

PRESS RELEASE

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„JUST A THING” EXHIBITION

1-5 June 2011

Curator: Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka

Organizers: Adam Mickiewicz Institute and Regional Museum of Stalowa Wola

A new exhibition by Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka, renowned Polish curator of design expositions, makes its debut at the International Design Festival in Berlin – DMY 2011

On 1 June 2011, at the DMY festival of young design in Berlin, known all over Europe, a new exhibition, entitled JUST A THING, will be opened. It has been prepared by a close-knit trio: curator Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka and the organizers: The Regional Museum of Stalowa Wola and The Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

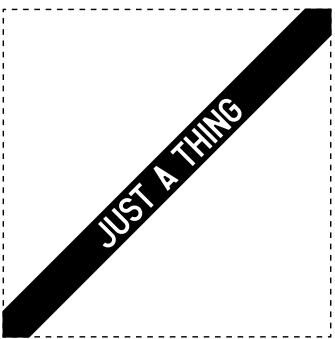
It is not for the first time that The Regional Museum of Stalowa Wola and The Adam Mickiewicz Institute support and promote the Polish design and designers both in Poland and abroad. JUST A THING exhibition is yet another example of their cooperation.

The exhibition features the latest works – never shown before – 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 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.

„I invited 10 designers to work for the project. They were informed about the requirements that the designed objects had to meet and were awarded a grant from The Adam Mickiewicz Institute to produce a prototype. They were also given the topic and the size of the box in which to fit the prototype. Such a limitation had its practical reasons – 10 objects packed into uniform boxes make a collection which is easy to transport and display. “Just a Thing” was an idea each designer had to cope with on their own” – explains Agnieszka Jacobson Cielecka – „What is „just a thing”? Isn’t it every designer’s ambition to create a surprising, unique object which falls outside any definition – „not just a thing”. Can a usual thing be unusual? It does seem so although most of the designers put quite simple objects into their boxes: seats (Wolski, Malafor), tables (Wysoczyński and Grobelny), lamps (Kwieciński and Stolarski), dishes (Lapolka).



Nevertheless, the inflated armchair by **Malafor** is in contradiction with all our sitting habits: although non-material and non-structural, it does serve its purpose. The stool by **Wolski** is a provocation. Borrowing the form of the human body, though non literally, puts us in an awkward situation. **Wysoczyński**, apart from the prosaic purpose of the furniture responds to a different need: that of storing – not only things in the drawers but also imperfect objects: damaged or incomplete, burdened with memories.

Lapolka, **Aze** and **Beton** have found an emotional expression. **Lapolka**'s hand-blown glasses, made rather for playing than for drinking, have become a play of words: the literal meaning of „blowing” and the usual meaning of „glass”. With a suggestion to look at oneself in the mirror of portraits from the past, **Aze** design talks about the need to imagine oneself in different roles and different times. **Beton** attracts our attention, surprises us, makes us smile, irritates. What is „just a thing” 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 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

1 – 5 June 2011, International Design Festival Berlin - DMY 2011, Flughafen Berlin Tempelhof Platz der Luftbrücke 5, 12101 Berlin
www.dmy-berlin.com

JUST A THING exhibition is organized by The Regional Museum of Stalowa Wola www.muzeum.stalowawola.pl and The Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw www.iam.pl and www.culture.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). 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). Promoter of design and designers. 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.

International Design Festival Berlin - DMY 2011 – a feast of the European design – will be held from 1st to 5th June 2011. As before, the Festival will occupy the historical buildings of the former Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, whose monumental architecture creates an excellent counterpoint for the modern design. Over 500 designers will participate: young talents as well as well-established authors from all over the world. The programme of the Festival includes exhibitions, lectures, meetings, discussion panels, presentation of innovative solutions and ideas and many other events. Read more on www.dmy-berlin.com

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