

"Perth's Threshold artspace shows no signs of watering down its bold remit in programming stunning and inspiring artwork" Scotland on Sunday

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DOMESTIC MODERNISM **Julita Wojcik**

Exhibition open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm or late on performance evenings. Admission always free
The first solo exhibition in Britain by this internationally acclaimed Polish artist
Co-curated by Iliyana Nedkova and Urszula Sniegowska

part of Horsecross' **Scottish Tides-Polish Spring:**
a three month celebration of Scotland's vibrant cultural connections with Poland
supported by **Homecoming Scotland 2009** and **Polska! Year: A Year of Contemporary Everything From Poland!**

7 May – 26 Jul 09 free exhibition guide

FREE EVENTS

Brunch preview: Sun 10 May 09 11am-1pm. **RSVP** inedkova@horsecross.co.uk

Selected artist's video works: Sat 9 May 09 10am-4pm and Sun 10 May 09 11am-1pm

Curator's guided tours: By prior arrangement through e-mailing inedkova@horsecross.co.uk

Read More: Critical journal: Issue 11 | 09: Julita Wojcik by **Jonathon Blackwood:** www.horsecross.co.uk



Wave = a long canvas of 22 flat screens in a row under the copper-clad dome



Stage = a playground for live art with larger-than-life projections, a camera and a screen left of the wave

Domestic Modernism, 2009 is the latest Horsecross commission – a site-specific work by Julita Wojcik for both the Threshold Wave and Threshold Stage wall projection area. The work is a multi-channel artist's video installation evoking some of the best and worst aspects of modern architecture with Wojcik's signature satirical twist.

Born out of the artist's ongoing interest in domesticity, working strategies and art making processes, this new work was shot on location at Zaspas, Gdansk's rundown housing estate built in 1978, as a far cry of the world's most influential art school, Bauhaus. A self-portrait of the artist as a hard hat builder and decorator, Wojcik's *Domestic Modernism* engages with the seemingly relentless repetitiveness of the act of beautifying the facades of the failed project of socialist high-rise living.

Following her short but inspiring artist's residency in Perth during January 2009 Wojcik said: 'On my initial visit to the artspace, I was struck by the ordered architectural design and the minimal, sharp geometrical style of the concert hall. I was reminded of Dessau, Bauhaus and Walter Gropius who exactly 90 years ago gave us the template for the flats and offices we live and work today. Back in Gdansk, I employed the 'elevated' viewing perspective of the Threshold Wave to devise one of my latest actions, a performance for the camera. It turned into a 9 part artist's film which comprises the 22-channels of *Domestic Modernism* shot from the third floor of what could pass for an iconic, brightly painted Bauhaus building with coats of socialist neglect.'

Domestic Modernism, 2009 by Julita Wojcik is the latest acquisition for the Horsecross unique collection of contemporary art at Threshold artspace.

The exhibition is accompanied by a new issue of Read More – Horsecross Journal for Critical Writing (ISSN 1755-0866) featuring a newly commissioned essay by Perth-based art historian **Jonathon Blackwood** who is exploring Wojcik's new commission in relation to the artist's oeuvre to date. Read More | Issue 11 | 2009: Julita Wojcik is **free and downloadable from www.horsecross.co.uk**

The exhibition is produced by the artist and Horsecross for Threshold artspace in partnership with 55degrees, Glasgow and the Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw. Supported by Scottish Arts Council New Work Fund, the Scottish Executive's Homecoming Scotland 2009 and Adam Mickiewicz Institute's Polska! Year..


Launched in 2005 Threshold artspace is about positioning Perth and Scotland within the contemporary art world through curating, commissioning, producing, exhibiting, interpreting, publishing and collecting.

open daily admission FREE

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UP TO 14 hours

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 **Norie-Miller Studio** – specially converted as a state-of-the-art micro cinema

Selected Video Works (2004-07) 30 minutes loop **Sat 9 May 09 10am-4pm + Sun 10 May 09 11am-1pm ONLY**
Three critically acclaimed works resonating with Wojcik's new commission *Domestic Modernism*:

1. *Veduta Master (Wedutystka)*, 2004

11 minutes

Scripted, directed and performed by **Julita Wojcik** in Gdansk. Voice, camera and montage by **Jacek Niegoda**. English translation by **Krzysztof Kosciuczuk**

Here Wojcik performs for the camera adopting the role of the veduta master. This work references the 16th Century genre of landscape veduta which advocated for topographical accuracy and highly detailed cityscapes. Wojcik's veduta talent, however, appears to be constrained, almost possessed, by the authoritative voice behind the camera. But who's this voice? Set in Gdansk's Lower City neighbourhood, this artist's video is also a post-photographic attempt to capture the moment of urban pre-regeneration. Wojcik's veduta master seems to employ the typical extreme faithfulness in her painting. A tongue-in-cheek comment in the style of the famous Dutch or Italian vedutistas portraying the Medieval panoramas of Warsaw, London and Delft or a passionate inquiry into the role of the artist in today's society.

2. *Let There Always Be Sun (Пусть всегда будет солнце)*, 2004

10:41 minutes

Scripted, directed and performed by **Julita Wojcik** somewhere in the East on 17 October 2004. Camera and montage by **Jacek Niegoda**.

'A smiling girl flies a sun-shaped kite and hums the Soviet scout, or 'pioneer', anthem song, familiar to anyone who grew up in the former Eastern Bloc: *Пусть всегда будет солнце* or *Let There Always Be Sun*. The image is joyous like a happy childhood memory - or vitamin formula commercial promising its users permanent vigour and cheerfulness [...] The ballast of the communist-era reality weighs to different degrees on different people, [...] and it is likewise to different degrees that 'western' present is perceived by them as natural environment and an obvious point of reference for their own activity. What they have in common is the hybrid nature of their existential experience. It is it that makes the image of a Soviet pioneer both familiar and exotic, and that causes the Soviet song to evoke both a nostalgia for a sad but own past, and a fascination similar to that evoked by things strange.' **Jaroslav Suchan** *Far West, Near East* Exhibition Catalogue

3. *Unistic Landscape*, 2007

7:44 minutes

Scripted, directed and performed by **Julita Wojcik** as part of the *Bifurcations* plain-air (outdoor) project, initiated by **Marek Kijewski's** at the Center of Polish Sculpture, Oronsco.

'Here Wójcik presents passages from Strzemiński's theoretical writing as a culinary recipe for a painting – and she follows the instructions closely. The artist [however comes across as] an immature student, utterly incapable of rising to the Great Theoretician's demands. Simple, 'for-camera activities' [trace the unexpected:] the relationship between the teacher and his female student; abstraction and reality; art and politics. [A comment on Strzemiński failure to] apply his theoretical formulas to artistic practice or to reconcile his formal vision with the directives of social realism'. **Dorota Monkiewicz**, *Points of Reference* Exhibition Catalogue



Stage = a playground for live art with larger-than-life projections, a camera and a screen left of the wave

Figure Skating, 2005

4:00 minutes loop

Scripted, directed and performed by **Julita Wojcik** in Sopot. Camera and montage by **Jacek Niegoda**

Threshold Stage online screen area is home to the first artwork by Wojcik which appears on YouTube. Available on the dedicated Threshold artspace YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/thresholdartspace> only for the duration of the Domestic Modernism exhibition. 'Another, deliberately pseudo-feministic project of Wojcik's demonstrating the blind alleys of an ideological approach to reality where a black and white perception of the world leads to grotesque situations. In reality, it is an action about hiding, about the paradoxical situation of being a performance artist who, willingly or not, has people's attention on herself [...] though, on the other side, she wants to free herself from under their scrutiny'. **Jacek Niegoda**, *Ready, Set: Action!* Exhibition Catalogue



Flush = a trail of 8 small screens tucked away in the public toilets

Private Public, 2002-05

1:00 minute loop

A succession of 5 ultra-short animation stories never seen before as an artwork. An earlier trilogy which starts with *When Will She Be Back?* followed by *Is She Back Yet?* and finishes with *Greetings from Space* originated as an e-mail exchange with Sebastian Cichocki. The dyptych of 2005 comprises *Exercises With Roses* and *Figure Skating* - originally sent out as exhibition invitations for the artist's actions and performances.



Welcome = interactive soundscape doorway of 16 sensors and 8 speakers

Featuring Wojcik's favourite work from the Horsecross collection of contemporary art: **Lyrebird Redux, 2007** by **Nick Janaway + Eleftheria Mylona + Rebecca Prentice + Sean Williams**. Use your body movements to detect six sonic landscapes from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

Look out for our accompanying exhibition PVAF: Scene 1 by Perthshire Visual Arts Forum. Also, COLLECT + SUPPORT initiative - both at the new extension of the artspace at Perth Theatre, 185 High Str, Perth PH1 5UH

JULITA WOJCIC (born 1971 in Gdansk where she lives and works) is probably best known internationally as a 'chronicler of the provincial home aesthetics'. Most recently her work has been shown in the major international exhibitions including 3rd Biennale Cuvee, 2009, Linz; 4th Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art, Kiel, 2006 (and touring); Game at Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw and Mentality, the 2nd Lodz Biennale 2006. Her latest solo exhibitions include *Ready, Set: Action!* at Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, and *Making Things More Beautiful at uqbar projects space, Berlin*. Her work has been acquired for the public collections of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Zacheta National Gallery, Warsaw and National Museum, Warsaw amongst many others. Currently the artist is also showing as part of *Energy Class B* at Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast.

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