

Agata Klu^zniak

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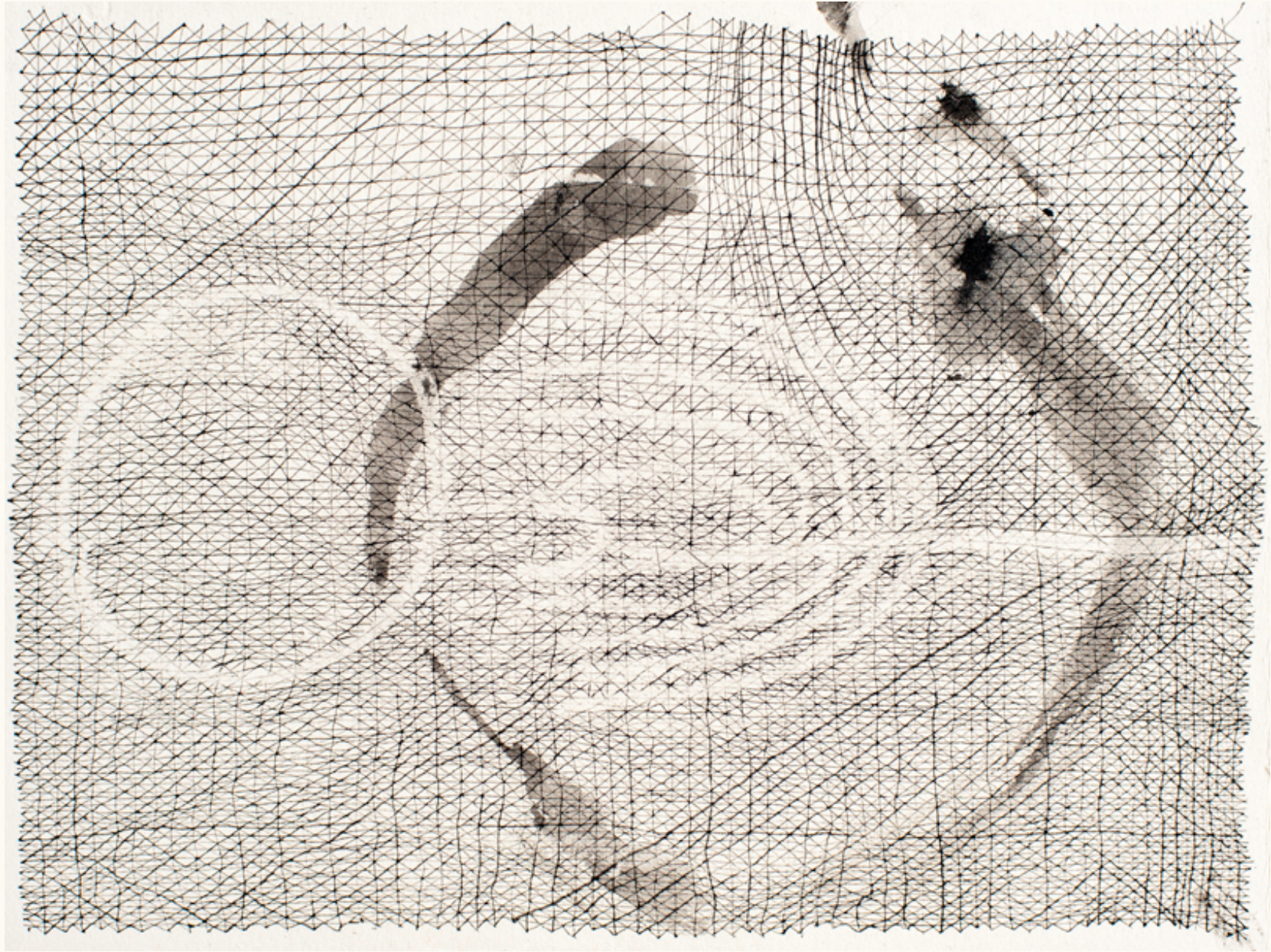
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Painting is for me a form of self-discovery and a way of exploring basic everyday experiences in terms of the transcendental. The shapes and colours are methaphors for emotions and states of mind and spirit. The physical fragments all come from the reality around me- the pieces of material are parts of clothing belonging to my family, the newspaper which appears regularly is a trace of life in Ireland. As well as fragments of reality, they are a vehicle for personal memories. In painting, I search for the collective memory through the personal one. On my canvases I leave footprints, marks of events and places, the feelings of people who touch me. Thus, the paintings are a personal archive as well as epistemological and ontological tracks.

There is a great influence of the West Cork landscape- its openness to the elements, the dramatic relationship between the sea and the land and the constant presence of the ocean with its myriad of life-forms.

Of the basic experiences about which I paint, motherhood is a crucial one, having transformed me both as a person and as an artist. The affinity I feel with the Earth as a human, walking it, the horizontal and vertical, its axis and my own spine, take on another dimension with the experience of giving life at the brink of death. These are constant themes for me, along with the concept of axis mundi expounded on by Mircea Eliade.

Painting is a dialogue between the primary idea and the paint and canvas, the fragments I choose either prior to painting or during the process, embedded and stuck onto the paint. Each painting is a journey into the unknown, concluded with content beyond my intentions, which often, as I see it, holds traces of truths common to all cultures.

I try to create visual spaces which are emotionally resonant and warm.

I work mainly with oil paint on canvas or cotton, the later canvasses are all stretched, glued and primed by hand, some are unprimed. The paintings range from 30x 20 cm to 100x80, most are 100x80. I have a few more completed works which have not yet been documented. The work attached is from years 2011-2017 to give a better insight, however, I feel that the newer works are more representative and form a current cycle, with the West Cork landscape in a primary position.

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Agata Kluźniak was born in Warsaw in 1979. After completing secondary education she moved to Poznań to study at the Fine Arts Academy renown for its printmaking department. She studied there in the years 1999-2006, eventually obtaining an MA in the Fine Arts. During that time she concentrated mostly on learning etching, lithography, drawing and painting. After years of life-drawing she recognised her key to understanding abstract images and became very drawn to ways of creating based on the process. This was like an opening of a new world, one of an organic order, with fluid boundaries. Agata sees art practice as a process of constant learning and opening of the mind. For her, this process started in Poznań.

Close to the end of her studies she started a family and moved with her partner to Ireland shortly after.

In 2011 she became a member of the Cork Printmakers, a printmaking cooperative based in Cork city.

She now is a mother of three beautiful daughters and continues to live and create on the West coast of Ireland.

Exhibitions:

July 2011 - "Mind Gardens" - joint exhibition with Tomasz Madajczak at WAS, Skibbereen, Ireland

-December 2012 - part in the "21" joint exhibition by the members of the Cork Printmakers at the Wandesford gallery in Cork, Ireland

-July 2013 -"Rianta:Traces" joint print exhibition at WAS, Skibbereen, as part of the Skibbereen Arts Festival

-November 2014 - "Zapiski" ("Notes") - individual exhibition of painting at the Terminal gallery, Gorzów Wlkp, Poland

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Without title,
2017
Oil on canvas
240 x 320