



# news release

27 March 2009

## New Horsecross contemporary art commission evokes golden age of movies

**PICTURE CALL: Sunday 5 April 2009 11am-1pm. Free Sunday Brunch provided.** Threshold artspace and Norie Miller Studio, Perth Concert Hall, Perth, UK: *Igor Krenz, artist, Iliyana Nedkova, Horsecross' curator and Urszula Sniegowska, guest curator*

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Polish artist, Igor Krenz was inspired by an almost bygone era of whirring film strips and 'clackety projectors' when he created Circles and Squares – a new contemporary art commission for the Threshold artspace at Perth Concert Hall.

Part of the Scottish Tides-Polish Spring series of contemporary art exhibitions at Perth Concert Hall and Perth Theatre, Circles and Squares is also the title of the first solo exhibition in a public institution in Britain by the internationally recognised Polish artist. It opens to the public on Saturday 4 April 2009 and will continue at Threshold artspace in Perth Concert Hall until Thursday 7 May 2009.

His new work Circles and Squares was commissioned exclusively by Horsecross to appear on the unique Threshold Wave of twenty two flat screens that dominate the artspace area at Perth Concert Hall. It is a multi-channel artist's video installation evoking the magic of the early cinema experience. Krenz' work anticipates the time when we will be watching films in the theatre delivered to us by satellite and hard-drive transmissions instead of projections.



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Following his short but inspiring artist's residency during January 2009 in Perth Krenz said:

"For years now I have been collecting found archive footage which highlights the cue marks for the projectionists to swap the feature film reels every 20 minutes. When I first arrived in Perth I was struck by the 'film strip' feel of the Threshold Wave and thought of creating a piece from my collection of cue marks. This is how the work Circles and Squares was born. I hope that it will help us re-envisage an almost bygone era with the clackety sound of the film tail at the end of a reel and the whirring of film running through the projector."

It was Chuck Palahniuk's novel *Fight Club*, 1996 which probably first drew popular attention to the film industry's secret grammar of cue marks and referred to them as 'cigarette burns'. This gained further interest through the 1999 film adaptation of the same name. In 2009, Krenz offers us a new term 'circles and squares' focusing on the formal aesthetics, the hidden codes and the strong relationship between the language of film and contemporary art.

"We are very pleased to be able to work with such an outstanding artist, alas virtually unknown in Scotland," said Iliyana Nedkova, Horsecross creative director (contemporary art).

"Krenz's work is probably best known internationally for his approach to film-making as 'a logical mind game'. I'd compare his artist's videos to exquisite vignettes. They are often tales about life cycles, cause and effect, improbability and accuracy, held together by playful scenarios. This accounts for the universal appeal of Krenz's work".

Krenz's major new commission will be acquired for the Horsecross permanent collection of contemporary art. *Circles and Squares* will also be complimented by the UK premiere exhibition of the artist's most recent work. For one weekend only, four critically acclaimed video works including *Jackass/MTV-Naïve Performance*, 2006; *Formal Analysis*, 2005; *TV 'S'*, 2006 and *1 Second Film About UFO*, 2008 will screen and cycle



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on a fifteen minute loop in the specially converted, state-of-the-art micro cinema in the Norie-Miller Studio adjacent to the Threshold artspace at Perth Concert Hall.

The Circles and Squares commission also continues at the Threshold Stage projection area of the artspace in Perth Concert Hall. In addition, the Threshold Stage Screen area is home to the artist's favourite movies selected from YouTube and streamed via the Internet in real time. Krenz has also selected his own favourite interactive audio installation Lyrebird Redux, 2007 from the Horsecross collection of contemporary art which is playing at the Threshold Welcome area. An earlier artist's video work Find the Exact Number of Details, 2000 is showing on a loop at the Threshold Flush area of the artspace. This work is a mind game inviting us to consider the enriching experience of watching a film over and over again.

During the exhibition opening weekend Krenz will be joined by Horsecross' guest-curator Urszula Sniegowska from the Centre of Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw. Together with Nedkova, Sniegowska will lead an informal guided tour in conversation with the artist.

The Scottish Tides-Polish Spring exhibitions opened with Izabella Gustowska's Life is a Story. The Scottish Episode on 7 March 2009.

For more information about individual Scottish Tides-Polish Spring events and tickets, call Horsecross Box Office on 0044 1738 621 031 or visit [www.horsecross.co.uk](http://www.horsecross.co.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

*1. Launched in September 2005, Threshold artspace is about positioning Perth and Scotland within the contemporary art world at large through commissioning, producing, exhibiting, publishing and collecting.*

*2. The exhibition Circles and Squares by Igor Krenz is on view from Saturday 4 April –*



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*Thursday 7 May 2009 at Threshold artspace, Perth Concert Hall. The admission is always free and open to the public Monday to Saturday, 10am – 6pm or late on performance evenings.*

*3. Horsecross' new commission Circles and Squares, 2009 by Igor Krenz has been acquired for the Horsecross collection of contemporary art. It is playing on Threshold Wave of 22 flat 40-inch screens dominating the artspace. It could also be viewed daily between 8am-1am from the open public plaza in front of the Perth Concert Hall's glazed building.*

*4. The UK premiere of 4 selected artist's video works from 2005-08 by Igor Krenz will be exhibited on a 15 minute loop for one weekend only: Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April 2009 10am-4pm at Norie-Miller Studio, Perth Concert Hall. The admission is free and open to the public.*

*5. Igor Krenz will be in conversation with Horsecross' curator Iliyana Nedkova and guest curator Urszula Sniegowska over brunch and informal guided tour on Sunday 5 April 2009 11am-1pm. Admission is free but booking by emailing Iliyana Nedkova [inedkova@horsecross.co.uk](mailto:inedkova@horsecross.co.uk) is advisable to ensure your free Sunday brunch.*

*5. Igor Krenz's exhibition is accompanied by a new issue of Read More – Horsecross journal of critical writing ISSN 1755-0866 (Online). Specially designed, each issue features a newly commissioned essay about a selected work from the collection. The contributing writer for this issue is Piotr Krajewski, Wroclaw-based curator and critic.*

*6. The Circles and Squares 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.*



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7. Igor Krenz's exhibition is accompanied by two more Scottish Tides-Polish Spring exhibitions: *Acres Wild and Us, But Not Only Us*. Both continue until 7 May 2009 at Threshold artspace, Perth Theatre. The admission is free and open to the public Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm or late on performance evenings.

8. *Acres Wild* by Marek Styczen is the first solo exhibition by this emerging Perth-based Polish artist and the works are available to purchase through Horsecross to help start or nurture a collection of contemporary art. *US, BUT NOT ONLY US* by Perth Polish Support Group + Juliet Rees is the first public gallery exhibition of this collaborative creative documentary. Both exhibitions are curated by Iliyana Nedkova.

9. Also on view at Threshold artspace, Perth Theatre is *Glenlandia* by Susan Collins – Horsecross' first collectable limited edition artist's print available to purchase as part of the new initiative *Collect + Support*. Up to 50% offer from a set of works to Horsecross' members.

10. Scottish Tides-Polish Spring exhibitions opened with the first solo exhibition in Britain by Izabella Gustowska: *Life is a Story*. The Scottish Episode 7 March – 4 April 2009. The season culminates with the third and last of the series of solo exhibitions featuring a major new Horsecross' commission *The Modernisation, 2009* by Julita Wojcik and showing at Threshold artspace from 10 May until 26 July 2009.

## **Notes to Editors ctd**

1. Scottish Tides-Polish Spring at Horsecross is part of nationwide *Homecoming Scotland 2009*. The roots of this event are four hundred years old and spread across a continent. From Scotland to Poland and back again, centuries of migration have sown the seeds for a shared cultural landscape. And now the fruits of this unique relationship flourish in a season of events at Perth Theatre and Perth Concert Hall. Polish Spring adds a 21st Century twist to this artistic alliance by bringing together Poland's top rock and comedy groups, alongside acclaimed Scots folk, contemporary visual artists and



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*classical musicians in a celebration of the comings and goings of Scots and Poles through the arts.*

*2. Homecoming Scotland 2009: Throughout 2009 Scotland hosts its first Homecoming year, designed to mark the 250th anniversary of Scotland's national poet, the international cultural icon, Robert Burns. From the weekend around Burns Night in January to St Andrew's Day in November a country wide programme of exciting and inspirational Homecoming events and activities celebrates some of Scotland's great contributions to the world: Burns himself, Whisky, Golf, Great Scottish Minds and Innovations and our rich ancestral culture and heritage which lives on at home and through our global family.*

*3. Homecoming Scotland 2009 is a Scottish Government initiative managed by EventScotland in partnership with VisitScotland.*

*4. Homecoming Scotland 2009 seeks to motivate people of Scottish descent, as well as those who simply love Scotland, to come home and join us in a national celebration of our culture, heritage and the many great contributions Scotland has given the world:*

**[www.homecomingscotland2009.com](http://www.homecomingscotland2009.com)**

*5. Scottish Tides-Polish Spring at Horsecross is also part of POLSKA! YEAR: A Year of Contemporary Everything From Poland! – an initiative of Adam Mickiewicz Institute under the official patronage of HM The Queen and HE The President of the Republic of Poland.*

*6. POLSKA! YEAR comprises more than 200 events featuring some of Poland's best efforts in film, theatre, architecture, design, history, literature, music, fashion and other forms of art. POLSKA! YEAR is a chance for British folks to get to know Poland as more than the homeland of their nation's finest builders and waitresses. And it's also a chance for Poles in the UK — even if they happen to be doctors, bankers, scientists, etc., as a*



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*third of Polish immigrants to Britain are — to indulge in a spot of homegrown culture.*

**[www.PolskaYear.pl](http://www.PolskaYear.pl)**

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THRESHOLD  
artspace



**POLSKA! YEAR**

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