

Who was ***Ewa Pachucka***

Bree Di Mattina is an arts writer and PhD Candidate from Brisbane, and here tells Ewa's story, as part of her thesis. 'History of textile and fibre art in Australia in the 1970's and 1980's'.



Polish artist Ewa Pachucka (1936-2020) lived in Australia from 1971-2000. Her art works pioneered the use of crochet in textile and fibre art in Australia. Her works bridged the divides between art and craft, masculine and feminine, domestic and public. The 1970s saw a surge in interest in art works made from textiles and fibre and Pachucka was at the forefront of this movement in Australia.

Pachucka trained in art in Warsaw and Lublin before moving to the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź. Poland has a rich history of weaving and textile arts and today Łódź remains a central location in textile and fibre art. Pachucka began experimenting with crochet and moved into creating sculptural forms in textiles and fibre.

Pachucka's sculptural forms transformed the art of crochet, bringing it out of the domestic realm. Her interest in landscapes and the body saw her works take on monumental proportions. From 1972-1977 she created one of her best-known works *Arcadia: landscape and bodies*, which is now in the collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. This life size installation consists of five female figures, a sow and a dog plus 15 landscape elements. This installation references depictions of Arcadia in paintings by artists such as Poussin. The peaceful, pastoral land of Arcadia is seen in the life size crochet figures who recline in the landscape in harmony with the animals. The pastoral theme is further enhanced by the use of natural fibres such as jute and the textural quality of the crochet.

Pachucka was featured in the National Gallery of Australia's Know My Name exhibition, with further information <https://nga.gov.au/knowmyname/artists/ewa-pachucka/>

Ewa pachucka is to be part of our new content on the website of Crochet Guild Australia—check out

[Crochet Guild Australia - Crocheters of Distinction](#)



Check out the page and see the link to Madam Weigel's full story as told by Kathleen Hansen as well as a link to submit a "crocheter of distinction" that you think worthy of us recording for future generations in Australia.