

REPERTOIRE

#Repertoire #PerthTheatre #Thresholdartspace @HorsecrossPerth

Celebrate the first anniversary of the renovated Perth Theatre with visuals from **Richard Murphy Architects** and works from our museum collection
Curated by **Iliyana Nedkova**

26 Nov 2018 - 26 Feb 2019

Repertoire (2017)

or Bad Photo, I am Much Nicer Looking

Joanna Dolewska

a set of 19 artist's postcards

featuring archival photographs of actors: **Valerie Lush, Jennifer Angus, Ron Bain, Sheila Cooper, Liza Goddard, Maud Risdon, Robert Docherty, Catherine Salked, Mary Laine, Francesca Annis, Denise Hirst, Lillian Welsh, Anthony Stamm, John Vail, John Joyce, William Armow, William Wallace, Roger Gale, Ian Norris** and unknowns

As part of her artist-in-residency at Perth Theatre Archive throughout 2017, **Joanna Dolewska** studied many a scrapbook bound with wallpaper samples including the one from 1927-33 as displayed in this exhibition. The wallpaper served as a background, a device or 'theatre stage' setting the tone. The attractive vintage patterns, the rich colours and textures enthused **Joanna's** imagination.

The resident artist was also intrigued by the actors' photographic portraits from 1940-70s held in Perth Theatre's Archive. Some of them were portraits from job applications sent to the theatre by agents, others were sent by actors themselves in search of employment. There were often hand-written comments on the back of the photographs such as '**Bad photo - I'm much nicer looking**'. This made **Joanna** think how theatre actors used to, and still do to some degree, rely on photography in order to be considered for a job; how we judge whether a photograph is good and what role, if any, the actor could play.

In her newly commissioned work as seen here, **Joanna** swaps the places from the archive – her cut-outs of freshly sourced wallpaper are in the foreground while the original black and white portraits recede in the background. The actors appear to acquire new masks as new, unanticipated roles. **Joanna's** work becomes a celebration of the acting profession.

DID YOU KNOW You can now purchase **REPERTOIRE** – the set of artist's postcards by **Joanna Dolewska**. For sales inquiries please contact **Iliyana Nedkova** at inedkova@horsecross.co.uk

Exhibition produced by **Horsecross Arts** in partnership with **Richard Murphy Architects** and **Perth Theatre Memory Collective**. Additional exhibition support from **Heritage Lottery Fund, Culture Perth and Kinross, Perth Theatre Archive at AK Bell Library** and all participating primary schools from across Perth and Kinross
Special thanks to **Bill Black, Ishbel MacKinnon and Claire Devine**

Bold contemporary art by Scottish and international artists in Perth since 2005

