





**WSCHODNIA GALLERY-  
EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE,  
AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE**

The phenomenon of running private galleries in Poland (where up until 1989 most culture institutions were nationalised and their standards as well as financial independence were controlled by the state) has been an act immensely valuable and is still rare. In today's times, all is dictated by the laws of economy, and hence everything is exposed to commercialisation. With that in view, an existence of a selfless and non-profit institution, which is a genial place for artists, is invaluable. Its all-importance can only be measured against the fact that it is a home place for art (let us call it 'ephemeral' or 'non-commercial') which exhibits the same selfless and non-profit qualities as the gallery does. Wschodnia Gallery creates space for this art to come into existence; a space for it to be documented. The year 1984 is the true beginning of the exhibiting activity of the premises, which up to that time were a flat and an artist's workshop. It was also a meeting place of Lodz art society. The creative atmosphere of those times was reflected in the activities of Wschodnia Gallery: just to mention a few events, Polish nationwide independent art festival Złote Czołko (1986-1988) took place in the gallery as well as the participation of Wschodnia gallery artists in 2<sup>nd</sup> New Art Biennale in Zielona Gora, Poland. What is

**TERESA MURAK**

'Ścierki Wizytok', installation, drawings, 1990



worth mentioning as well is the fact that by selecting Wschodnia Gallery as venue for the 1987 international art festival *Utopia i Rzeczywistość* (*Utopia and Reality Festival* curated by Antoni Mikołajczyk), Video Art Clip Festival (both organised together with Exchange Gallery) resulted in enriching the audience community with fans of new media art and art critics.

To summarise then, within 5 years from the gallery opening, this institution, ran by two artists rather unknown to the general public, grew to become a significant spot on the cultural map of Łódź and Poland.

Another landmark activities, which opened Wschodnia Gallery to an international art forum, were the return to Łódź of the legendary *Construction In Process* and the setting up of the

**ZBIGNIEW WARPECHOWSKI**

*'Ażja', outdoor installation, from the exhibition 'Galleries of the 80s' 1990*



**JERZY GRZEGORSKI, ADAM KLIMCZAK**  
*'Reality Outcrops', photo installation, 2006*

International Artists' Museum Association. Wschodnia Gallery benefited greatly from the intensive work it put into a series of exhibitions happening within the framework of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Construction in Process 'Back in Lodz' (1990). The success of the exhibitions meant that the cooperation with Ryszard Wasko on the following Construction events was tightened, and brought about jointed projects in the subsequent events in Lodz (1993), Israel (1995), Melbourne (1997) and Bydgoszcz (2000). New contacts were acquired which often were forged into long lasting art friendships.

**ZYGMUNT RYTKA**

*'Dynamic Objects', photo installation, 2002*



**JANUSZ BALDYGA**

*'½ Even Number Performance', 1988*



**VARDA GETZOW**

*'Lodzka, Wschodnia 29 - Document of the Building', 2009*

In the 90s, foreign artists were hosted in the gallery as often as Polish ones. The gallery became famous for its hospitality in many different corners of the world.

All of this contributed to the growing prestige and significance of the gallery. Its dynamic development was proven in the fact that The Center for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle (then a budding institution, now the most important place in Warsaw exhibiting contemporary art) invited

the Wschodnia Gallery as an organiser to one of the first showcases of independent art in Poland. As a result, the exhibition entitled *Kręgi Wschodniej* (Circles of Wschodnia) came to being in 1991.

Around that time, it became apparent that the art community had to be re-integrated due to the political situation of Poland. The need appeared to exchange experiences with other countries and other independent art organisations. The rather small exhibiting potential of flats used in Communist times as gallery spaces became obvious. Multimedia art, and most of all the contemporary installation works required larger spaces and new materials. More and more artists working within city space were invited. The next step taken in order to provide artists with the best possible working and technical conditions was an active participation in creating new places for progressive art.

**KLASSEN, NIESLONY, PIOTROWSKI, VAN POPPEL, VAARA, WARPECHOWSKI**

*'Black Market', performance, 1988*



The focal point of the gallery has not changed in the past 20 years. It has always been interested in ambitious, high art. Its engagement oscillates around interdisciplinary activities with particular focus on action and installation art, photography and film. The originality and the scope of the activities undertaken by the artists running the gallery combined with the risk taken by them determine just how cutting-edge their works are.

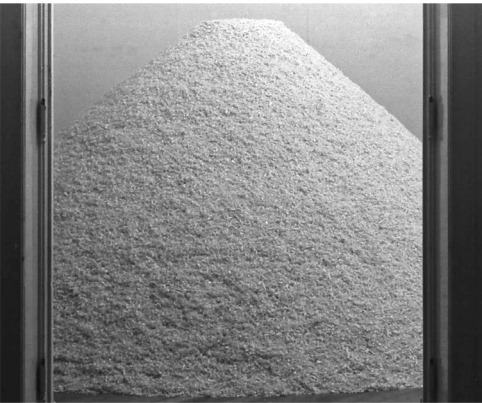
**HORST RICKELS**

*'Mercurius Wagen', sound installation, 1988*



**ANTONI MIKOŁAJCZYK**

*'Metamorphosis' installation, 1986*



**IVAN KAFKA**

*'Piles and Concentrations - Two States of Possible Purpose', installation, 1987*

The decision to invest in that kind of art was an ingenious idea. After many years, the number of site specific works grew to such volume that it constitutes an impressive history of the genre. The premises (let me stress it: a flat) changed with the guests who contributed with new interpretations of the place. The Gallery was a mysterious library, it was a desert dotted with sawdust hillocks, it was a cosmic planet covered with shining foil and the Arctic with an igloo. It also changed into a trap for wild beasts, an insect breeding place, a garden with a pool, a bar, a copy of a flat, an archeological and sociological research ground in which destruction and deconstruction were as interesting as construction and ordering chosen by others.

**RYSZARD WAŚKO**

*'The Meal for Poor and Rich People', action, 1993*





**MACIEJ KURAK**

*'Deconstruction', installation, 2002*

Through its participation in Poland-wide events, Wschodnia Gallery's contact list, prestige and media awareness grew. The evidence of it can be found in the gallery's curating projects, especially the international ones, for example Cafe Europa (done in Lodz and Berlin), En route (done in Spain, Germany and Poland), or Sense in Place (in which six Eastern and Western European countries took part). In recent years, the cooperation with art historians and art critics gained its importance. The Gallery carries out a joint project with a group of theoreticians entitled Art & Documentation Festival which aims at collecting, researching and presenting to public a persistently growing body of materials documenting ephemeral actions.

A devoted approach to record the tradition of the avant-garde art is demonstrated in an active participation of the gallery in the Katarzyna Kobro award which is given to the most distinguished Polish artists for their life-time achievements by an appointed chapter chaired by Jozef Robakowski. This prestigious and respectable award, founded by Lodz art collector Dariusz Bienkowski, every year attracts the cream of the Polish society. The selection of Wschodnia Gallery as home of the award giving ceremony ties the history of the gallery with the history of the city and Lodz avant-garde, in which Wschodnia Gallery, for the past 50 years, has always played an important role while becoming at the same time the marvel of this history.

*Edited from Jolanta Ciesielska's text*

*Translation: Elzbieta Wysakowska-Walters*

*Lodz, January 2010*





**TOMASZ MATUSZAK**

*"Exhibition That Never Existed", photography, 2008*

#### **PARTICIPATION OF WSCHODNIA GALLERY IN ARTISTIC EVENTS**

- 1987** II Biennale of New Art - BWA, Zielona Góra, Poland
- 1990** Galleries of the 80s - Zachęta National Gallery, Warsaw, Poland
- 1991** Circles of Wschodnia - Contemporary Art Centre, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland
- 1995** Unter einem Dach / Under the Same Roof, ten polish galleries as guests in Podewil, Berlin, Germany
- 1999** Signed Places - Contemporary Art Centre, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland

- 2000** Forum of Galleries and Other Places of Art - Contemporary Art Centre ŁAŻNIA and Wyspa Gallery, Gdańsk, Poland
- 2004** Presentation of polish noncommercial galleries during „Art Poznań 2004” Art Fair
- 2005** “New Art in the Old Slaughterhouse”, exhibition of polish noncommercial galleries during “Art Poznań 2005” Art Fair
- 2007** Signale, international exhibition, Dresden, Germany
- 2009** Icons of Victory / transFORM - international art exhibition, Berlin, Germany



strasznie bardzo WAS KOCHAM

NIA PUSHKAROVA

'Hemibly Badly I Love You', photography, 2003

#### ARTISTIC EVENTS CO-ORGANIZED BY WSCHODNIA GALLERY

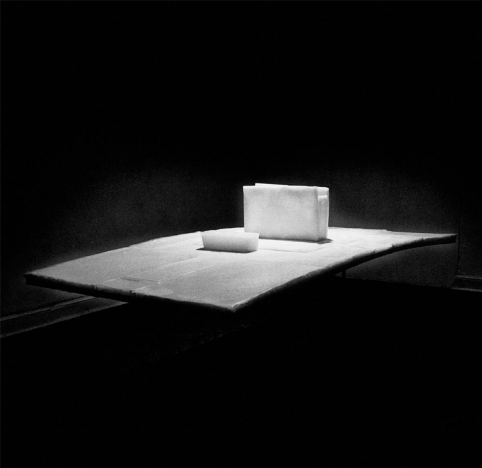
- 1988 Video Art Clip - II International Festival
- 1988 Take Position - artists in the face of contemporary art situation; exhibitions, installations, performances, shows, video, lectures, discussions
- 1989 Backwords and Forward - Meetings of critics, artists and gallery owners dedicated to the estimation of the art of 80s in Poland
- 1990 Construction in Process III, Back in Łódź - international art meeting
- 1990 Videoperformance - performances, video, videoperformances
- 1990 Between - show of a group of artists from Byam Shaw School of Art, Great Britain
- 1990 Marigold Hodgkinson, Emma J. Lawton, Steve Lowe, Nicholas Rowan, Stephen Williams
- 1992 Łódź Neo Avant-garde Movement 1970-1992 - exhibition, presentations, performances, concerts
- 2001 CONTINUUM Project - International Art Workshop
- 2001 Artists for Artists, Katarzyna Kobro Award (laureates: Zbigniew Dłubak, Juergen Blum-Kwiatkowski, Andrzej Dłużniewski, Krzysztof M. Bednarski, Teresa Murak, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Jerzy Lewczyński, Zbigniew Rybczyński, Andrzej Lachowicz)

- 2003 EN ROUTE - Art on European Roads - Zaragoza-Belzig-Lodz
- 2005 Café Europa - Łódź-Berlin - projection of slides in public space
- 2005 'Sense in Place' Site-ations International Europe 2005/06, a year long site-related arts project; „Factory of Phantasmagoria” - Łódź.

#### ADAM KLIMCZAK, YACCOV HEFETZ

'Eating Heads', performances, 2004





JERZY GRZEGORSKI  
*'...place...'*, 1991

## WSCHODNIA GALLERY AS A PARTNER OF ARTISTIC EVENTS

Construction in Process, International Artists' Museum events, Łódź Biennale, International Festival of Photography 'Fotofestiwal', Łódź Design Festival, Festival of Dialogue of Four Cultures, Jewish Culture Days, Fokus Łódź Biennale

**EDWARD ŁAZIKOWSKI**

*from exhibition 'Two Objects', 1992*





## ARTISTS SHOWING IN AND OUT OF WSCHODNIA GALLERY

Ania Adamczyk | Gerry Ammann | Carl Andre | Małgorzata Antoszevska-Moneta | D. Sans Arcidet | Janusz Baldyga | Zuzanna Baranowska | Wiesław Barszczak | Stefan Becker | Sławek Bełina | Jan Berdyszak | Art Bernievel | Jacek Bigoszewski | Piotr Bikont | Tom Bills | Bożenna Biskupska | Julien Blaine | Bilu Blich | Jürgen Blum - Kwiatkowski | Hilmar Boehle | Hartmut Bohm | Małgorzata Borek | Jean-François Bory | Wojciech Brzuszeński | Sławomir Brzoska | Terry Buchholz | Euan Burnet-Smith | Clarian Carson | Tina Cassara | Mino Catania | Shoun Catoun | Tommy Ceballos | Janusz Cegiela | Ouchi Cha | Bruce Checelsky | Andrzej Chętko | Marek Chlanda | Agnieszka Chojnacka | Krzysztof Cichosz | Andrzej Ciesielski | Mark Daniel Cohen | Joanna Czerwińska | Witosław Czerwinka | Tomasz Dąbrowski | Moniek Darge | Jean de Breyne | Mariusz Dąbrowski | Mirosław Dębiński | Daniel Depoutot | Antonio Diaz | Zbigniew Duśak | Andrzej Dziwniewski | Tomasz Dobiszewski | Peter Downsbrough | Stephen Dvorsing | Terry van Druten | Janusz Duci | Zbigniew Dudek | Paweł Dura | Janusz Dziubak | Avraham Eliat | Amy Eshoo | Stano Filko | Mirosław Flonik | Jarosław Flicinski | Lars Fredrikson | Ladislav Galeta | Moshe Gershuni | Narda Getzov | Aleksandra Gieraga | Ginevra Godin | Leszek Golec | Sylwia Górak | Maciej Gorczyński | Małgorzata Góralska | Leonard Grabowski | Lorena Grant | Frank Gribling | Ilan Grin | Bettina Gruber | Jerzy Grzegorski | Ryszard Gryb | Jean-Claude Guillaumon | David Hall | Tadashi Hashimoto | Amy Haut | Yaacov Hefetz | Edwerdt Higemann | Anthony Hill | Marigold Hodgkinson | Sibille Hoffer | Alexander Honory | Jiri Hula | Zdenek Hula | Krystyna Jakiewicz | Andrzej Janaszewski | Marek Janiak | Dorothy Jannone | Servie Janssen | Jacek Józwiak | Liliana Kadichevski | Ivan Kafka | Wolf Kahlen | Rachel Kairy | Ewa Kaja | Elżbieta Kalinowska | Marek Kamierak | Adam Klimczak | Anna Klimczak | Ola Kupińska | Leszek Knaflowski | Krzysztof Knittel | Milan Knizak | Stanisław Kolibal | Dariusz Korol | Lorraine Kordecki | Dieter Krull | Małgorzata Kubiak | Ewa Kulasek | Tilman Kuntzel | Maciej Kurak | Iza Kuzyszyn | Konrad Kuzyszyn | Paweł Kwaśniewski | Paweł Kwiek | Andrzej Kwietniewski | Natalia LL | Doron Lackman | Yifat Laist | Zygmunt Laskowski | Emma Lawton | Wojciech Leder | Lesław Ledwosinski | Izabela Lejk | Leszek Lewandowski | Jerzy Lewczyński | Les Levine | Sol LeWitt | Zbigniew Libera | Emilio Lopez-Mencero | Peter Lowe | Wojciech Łazarczyk | Edward Łazkowski | Haim Maor-Moskovich | Wiesław Markowski | Tomasz Matuszak | Dora Mautner | Helen Mayer | Albert Mertz | Eugenio Miccini | Wiesław Michałak | Antoni Mikolajczyk | Artas Misson | Manfred Mohr | Susan Morris | Jacek Mrozowicz | Paweł Muhtbauer | Teresa Murak | Yuzuka Mutsuzawa | Marek Nędrzyński | Zuzanna Niespor | Richard Noras | Maciej Odolinski | Łukasz Ogórek | Zbyszek Oksuta | Kacper Olowski | Mariusz Berek | Olszewski | Morgan O'Hara | John O'Mara | Sean O'Reilly | Hadas Ophrat | Jarosław Orłowski | Zdzisław Pacholski | Paul Panhuysen | Marc Paradis | Andrzej Partum | Andrzej Panuzel | Bogdan Perzyński | Lex Peters | Anna Petrie | Waldemar Petryk | Beverly Piersol | Wiesława Piłka | Zygmunt Piotrowski | Józef Żuk | Piłkowski | Anna Plotnicka | Grzegorz Pleszyński | Ariela Plotkin | Joanna Przybyła | Nia Pushkarova | David Rabinowitch | Robert Rabiega | Norbert Radermacher | Godfried-Willem Rasch | Steven Rand | Jean-Luis Raynard | Horst Rickels | George Rickay | Józef Robakowski | Simon Robert | Susan Rosenthal | Nicholas Rowan | Andrzej Różycki | Adam Rzepecki | Zofia Rydet | Zygmunt Rytka | Andreas Sachsenmaier | Salamanka | Tomasz Samosionek | Karin Sander | Sarenco | Pierre Saucher | Alexander Schabracq | Joerg Schlinke | Guy Schraenen | Dov Seltzer | SerVoodoo | Laurel Shute | Małgorzata Sidor | Paco Simon | Mariusz Sotysik | Mikolaj Smoczyński | Eric Snell | Sławek Sobczak | Joanna Sokolowska | Michael Spector | Paweł Sulej | Jan Swidzinski | Maciej Świerkocki | Andrzej Świetlik | Arkadiusz Sylwestrowicz | Stefan Szczelkun | Tibor Szemzo | Grzegorz Szabiński | Zbigniew Taszycki | Jumalan Teatteri | Richard Thomas | Zbigniew Tomaszczuk | Maciej Toporowicz | Vincent Trasov | Jerzy Truszkowski | Anna Tyrczyńska | Dagmar Uhde | Alicia Vela | Herman Verhagen | Zbigniew Warpechowski | Marek Wasilewski | Maria Wąsko | Ryszard Wąsko | Maria Weder | Lawrence Weiner | William Wegman | Elviera Wersche | Makary Wielogórski | Emmett Williams | Stephen Williams | Ryszard Winiarski | Remigiusz Wojaczek | Stefan Wojnecki | Ariel Yanay-Shani | Gailly Yotova | Franco Verdi | Wojciech Zaniara | Ewa Zarzycka | Piotr Zastróżny | Zbigniew Zieliński

To this day, there has been 257 individual and group exhibitions, performances, concerts, appearances, video shows, actions, lectures organized by Wschodnia Gallery.

ADAM KLIMCZAK

from exhibition „Place of Wschodnia”, 1994

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