



news release

21 April 2009

Concluding Polish Spring contemporary art commission takes inspiration from Perth Concert Hall architecture.

PICTURE CALL: Sunday 10 May 2009 11am-1pm. Free Sunday Brunch provided.
Threshold artspace and Norie Miller Studio, Perth Concert Hall, Perth, UK: *Julita Wojcik* artist, *Iliyana Nedkova*, *Horsecross* curator and *Jonathon Blackwood*, guest writer.

Following her January residency in Scotland, Polish artist, Julita Wojcik has taken inspiration from the minimalist architectural style of Perth Concert Hall to create her contemporary art commission for Threshold artspace located at the heart of the Fair City's favourite venue.

Wojcik designed **Domestic Modernism (2009)** for the artspace as part of her first solo UK exhibition under the same title. The new work was commissioned by Horsecross, the creative enterprise behind Threshold artspace, Perth Concert Hall and Perth Theatre.

The commission is a multi-channel video installation evoking some of the best and worst aspects of modern architecture with Wojcik's signature satirical twist. Shot on location in Zaspá, a run-down seventies housing estate in Gdansk, **Domestic Modernism (2009)** is a self-portrait of the artist as a hard hat wearing builder and decorator. The work engages with the seemingly relentless repetitiveness of the act of beautifying the facades of the failed project of socialist high-rise living.

Wojcik said:



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“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 ninety years ago gave us the template for the flats and offices we live and work in today.”

Domestic Modernism is the third, concluding contemporary art exhibition in the three-month long Scottish Tides-Polish Spring series. Celebrating centuries of cultural connections between the two nations, Scottish Tides-Polish Spring forms part of the national Homecoming celebrations, organised by Horsecross with support from Homecoming Scotland 2009, Polska! Year and Perth and Kinross Council.

Domestic Modernism opens to the public on Saturday 9 May and continues until Saturday 26 July.

In addition to her new commission, Wojcik has selected her own favourite interactive audio installation **Lyrebird Redux (2007)** from the Horsecross collection of contemporary art which will play at the Threshold Welcome area. A succession of five ultra-short animation stories **Private Public (2002-05)** never seen before as an artwork, will show on a loop at the Threshold Flush area of the artspace.

The Threshold Stage online screen area is also home to the artist's work **Figure Skating (2005)** – the first piece by Wojcik to appear on YouTube – available on the dedicated Threshold artspace YouTube channel – only for the duration of the exhibition.

The exhibition is complemented by an exclusive, one weekend-only screening of three critically acclaimed video works by Wojcik, each resonating with the artist's new commission. The selected works can be seen in a specially converted, state-of-the-art cinema adjacent to the Threshold artspace on Saturday 9 May from 5pm until late and Sunday 10 May from 10am to 5pm only.

Describing the artistic process, Wojcik said:



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“Back in Gdansk, I employed the ‘elevated’ viewing perspective of the unique Threshold Wave of 22 flat screens in a row to devise Domestic Modernism as an artistic action, a performance for the camera. It turned into a nine part artist’s film shot from the third floor of what could pass for an iconic, brightly painted Bauhaus building with coats of socialist neglect.”

The artist will be joined by Iliyana Nedkova, Horsecross creative director for contemporary art, and guest writer Jonathon Blackwood from the University of Dundee for a brunch preview and guided tour during the opening weekend of the event.

Horsecross is also welcoming back Perthshire Visual Arts Forum (PVAF) – the local group of professional visual artists with whom it has been collaborating since the Threshold artspace was launched in 2005. **Scene without Scene** is a new exhibition curated especially for the newly extended Threshold artspace at Perth Theatre. **Scene without Scene** features nine selected works showing the diversity and range of work that members of the PVAF produce.

Horsecross’ Scottish Tides-Polish Spring commissions and exhibitions opened with Izabella Gustowska’s *Life is a Story*. The Scottish Episode on 7 March 2009 and continued with Marek Styczen’s *Acres Wild* and Igor Krenz’s *Circles and Squares*.

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

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.



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2. *The exhibition Domestic Modernism by Julita Wojcik is on view from Saturday 9 May to Saturday 26 July 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. In addition, Wojcik’s artwork Figure Skating (2005) – the first artist’s video by Wojcik to appear on YouTube – is available on the dedicated Threshold artspace YouTube channel only for the duration of the exhibition accessible at <http://www.youtube.com/Thresholdartspace>.*

3. *The exclusive, one weekend-only screening of three critically acclaimed video works by Wojcik, can be seen in a specially converted, state-of-the-art cinema adjacent to the Threshold artspace on Saturday 9 May from 5pm until late and Sunday 10 May from 10am to 5pm only.*

4. *The exhibition is accompanied by a Issue 11 | Mar 09 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. To be released later in 2009.*

5. *Domestic Modernism exhibition is curated by Iliyana Nedkova and Urszula Sniegowska as part of Horsecross’ Scottish Tides-Polish Spring: a three month celebration of Scotland’s vibrant cultural connections with Poland.*

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.

6. *Julita Wojcik will be in conversation with Horsecross’ curator Iliyana Nedkova and guest writer Jonathon Blackwood over brunch and informal guided tour on Sunday 10*



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May 2009 11am-1pm. Admission is free but booking by emailing Iliyana Nedkova inedkova@horsecross.co.uk is advisable to ensure your free Sunday brunch.

7. *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 *Domestic Modernism* (2009) by Julita Wojcik and showing at Threshold artspace from 9 May until 26 July 2009.

8. Julita Wojcik (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.

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



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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

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

www.PolskaYear.pl



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