

**1. ARTIST:** (Biographical information, training, style/ period, where lived/ created art, influences)

**MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ (1930 - 2017)**

- Polish Sculptor and Fiber/Textile Artist
- Came from wealthy background, traumatic personal experiences from WWII

**2. STYLISTIC CHARACTERISTICS:** (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Use of textile as molds in her sculpture work to create expressive texture; multiple, similar casts (crowds); fragmented human figures that are hollow; muted colors; life size or larger

**3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES:** (art making processes)

Burlap, resin, wood, nails, and string

"I feel overwhelmed by quantity where counting no longer makes sense. By unrepeatability within such quantity. A crowd of people or birds, insect or leaves, is a mysterious assemblage of variants of a certain prototype, a riddle of nature abhorrent to exact repetition or inability to produce it, just as a human hand can not repeat its own gesture"

**4. TITLE(S) OF MAJOR WORK(S):**

*Puellae ("Girls")*

*Nierozpoznani ("The Unrecognised Ones")*

*Space of Unknown Growth*

*Agora*

*Backs*



**5. TITLE/ FORM/ ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF FOCUS WORK (IMAGE IN CENTER):** (Overlap to #6)

228. *Androgyne III* (1985)

Uses a molded back of a torso for the cast, meant to be seen in 3 dimensions despite it seeming incomplete with the hollowness

**6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION** (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Political weapon

Response to totalitarian, Soviet/Communist leadership, shows the physical and spiritual human condition as well as existence, issues with the countless

**7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):**

Textile as a mold

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Using art to deliver a message, casts from mold

**8. THEME(S):**

Human figure; society/human condition; political

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like Kirchner's *Self-Portrait as a Soldier*, this piece depicts the emotional impact of coming to age during war through abstract means. While Kirchner's was about WW1, Abakanowicz is about WW2. She represents the body as a ghostly husk, while Kirchner's focuses on the brutality and worries about art and war.