

RAFFAELLA
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Miroslaw Balka
Biography

Miroslaw Balka was born in 1958 in Warsaw, Poland. He lives and works in Otwock, Poland and Oliva, Spain.

Comprising installation, sculpture, video, and drawing, Balka's work has a bare and elegiac quality that is also underlined by the careful, minimalist placement of objects, as well as the gaps and pauses between them. Often using his own body as a "template" or first point of reference, Balka's work might incorporate personal or self-referential substances such as ash, felt, salt, hairs and soap. Balka's work deals with both personal and collective memories, especially as they relate to his Catholic upbringing and the collective experience of Poland's fractured history. Through this investigation of domestic memories and public catastrophes, Balka explores how subjective traumas are translated into collective histories and vice versa. His materials are simple, everyday objects and things, often powerfully resonant of rituals and hidden memories.

Selected solo shows include: *at my beginning is my end*, Galleria Raffaella Cortese | Albisola (2024); *Red Nerve*, Castello di Ama, Siena (2019); *30/5780*, Galeria Labirynt 2, Lublin (2019); *[(!,:?!-...)]*, Muzeum Śląskie, Katowice; *DIE SPUREN*, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen (2017); *CROSSOVER/S*, Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan (2017); *Nerve.Construction*, Muzeum Sztuki MS1, Łódź (2015); *Fragment*, Akademie Der Künste, Berlin and CCA Warsaw (2011); *Between Honey & Ashes*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2011); *Ctrl*, Monasterio San Domingo de Silos, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2010); *Topography*, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford (2009); *How It Is*, Turbine Hall at the Tate Modern, London (2009); *AAA + rauchsignale*, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka (2007);

Tristes Tropiques, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2007); *Lichtzwang*, K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2006); *Eclipse*, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo (2001).

Among the most recent group shows in 2025: *Art & Nature: Inside Out*, Villa Arconati, Milan; *Self-Portraits*, The National Museum, Warsaw; *The Impermanent Four Takes On The Collection*, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw.

Miroslaw Balka has participated in major exhibitions worldwide including: Venice Biennale (1990, 2003, 2005, 2013; representing Poland in 1993); documenta IX, Kassel (1992); Sydney Biennale (1992, 2006), The Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (1995), São Paulo Biennale (1998), Liverpool Biennial (1999), Santa Fe Biennale (2006). In 2009 he presented the special project *How It Is* for the Unilever Series, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London. He is the author of the *Memorial to the Victims* of the Estonia Ferry Disaster in Stockholm (1997), and numerous spatial works including *AUSCHWITZWIELICZKA*, Cracow (2010), and *HEAL*, University of California, San Francisco (2009). A series of conversations between Miroslaw Balka and professor Zygmunt Bauman was published in 2012. In 2015 the artist created the stage design for Paweł Mykietyn's *Magic Mountain* opera. He has participated in panel discussions with many distinguished speakers including Juan Vicente Aliaga, Julian Heynen, Anda Rottenberg, Kasia Redzisz, Anja Rubik, Joseph Rykwert and Vicente Todolí.