



**TALKS TO EMPOWER.
STRONG, VISIONARY, ACTIVIST WOMEN & CRAFTS**

**25-27 September 2022
The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdańsk**

FULL INFORMATION OF THE EVENT: <https://tinyurl.com/yy39825y>

PRESENTATION OF THE PANELISTS

Agata Bachórz – sociologist, assistant professor in the University of Gdańsk (Department of Sociology). She conducts research on Polish food cultures. Recently she has focused on the career turns: from white collar jobs to gastronomy and food manufacturing. She also carried out research on leisure, the field of culture and (non)participation in cultural activities. She co-authored several publications devoted to these subjects issued by the City Culture Institute in Gdańsk. Her research interests and publications concerned also sociology of tourism, intercultural relations and anthropology of everyday life.

Maria Bernolak-Szcypior – pensioner, three children and seven grandchildren. Since 2003 - Gdańsk Strzyża district councillor. Since 2018 - member of the “Everything for Gdańsk” Association. Participates in crocheting and felting workshops organised in the Gdańsk Strzyża District. Involved in organising music concerts. Participant of the project “Craftgen: inter-generation traditional crafts against inequalities”.

Agnieszka Domańska – she has graduated from Gdańsk University cultural studies and art criticism in Gdańsk Academy of Fine Arts. Employed as a Specialist for Creation and Production in Regional Dept of the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdańsk. She has carried field research in North Scandinavia and Mazowsze and Pomorskie regions in Poland. Co-author of “Regional re-visions. Contemporary problems of cultural heritage” (2016), author of “Polish Highlander ethno-design, or the folk art of Podhale as a source of inspiration in contemporary design“ (2019). Her favourite pastime – trailing wild animals and practicing savasana.

Kamila Froelke – fashion designer, image stylist, owner of haute couture KF by Kamila Froelke brand. Her passion – wedding dresses and braid styling. Graduates from the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź. For several years now ranks among five best fashion designers in the Polish Fashion Academy. Winner of many fashion rewards.

While designing wedding dresses she uses Kociewie region folk motifs. Her “folk” dresses have been presented at international fashion catwalks, among others, in Milano, New York or Berlin. Her international successes have not made her leave her native Kociewie as this place is her cultural roots.

Agnieszka Gaczkowska – architect, artisan, businesswomen and business mentor. Co-founder of OPLOTKI – space/platform established for craftswomen and handicraft enthusiasts. Happy wife and mother of three. Graduated from Poznań Technical University and Technical University in

Berlin. Oplotki.pl are the result of search for supportive presence of women, who meet over handicraft to talk, gossip and develop their artisan passions. It's mission is to provide support to people involved in handicrafts and assist them on the road from developing passions to successful, profitable business. Her ambition is to show that pursuing handicrafts does not have to be just an expensive hobby. Strong believer in the power of cooperation and sharing knowledge and experience. Her enthusiasm, love for passions and positive approach to life are infectious. And so she brings together big numbers of artisan enthusiasts.

Mona Rena Górska – somatic clothing designer, Master of Philosophy and Cultural Studies. She dyes fabrics using natural means. In the way she thinks about clothing, she expresses the idea of “wear your next movement”, builds relational events of textile objects and movements of human body. She aims at regenerating the idea of human and animal subjectivity. She runs her own studio, where she develops the clothing brand MONA RENA. For her, movement is a content of being, a dimension of growth.

Learn more: www.monarena.studio, @mona_rena_gorska (IG) oraz @monarena.studio (IG)

Małgorzata Grochowska – project expert at the WIEM I UMIEM Foundation. Coordinator of the Etnopomorze project and, among others, one of its initiative – “Plebiscite for Pomeranian Culture Ambassadors”, which aims to promote Pomeranian folklore and appreciate local women artists and culture animators.

Więcej: <https://www.wiemiumiem.pl/>, <https://www.etnopomorze.pl/>

Natalia Kovalyshyna – Ukrainian by birth and a resident of Gdańsk by choice. A long-time educator and teacher, coordinator for students with migration experience, a Gdańsk volunteer, a member of two terms of the Council of Immigrants and Immigrants at the Mayor of Gdańsk, a certified master of folk art. She became interested in embroidery in primary school. She perfected her skills, among others, in an art school. Today, she teaches young and old how to decorate napkins, tablecloths, bed linen and even pieces of their clothing.

Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło – holds the position of the EUSBSR Policy Area Tourism Coordinator and represents Pomorskie Tourism Board which leads the Policy Area. She has +15 years of experience in Baltic Sea Region cooperation and 10+ years of experience in international project management. Before joining Pomorskie Tourist Board, she was the Head of the International Permanent Secretariat of Euroregion Baltic, working intensively on boosting cross-border cooperation and capacity building in the South Baltic area.

Learn more: <https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/pa-tourism-about>

Dorota Madej – social researcher, cultural manager and service designer. As an adviser and trainer she's implementing Apple educational solutions in schools. For many years she has been supporting students, teachers and school management in a process of introducing technology to the educational system.

Dorota Majkowska-Szajer – cultural anthropologist from the Ethnographic Museum in Krakow. She is involved in research projects (“A family memorial”, “Wesele 21”, “Wesele 21: audioportret”, “Wishes”, “Our life in a time of plague”) and activities with the public (among others cycles: “The other side of things”, “Borders of the body”, “Spring of the people”). Co-curator and curator of

exhibitions, recently “POWERBANK / women's power” (May-December 2022) and the program “POWERBANK in action”. She loves to read and sometimes writes – for adults and children.

Learn more: <https://etnomuzeum.eu/>

Katarzyna Magierowska – an embroiderer, member of the Association of Folk Artists. Traditional embroidery of the Powiśle region has been her passion since she was a child. She took her first course as a twelve-year-old in the village of Gniewskie Pole. She is committed to broadening her knowledge of the history of this craft. She learns about it from the elderly inhabitants of Powiśle and from cultural institutions located in Powiśle: the Castle in Kwidzyn, the Castle in Sztum and the Museum of Noble Tradition in Waplewo Wielkie. She regularly hosts handicraft workshops, participates in fairs and shows.

Aline Mayr – Project Coordinator for Regional Identity at the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat in Stockholm. Among others Aline is overseeing and aligning youth related projects in the CBSS to strengthen and empower the voice of young region builders. The CBSS strives to enhance an intergenerational dialogue and build a common identity through projects such as the Baltic Sea Youth Platform, the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum, and the Baltic Sea Youth Camp and will continue by establishing the Baltic Sea Youth Forum in January 2023 as an umbrella for youth participation in the region.

Learn more: <https://twitter.com/maviealine>, <https://cbss.org/>

Anna Miler – coordinates mentoring Dare IT programme designed for women who want to find their first job in the IT sector. Member of the board and project manager in Arteria Association. Previously she worked supporting professional development of women employed in maritime sector (“Women build project, too”) in STARTER Incubator. For many years involved in nongovernmental activities and public sector. A fresh businesswomen. Her pastime – research and promotion of women history (projects like “Shipyard is a Women” “Metropolitanka”) and broadening her knowledge on data science.

Karolina Pisz – founder and vice-president of the Laboratory for Changes Foundation. Social skills trainer. She conducts workshops on assertiveness, strengthening courage and counteracting gender discrimination. Feminist, entrepreneur. The author of projects for women, youth, school staff and non-governmental organizations, the aim of which is to strengthen the agency of the participants and to support them in reaching their own potential.

Learn more: <https://laboratoriumzmiany.org/>

Iwona Preis is a director and board member at Intercult as well as chr/CEO of Smart Sweden. President of European cultural network River//Cities Platform Foundation, board member of Kultureservatet People University. Working in the intersection of knowledge, projects, cultural advocacy for more culture in Europe and better social conditions for creative freelancers. Creating international and intersectoral bridges to stimulate more cultural actions and cross-pollinate ideas between those who wouldn't otherwise meet.

Learn more: <http://river-cities.net/river/board/iwona-preis>, <https://www.intercult.se/>

Halina Rosa – folk artist, painter, fashion designer strongly related to her native region of Podhale in Poland as well as with Scandinavia, which has become her new home and new source of

inspiration. She uses nature and folk themes in her fashion designs including hand painted textiles. She has developed her artisan passions and established a business in Stockholm – “The Designer” internet magazine. In the “Creative Waves” project she has been responsible for textile painting workshops organised by Intercult in Stockholm.

Marion Ründal –Estonian cultural manager and project coordinator. Though she comes from the cultural field, for the past 4 years, as a part of ENUT's team, she has also been involved in educational and social projects, especially involving the issue of gender equality. Her hobby is bridge.

Learn more: <https://enut.ee/en/welcome/>

Paulina Siegień – ethnographer, Russian scholar and philologist by education. A graduate of the East European Studies at the University of Warsaw, PhD student at the Faculty of Philology at the University of Gdańsk. A journalist and translator by profession. Collaborator of "Krytyka Polityczna", "Newsweek" and the Jan Nowak-Jeziorański College of Eastern Europe. The author of the book "Miasto bajka. Wiele historii Kaliningradu" [A fairy tale city. Many histories of Kaliningrad].

Learn more: <https://krytykapolityczna.pl/bio/paulinasiegien/>

Michalina Pączkowska – biologist, marine ecologist, main “mermaid” in the project “Underwater – pod wodą, nad wodą”. Nature is her passion – she combines it with a love of yarn and creates crochet forms imitating creatures of nature. The effects of her work she shares on social media – because Michalina believes that one can talk lightly about important matters concerning nature. The Baltic Sea is of particular importance to her, therefore she educates with commitment about its uniqueness and teaches about the amazing creatures that inhabit it.

Learn more: <https://www.facebook.com/mishellthemermaid/>

Sylwia Piechowska – herbalist with passion, mission and love for nature. She completed a professional course at the Institute of Polish Herbal Medicine and Natural Therapies in the field of Herbalis – Phytotherapist and numerous courses on distillation and processing of herbs, implementation of GMP systems, introducing natural cosmetics to the market and disorders of the gut-brain-skin axis. She holds herbal and cosmetic workshops as well as Wild Kitchen workshops, which encourage the use of local herbs and other plants. An inseparable part of her activity is participation in the activities of the Women Association in Sławki.

Learn more: chwastowepole.com, [@chwastowe.pole](#) (IG), [grupa Chwastowe Pole](#) (FB)

Magda Świerczyńska-Dolot – Kociewie region native who has settled in Gdańsk. [For a dozen years or so related to radio and sound. She has been employed in Polish Radio and private radio stations. She love tell human stories using sound. She produces reportages, guides and podcasts. Laureate of Jacek Stwora Stipend, nominated to Prix Europa, Grand Press, awarded Prix Bohemia prize (together with Katarzyna Michalak) for the www.nieslysze.pl project. She teaches active listening in schools and kindergartens.

Krystyna Wróblewska – member of the Programme Council of The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdansk, expert on the Polish Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research Polish Academy of Sciences, expert on Baltic Sea cooperation projects. In her past professional life responsible for

international cooperation of the Pomorskie (and previously Gdańsk) region, including region's participation in the Baltic Sea cooperation structures, and EU issues. Involved in many international cooperation projects in the field of environment protection, social and cultural issues, economic relations, city development, democracy and citizen involvement, youth cooperation and empowerment. Held the position of Secretary General in the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation during the two Pomorskie presidencies. Acted as plenipotentiary of the "Pomorskie in the EU" Association and Head of the Pomorskie regional secretariat of Euroregion Baltic.

Magdalena Zakrzewska-Duda is a cultural operator. Her professional activities and interests are focused on "art for social change" and "art for sustainable development". Current position: Senior Specialist on Strategic Partnerships at the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre (BSCC) in Gdansk, Poland. River//Cities Platform Foundation Board Member since 2014. Active member of Culture Action Europe network. Leader or co-leader of many international and local projects such as "Baltic House LAB 2015 – City Closer to Water", "ARTmosphere" (2016), "Shared History" (2016-18), "Memory of Water" (2018-21), "UrbCulturalPlanning" (2018-22), "Creative Waves – Baltic Sisterhood for Change".

She loves long walks in the forest and in the countryside. Recently, gardening has become her main pastime.