

CORA PIANTONI

ALBUM

Solidarność families

Gdansk 1980-83

Magda

People were helping each other a lot. I didn't know anything about politics when I was a child, but I felt the support. One time, I wanted to buy batteries in a shop and I didn't have to pay, because my father was in prison.



Sebastian



Sebastian

I realized what kind of people were coming to our home. I wasn't doing my homework, but was listening at the door to their conversations and it was clear that there was an immense fear. Pretensions. During the first revisions they destroyed my bricks, because they were looking for something between them and my bricks were so nicely set out. They destroyed everything and left - I felt such a grief, injustice, helplessness.

Sebastian

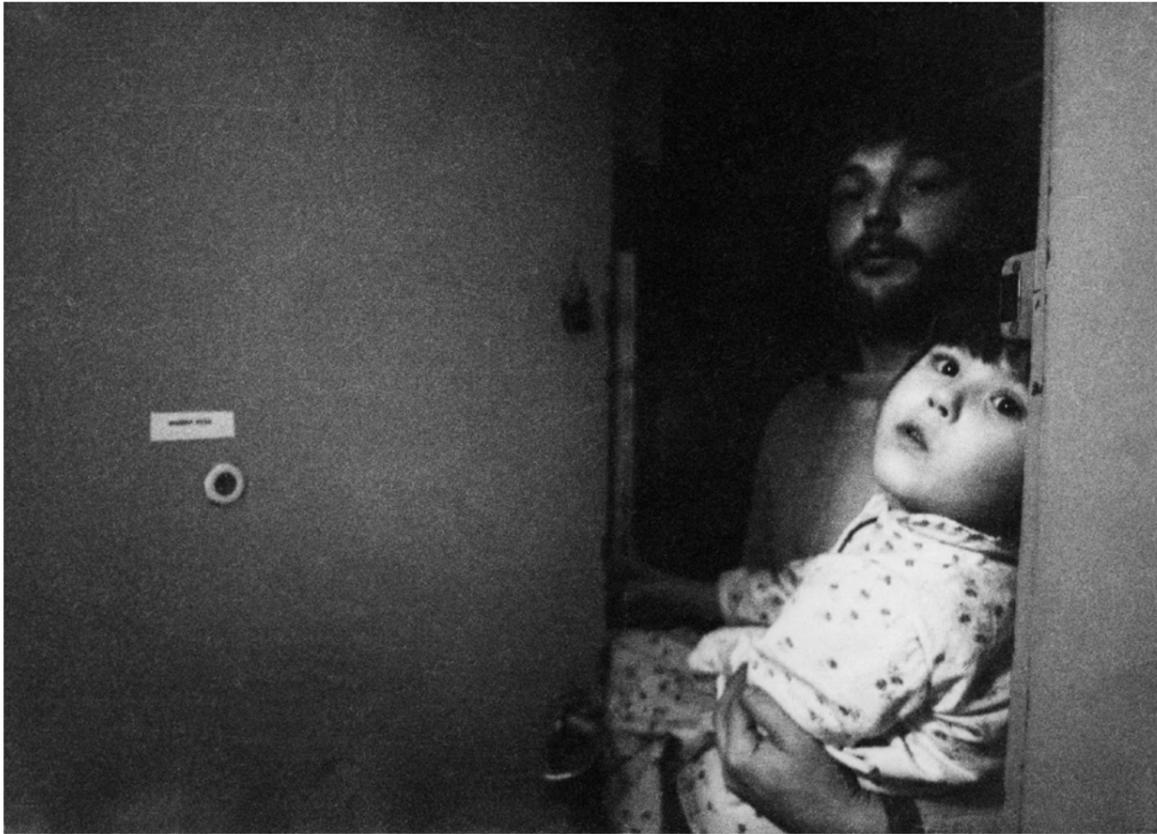
The conditions weren't the best, because many people stayed in our flat, grandmother, grandfather, uncle and mum with my father who was still alive at that time. When my mother was putting me to sleep, she was always reading me some fairytales and then she was making a little rabbit out of a nappy, and when she was leaving to the kitchen, she was putting this little rabbit with me so that I would fall asleep.



Bozena, Klementyna & Krzysztof

Klementyna

My mother didn't spent so much time at the shipyard.  
She made many things at home, she was hiding people  
at our home, she wrote a poetry.



Klementyna & hidden man



Klementyna

One of the first memories from my childhood was when secret police came to our home and started to break doors. My mother was just divorced woman and we were alone during the night. I remember that something happened and my mother was nervous. I was standing in the hall with my pyjama with blue flowers and was crying very loud. I was scared. I felt these emotions. It was completely crazy time, because all our neighbours came with kitchen knives and things like that to give us a help. The secret police left our place. They were scared of those people. My best friend - she lived at the same tower block - she remembers it as well. One neighbour came to her father and said: "Secret police is in Bozena Ptak's flat. Let's go, we have to fight." It was really home army.\*



Hidden man, Bozena & Klementyna



Klementyna, Bozena

Klementyna

Secret police was visiting us. Two men were questioning my mother. I was really small like my daughter now and sometimes I told stupid things. Once they came and there was a guy hidden at our home. When he heard about secret police, he left our home through the balcony and I started to ask my mother very loud: "Why the uncle left us through the balcony?" and my mother was nervous and told me: "Shut up!"

Texts

Excerpts from interviews with Klementyna Kasprzyk-Kucharz, Magda Ostrokolska and Sebastian Pienkowski (on Polish TV)

Images

Private archive of Bozena Ptak (Klementyna Kasprzyk-Kucharz's mother) and screenshots from a documentary about Alina Pienkowska on Polish TV

Cora Piantoni, Gdansk and Zurich, 2012/2020



Klementyna