

Toruń, 09.09.2024

city, date

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DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Scientific discipline:

fine arts and art conservation

Title of the doctoral dissertation:

Megaliths. Neon-glass objects made using the fusing-slumping technique

Doctoral dissertation abstract:

Doctoral project entitled. 'Megaliths. Neon-glass objects made using the fusing-slumping technique' consists of a series of paintings and four spatial sculptures. It was inspired by the interpretation of Neolithic works as an artefact of being, a superhuman force, and an attempt to translate this prehistoric activity into contemporary megalithic light and glass objects. One of the main research objectives was to analyse the possibility of making neon in thermoformed glass. While analysing this, I was looking for new painting effects, which influenced the development of the second research objective, which was to infuse a variety of metal foils into the glass.

In the first chapter of the dissertation, I introduce the concept of megaliths, their historical, magical and artistic significance. I present their types, particularly focusing on defining the essence of the creation of menhirs, which were an immediate motif in my 'megalithic' work. Later in the chapter I point out later references to megalithic forms or beliefs that were borrowed by other cultures. I also mark the values derived from the discovery of copper, its symbolism and its role in the development of civilisation.

The second chapter is devoted to contemporary examples of artists and their works in which they have combined large-scale and original use of glass techniques and neon. I introduce the work of the duo Libenský and Brychtová, Dale Chihuly, Tomasz Urbanowicz, Udo Zembok, Wayne Starattman, Laura Hart and Keith Lemley. I point out the characteristics of their works, such as their handling of form, colour, light or arrangement of space, which have had the greatest influence on my artistic development.

At the end of the dissertation I present my artistic achievements during my doctoral studies. I describe the science and solutions applied to neon, which involved finding effective ways to combine it with a variety of glass techniques. I then argue my interest in fusing metal foils into glass, which stems from a passion for experimenting with a range of materials and a desire to achieve original visual values. In the course of my attempts, I have noticed that by using the same materials, I can bring out different and surprising results each time. The final point in the realisation of my doctoral programme was the creation of objects in which I combined neon light with painting. These works uniquely combine different art disciplines, expressing the goals I have set and creating my individual visual language.