Born in Świętochłowice, Poland 1981

Individual exhibitions (selection):

2009

*Civil Defense*, ŻAK BRANICKA, Berlin, D

*ECHOLON70*, Kordegarda, Warsaw, PL

2008

*Incredible Weightless Lifters*, Słupsk, PL

Group exhibitions (selection):

2009

*LIFTER - FAKE VERSION*, BWA Awangarda, Wrocław, PL

*Malarstwo bez Ram*, 9. Konkurs Gepperta, BWA Awangarda, Wrocław, PL

*Fifty fifty, kunst im dialog mit den 50er-jahren*, Wien Museum, Vienna, AT

*Alternatif turistik. Czyli uśmiech z destrukcją w tle*, Kronika, Bytom, PL

*Pokój do wynajęcia*, Kronika, Bytom, PL

*Establishment and its Discontents*, CSW Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw, PL

*Survival- Art in Extreme Conditions. Young Art Review*, Wrocław, PL

2007

*Betonowe Dziedzictwo (Concrete Blocks)*, CSW Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw, PL

*hmm...a problematic exhibition*, Arsenał Gallery, Białystok, PL

*Re(con)naissance of Painting*, Biennale in Katowice, PL (cat.)

Awards:

2009

Geppert-Award: from the director of BWA Gallery of Contemporary Art in Wrocław

*Civil Defense: Gun Cabinet*, 2009, object, 183x99x50 cm



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and



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