

SABINA SHIKHLINSKAYA

I am working across a wide range of media—predominantly video art, but also painting, drawing, photography, light and site-specific installations— my work revolves around a tension between the creation of symbolical images and on the research of the historical facts and documents. A conceptual framework, paired with a meticulous attention to the critical approach, has characterized my practice since the early 1990s. The general idea of my work explores actual problems of relationship between individual and society.

In course of exploration and implementation of post-conceptual practices I frequently challenge national identity issues and cultural, historical and socio-political processes behind. I find active social position of contemporary artists and their critical statements to be urgent implication of contemporary culture. I tend to create artworks that contain a bunch of meaningful layers driven by the key topic and visual embodiment of a concept.

Another challenge that raises serious concern, in my opinion, is the complete divorcement of contemporary art from environment and the total alienation to the audience. I really believe that my overall task lies in a quest of frames which would enable my art projects merge into social environment. I am actively involved into numerous projects with participation of local community members and local public as well as public art and land art projects. My engagement with art residency programs is marked by close cooperation with local public, including both professional community and interested audience.

My clear interest also lies in the projects enabling the artists to gain new opportunities to expand artistic insight. Aforementioned projects also include programs which integrate an artist in a brand-new set of cultural activities and unchallenged/unexplored professional environment he/she has never been associated to and, at the same time, confer upon knowledge and impressions required for creation of a specific art piece.