

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Warsaw, 20.05.2012**

### **„JUST A THING” EXHIBITION**

**23 – 30.05.2012 – Saint-Petersburg Design Week**

**Curator: Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka**

**Organizers: The Adam Mickiewicz Institute and the Regional Museum of Stalowa Wola**

JUST A THING exhibition by Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka, renowned Polish curator of design expositions features 10 works of 10 Polish designers and design groups, namely Aze Design, Beton, Paweł Grobelny, Krystian Kwieciński, Lapolka, Malafor, Bartosz Mucha, Piotr Stolarski, Arek Wolski and Łukasz Wysoczyński.

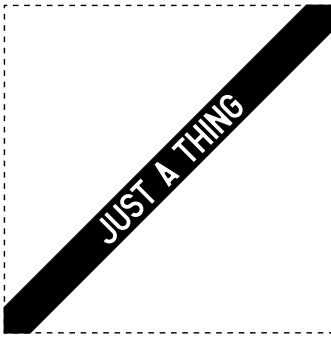
Some of them, like Malafor, Aze Design, Beton or Paweł Grobelny are already mature authors, well-known in Europe. Others, like Krystian Kwieciński and Łukasz Wysoczyński have only just started their artistic careers. All of them, however, are gifted designers whose works show amazing imagination, passion and a sense of humour; they provoke, make us think about the role of design in our life, prove that simple questions can receive surprising answers.

The theme of JUST A THING gave the artists a chance for free interpretation. The curator set a task to design an ordinary object which would fit into a plywood box of standard dimensions of 75x75x75 cm. The only constraint that limited the designers was the size of the box. The result was unusual and interesting.

*„I invited 10 designers to take part in this project. They were given the conditions the object had to meet and the financing from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute to produce the prototype. They also received the theme and the size of the package into which the prototype had to fit. This particular requirement was introduced for practical reasons – 10 objects packed in unified boxes make a collection easy to transport and to display. The catchphrase “ordinary object” was to be dealt with by the participants on their own”. – explains Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka – “The aim of designers is to address the needs of the society. They define those needs in variety of ways and not only on the designing level, but most participants filled their boxes with common objects: seats (**Wolski, Malafor**), stools (**Wysoczyński, Grobelny**), lamps (**Kwieciński, Stolarski**), dishes (**Lapolka**)”.*

***Malafor’s** inflated armchair runs against all our customary expectations – nonmaterial, unstructured, but it fulfills its role. **Wolski’s** stool is a provocation – puts the users in somewhat awkward position. **Grobelny** seeks originality in the design of a common object with exclusion of possible narrative. **Wysoczyński** addresses another common need – storage. **Stolarski and Kwieciński** designed lamps, which can be formed, transformed and extended depending on the need. **Lapolka’s, Aze’s and Beton’s** response to the subject is emotional. Blown glass means the technology of production – not for **Lapolka**. Her blown wine glasses created more to play with in water than for drinking. Aze offers studying one’s reflection in old portraits, admits to the need of seeing himself in different roles and times. Beton captures attention, surprises, provokes a smile, irritates. What is an “ordinary object” in Beton’s design?*

The exhibition is a commentary to the recent publication of The Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw, entitled „Out of the Ordinary. Polish Designers of the 20th Century”, edited by prof. Czesława Frejlich, devoted to the Polish design of the 20th century. The exhibition and the book are an invitation to reflect on and discuss the „usual and unusual things”, an attempt to find a definition of „the usualness” in design and to determine whether an object is only a thing or maybe something more.



### **JUST A THING exhibition, 23 – 30.05.2012, Saint-Petersburg Design Week**

([www.spbdesignweek.ru](http://www.spbdesignweek.ru)) is organized by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw ([www.iam.pl](http://www.iam.pl) and [www.culture.pl](http://www.culture.pl)) and the Regional Museum of Stalowa Wola ([www.muzeum.stalowawola.pl](http://www.muzeum.stalowawola.pl)).

#### **EXHIBITION CURATOR**

AGNIESZKA JACOBSON-CIELECKA – curator of numerous exhibitions and journalist; expert and promoter of the contemporary design in Poland and abroad. Since 2008, artistic director and curator of exhibitions at Łódź Design Festival ([www.lodzdesign.com](http://www.lodzdesign.com)). Collaborator of many cultural institutions in Poland and abroad. Organizer of Polish and international design exhibitions, e.g.: „UNPOLISHED – YOUNG DESIGN FROM POLAND” in collaboration with Paweł Grobelny (2009), „NATURAL RESOURCES OF POLISH DESIGN” (2009), „POLSKA FOLK” (2010), „MATERIA PRIMA” (2010), „DZIECINADA” (2010). She lectures at School of Form in Poznań ([www.sof.edu.pl](http://www.sof.edu.pl)) Between 2000 and 2007 editor-in-chief of the Polish edition of Elle Decoration. Graduate of the Faculty of Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk.

#### **EXHIBITION ORGANIZERS**

**The Adam Mickiewicz Institute** is a national institution of culture. The mission of the Institute is part of the strategy for promoting Poland abroad. The Institute promotes Polish culture around the world and co-operates with other countries, showcases Poland’s cultural heritage and contemporary culture, and organizes presentations of projects by foreign partners in Poland. The Institute has organized many major cultural events and has yet more ambitious plans for the future. We have organized Polish Seasons in France, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, and other countries. During the recently concluded I, CULTURE - International Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council almost 400 events were presented in 10 capitals in the European Union and around the world from July to December 2011. Our upcoming projects include presentations in Korea, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, UK, USA, as well as the cultural programme supporting the EURO 2012 in Poland. The web portal [culture.pl](http://culture.pl) ranks first according to Press monthly. [Culture.pl](http://culture.pl) is a multilingual platform for information on Polish culture developed by the Institute. It offers information on current events in Poland and abroad as well as encyclopedic entries, including profiles of famous Poles. [www.iam.pl](http://www.iam.pl), [www.culture.pl](http://www.culture.pl).

**The Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola** is a modern institution specializing in the promotion of contemporary design and organizing exhibitions in Poland and abroad. The Museum draws its inspiration on the tradition of Stalowa Wola, a town built from scratch in 1930s. Modernism and decorative character of art déco are present in the town’s architecture and its urban development, in the preserved interiors of some buildings and also in the resources of the Museum such as the collection of applied art maintaining the art deco style. The Museum offers a space for dialogue between modernist traditions and modern initiatives in contemporary culture. Designing and design are an important sphere of both culture and economy. That is why the Museum is a continuator of ideas which gave birth to the town of Stalowa Wola. It promotes Polish design and contemporary art by its educational activity and by organizing exhibitions. The Museum has prepared a series of design exhibitions: UNPOLISHED, POLSKA FOLK, DZIECINADA, JUST A THING – staged in London, Copenhagen, Berlin, Paris, Milan, Köln and Venice. [www.muzeum.stalowawola.pl](http://www.muzeum.stalowawola.pl)

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