

## Archives 05.06.2013

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEEKEND PORTFOLIOS



© Marta Stysiak

### PORTFOLIO

## Marta Stysiak: L'homme et l'animal



The photo series: "With", is a study on the relation between man and an animal - seemingly more and more domesticated, tamed and taken over. However, when faced with modern, urban lifestyle do the roles remain the same? Animals, for a very long time, had an utilitarian function in our culture and their presence was to bring the man measurable benefits. They were of much help in daily life and work, gave nourishment or were the nourishment themselves. Dependencies, sometimes still noticeable in rural areas, become upset with people migration to the city and the growing chasm between man and the environment. Stysiak's works show how much those forms of relationships between man and the surrounding natural environment are becoming outdated. Very often an animal becomes the only link a person has with nature in urban areas. Adapted but also adopted, not as an animal but more as a friend, a companion, the child of a single parent. The relation with the animal becomes a substitute for the old forms of community, because the anonymity and loneliness in the city are much more painful.

The photo series takes us to the intimate and personal interiors of a big city: bedrooms, living rooms, basements, by the favourite tree in the nearby park, in which the animals are with their owners. The loneliness of the owners is further accentuated by the use of flash. Stysiak looks at them from the observers' point of view, who, like a peeping tom, is not interacting with the photographed.

She stands behind a glass wall and isolates herself by using the lens and darkness. The night becomes her ally. Thanks to the applied actions she is able to see some inversion, distortion and show the lining of human-animal relationships. The titles of the individual works - "with Peter" (With\_2), "with Gośka" (With\_3) etc., suggest the replacement of the traditional roles of man's relationship with the animal. Does man really tame an animal? Or maybe the animal tames man and his environment, his intimacy, sneaking into places regarded as the most private and gradually taking control of them?

Marta Stysiak is a Polish cinematographer trained at the National Film School in Łódź. She is the author of photography for documentaries, reportages, short features, video art experimental videos and photography reportages. She is a co-founder of Synergy collective [www.synergycollective.org](http://www.synergycollective.org), which experiments with visual clichés and innovations but also plays around with narratives and storytelling, she is freelance. Her photographs were published in Polish magazines and are in private collections. Stysiak has worked with the theatre company Transport from London, Theatre Institute in Warsaw and TV stations. She is currently based in Warsaw.

### LINKS

<http://stysiak.com/portfolio/>

<http://www.stysiak.com>

### CONTRIBUTORS