

The protagonist of the documentary directed by Agata Drogowska titled "Life in the movie", which is currently under realization, is a multimedia artist from Poznan - professor Izabella Gustowska - painter, graphic designer, photographer, author of video installations, artist-performer, who genuinely combines various media in contemporary artworks.



Actress Sari Caine chosen to play Josephine Hopper
Foto: Agata Drogowska's archive

On 24th of May 2012 at the Soho Gallery there will be screening of Agata Drogowska's movie trailer of her multimedia project "Live in the movie" about Izabella Gustowska. Agata Drogowska is going to read a letter written by Izabella Gustowska, and introduce to the wider public Gustowska's own project, which is paralleled with Agata's movie concept for her documentary. In July, Gustowska will start working in New York, on her multimedia project, dedicated to Josephine Hopper - wife of one of the most important American painters, Edward Hopper. Simultaneously, Agata Drogowska will be documenting Izabella Gustowska's staying in America, to collect material for documentary project about the Polish artist.

"Short fragments of my work-in-progress, that I plan to show, will let the audience capture the most important aspects of my documentary. I will share background information and will answer any questions related to my project. Sari Caine, an actress who stars in the role of Josephine Hopper, will read a letter from Gustowska" - says Agata Drogowska, the author of the "Life in the movie".

"My script somehow suggests what Izabella plans to do for her multimedia performance project in New York. Of course, we have discussed and agreed on many details how our two projects will intersect and interlace. We realize the idea of the film within film. Gustowska would like to create a 'fiction

reality' impression by asking another film crew to film our team at work - classical inside/outside effect. Hopefully it will work"- says Drogowska.

"Josephine is commonly known from Hopper's paintings, for which she posed as a model. Few people are aware, that she was also a painter. Moreover, even employees of New York's Whitney Museum - that owns majority of Hopper's entire collection (three thousand works), do not seem to know it either. Josephine's artworks unfortunately had not been preserved".

"We will organize casting for Josephine, and actually we are looking for several incarnations of red-haired Josephine. We want to reconstruct and animate a modern image of Josephine, who will be literally stepping out of Hopper's paintings. We will trail in the process, Hopper's creative path. Filming house at Washington Square, where Hopper lived, reproducing famous bar that was present in his paintings - this will be done in New York" - reveals Drogowska. "The third part of the film will be shot in Poznań, where Izabella Gustowska lives, at her home studio. I would like to show her workshops, discuss her past projects, and reconstruct narrative background for document. This will be the last part of the film" - she adds.

"Filmmaking for me is an art that touches a higher dimension. Even working as a journalist, I always wanted to make films, that is why I enrolled and finished the New York Film Academy. I have known Professor Gustowska for almost 20 years. Even though, she was not my professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan, I was always interested in her artwork. She has supported me creatively and mentally, when I shared with her my dreams about studying film in New York. She said that I should always follow my heart".

"I have cooperated with the American organization, New York Women in Film and Television, where my submitted documentary project has been well received. This organization contacted me with an artist who had similar interests as I do. She in turn recommended my movie trailer to be presented at the art gallery" - explains Drogowska, when asked about the story behind this event.

Izabella Gustowska received the grant from Kosciuszko Foundation to fund her project about Josephine Hopper. The upcoming Agata Drogowska's "Live in the movie" trailer screening will also be a fundraising event to support production of her documentary project.

**Thursday , 24th of May
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

The Emily Harvey Foundation
537 Broadway, New York