



ARTIST

SLUTKA LIDIA SAPINSKA
RUGS OF **SHAME**

Introduction

Slutka (b. 1987, Soviet Union) is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans textiles, illustration, painting, and performance. Active since 2008, she has consistently explored questions of gender, sexuality, and the body through a politically engaged lens. Her work is deeply rooted in personal narrative and collective activism, shaped by her Slavic and Jewish heritage and a life marked by migration.

In recent years, Slutka has established a distinctive voice within contemporary textile art, focusing on hand-tufted rugs as her primary medium. By reimagining a traditionally domestic craft, she creates tactile, sculptural works that transform yarn and wool into powerful visual narratives. These rugs are not merely objects of design, but material investigations of hidden emotional states, embodied memory, and the politics of identity.

Her career has included collaborations with activist collectives and cultural organizations across Europe, spanning murals in Warsaw, live performances in Gdańsk, and projects with sex workers collectives in Poland and Berlin. This wide-ranging practice underscores her ability to move fluidly between the gallery, the public sphere, and activist communities, while maintaining a consistent artistic voice.

Slutka's current body of work draws on the traditions of textile art, using established techniques to explore themes of identity, intimacy, and power with a fresh urgency. For galleries, her rugs present an opportunity to engage people with a contemporary craft that is both materially seductive and conceptually urgent.

Basic Information

BA - Graphic Design / Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk, Poland (2012)

BA - Multimedia and Motion Design / Academy of Art in Szczecin, Poland (2015)

MA - Multimedia Art / Academy of Art in Szczecin, Poland (2016)

Scenography Course - Gulliver Puppet Theatre / Warsaw, Poland (2012)

Illustrator and event scenographer - STiPS (movie organization), Poland - (2012/2013)

Illustrator for Berlin Strippers Collective / Berlin, Germany

Illustrator for Sex Work Polska / Warsaw, Poland

Exhibitions / Shows

JULY 2023 - Publication and live performance - RIMMING IS A DANCER - *Fringe Festival, Brighton*

MARCH-MAY 2023 - [MONDO CANE](#) - Exhibition - *National Polish Museum, Szczecin*

2022-2023 - [BEZ STYGMY](#) / How to write about sex work - *Publication & website, Warsaw*

APRIL - MAY 2023 - Group Queer Exhibition - WHY SO SERIOUS? - *N/O, Berlin*

MARCH 2023 - Auction of designs and Exhibition - LGBTQ+ MARCH - *Warsaw*

OCTOBER 2022 - TOUGH PLAY - Political Group Exhibition - *KØPI, Berlin*

JUNE 2022 - Exhibition - [HUNTING FOR PAINTING](#) - *TRAFO, Szczecin*

APRIL 2022 - [Import from The West](#) - Exhibition - *MCSG, Cracow*

MARCH 2022 - Exhibition - ILLUSTRATIONS FOR UKRAINE - *Gryf, Szczecin*

OCTOBER 2021 - Exhibition - Stripper Stories - *Studio dB, Berlin*

JANUARY 2020 - Publication - Poster + CD + Visuals - [CASPAR HAUSER \(THEATER\)](#) - *Poland, Warsaw*

OCTOBER 2019 - CD cover and visuals for MARSZALEK (musician) - *Poland*

2017-2018 - Illustrations for Polish newspaper - [OSIEMDZIEWIEC](#), *Gazeta Wyborcza - Warsaw*

2017-2021 - Support and collaboration with SIKSA BAND - *Poland*

NOVEMBER 2017 - Exhibition - WHAT IS WORK - *Warsaw*

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2016 - [Triple Witching Hour](#) - Exhibition - *Galleria Piekary, Poznan*

FALL 2016 - Mural - [I fly on Zoliborz / Wings on the wall](#) - *Warsaw*

MARCH-MAY 2016 - [Anarchy & New Art](#) - Exhibition - *Oronsko Sculpture Museum*

SEPTEMBER 2015 - EUTOPIA - MA Game, Art movie presentation, Exhibition, *Academy of Art Szczecin*

JUNE 2014 - [INDEX13. Borderline Taxonomies](#) - Exhibition - *National Museum, Szczecin*

JUNE 2013 - Statistic Artist Shit - BA Presentation and Exhibition - *ZONA Gallery, Szczecin*

MAY-AUGUST 2013 - [GMO Kills Honey](#) - Exhibition - *Galeria Zacheta, Warszawa*

APRIL 2010 - [PO/MORZE SZTUKI](#) - Exhibition - *Willa Lentza & Fabryka Karabinów, Szczecin, Gdansk*

MARCH 2010 - [Lidia Sapinska & G.Pill](#) - Performance - *Gunther Grass Gallery, Gdansk*

2010-2015 - Yearly collaboration with City Hall of Szczecin for antialcohol/antidrug campaigns, Poland

NOTE: Most of the upcoming activities will be mentioned with the links to the press notes or videos and the end of this press kit. This file contains only selected art work pictures. More is available on my [WEBSITE](#) or on my [INSTAGRAM](#).

Slutka was always an active, popular activist and dynamic person. She continually invited to many group actions, videos, guerilla collaborations, official and absolutely non official art events. During her period of creation in Warsaw, she was a [part of activist Zubrzyce collective](#), fighting for female and other non cis-gender artists and workers rights. One of the local Warsaw organisations also asked her to make a small **mural in the Zoliborz** area, one of the main areas of Warsaw.

Invited to perform and appear in several music video clips of well known polish musician Lona or Publiczki. Collaborated in live performing actions with **Dick4Dick/G.Pill collective in live performance** in Gunther Grass Gallery in Gdansk.

During all her life she was deeply connected to areas of body exploration and **supporting sex workers** of any origin in their work, by creating illustration, co-organizing events, co-creating event posters, funding and designing merch and promoting the idea of what sex works is and how one should behave and understand it. This was happening in Berlin with collaboration of **Berlin Strippers Collective and other groups** of sex workers there. The last big sex work related project she supported was creating series of illustration for main polish, government funded website and tiny **book "WITHOUT [STIGMA](#). How to talk about sexwork."**

Links

- My website [SLUTKA CARYCA](#) & my [INSTAGRAM](#)
- TICASS Conference publication: You have 10 new followers. [Article](#) & [Conference Page](#)
- Zubrzyce Activist Group [Press link](#) & [Facebook](#)
- GMO Press Zacheta Information [Gallery Event Link](#)
- Mondo Cane. National Museum [Art Academy Link](#) & [Direct Event Link](#)
- Index 13. National Museum [Event Press Note](#)
- Oronsko Sculpture Museum [SZUM press note](#)
- Galeria Piekary Exhibition [Gallery Event Link](#)

- Hunting For Painting TRAFO [Event Link CENTRUM/SRODMIESCIE](#) & [Press note and pictures](#)
- MCSG Triennale Website [Gallery Event Link](#)
- Press Exhibition Performance Info [December 2011](#)
- Press Information PO/MORZE SZTUKI [Press link](#)
- Zoliborz Mural [Gazeta Wyborcza](#) & [WP Wiadomosci](#)
- Lidia Sapinska & G.Pill Performance [FAKT \(link with nudity\)](#)
- Gazeta Wyborcza OSIEMDZIEWIEC Illustrations: [Broniewski](#), [Dziecko spod gwiazdy](#) [Zulczyk](#) [National Feminism](#) [Projekt Gentelman](#) [Polski](#)
- Kaspar Hauser. Poster and main CD design with music from the national theatre show.[View Link](#)
- InstagramBEZ STYGMY Polish government funded [WEBSITE](#) & [Press Info](#)
- Publiczki "Nic nie ma na bank" [Music Video](#)
- Lona/Twister/Kazana "Szkło & Dym" [Music Video \(Opening scene\)](#)

Devil Paintings

Those paintings explore the intersection of mythology, power, and identity through paintings and illustrations of devils in beautiful, feminine forms. These figures embody a cultural narrative that has, for centuries, demonized strong, powerful women and those who do not conform to cisnormative ideals. By reimagining these so-called "monstrous" identities as divine and empowered, my art confronts the dehumanizing lens of history. It reclaims the demonized archetype, transforming it into a symbol of resistance and beauty. Each piece is a visual act of defiance—one that reclaims agency, redefines strength, and challenges who gets to be seen as human.

This work does not center whiteness or uphold dominant Western ideals. Instead, it challenges viewers—including the creator—to question where those ideas come from, and where they overlap in different cultural systems of control. Through visual storytelling, I search for common ground in shared histories of marginalization, while reclaiming space for identities that have been silenced, feared, or erased.



"EVERYTHING IS OKAY" acrylic, gold, yarn elements, cotton canvas
presented on MONDO CANE exhibition

6'3" ft x 3'6"ft / 190 cm x 110 cm

Rugs

Rugs are hand-tufted by the artist through a long yet rewarding process. Once tufting is complete, the artist carefully carves and shapes the elements of the rug, giving it a sculptural, three-dimensional quality.

In the images below, the round **SHAME** rugs are shown in their pre-sculpted state — the carving process will take place soon. The devil faces are currently undergoing sculpting, gradually taking on their final, semi three-dimensional form.

SHAME is the starting point and central thread of this cycle. Each work—anchored by large, over 6-foot diameter rugs made of thick, colorful lambswool—functions as both a portal and a container for emotional memory. These tactile, vibrant forms invite intimacy, but their softness belies the weight they carry.

SHAME is explored here not just as a feeling, but as a powerful provocateur—one that triggers deep, often childhood-rooted behaviors. It questions inherited values and challenges the simplified narratives we are taught to accept. Shame brings with it our darkest memories: the most painful, humiliating experiences, the

traumas we are told to ignore or outgrow. It clings to the "gifts" of silence, judgment, and rejection—given to us by parents, peers, or systems—unasked, unwanted, and yet impossible to discard.

This work holds space for all that we carry: unbearable darkness, internalized pain, feelings of having the "wrong" body, the "wrong" voice, the "wrong" way of being. Every piece is a brick in the process of deconstructing and reconstructing the self—of building a new, unshakable beauty that exists beyond the narrow understanding of those who, through intention or unconscious inheritance, taught us to feel ashamed.













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