

## **Hanging Together Polish Exchange Project 2004**

**The project envisages reciprocal research and exhibition by artists from central Poland and the Forth Valley towns, relating to migrations, cultural and economic links.**

Hanging Together, a group customarily based in the Stirling area, will develop the project initially in Poland with residency at Oronsko's sculpture workshops in August 2004, followed by exhibition at Galerie XXI, Warsaw during September.

Reciprocal arrangements are in place for the Polish artists to work in the Stirling area, exhibiting at the Park Gallery Falkirk during October 2004.

Essential to the presentation of work will be community engagement by the Polish and Scottish artists with centres of Polish immigration in Scotland – Alloa, Falkirk, East Kilbride, Hamilton and Kirkcaldy - through workshops, projects, Polish cultural festivals and educational work with schools.

### **Background**

Hanging Together is an artist-led organisation that over the past decade has devised and created a number of significant arts interventions and installations primarily, though not exclusively within non-gallery sites throughout the central region of Scotland. The group have also produced a number of on-line installations/exhibitions including 'x-site' (1995) and 'needwantmusthave' (2000).

Integral to the group's work is the development of partnerships with other organisations and the placing of contemporary arts activity on the agenda of essentially non-arts organisations such as National Trust for Scotland, Historic Scotland, local authorities within the Forth Valley area, Town Centre Management and the commercial/business sector.

The group's choice of site/location is based on maximising the artistic impact of the work that could be created as well as encouraging access to a wide audience. The location of the exhibitions is such that a significant proportion of the audience is not a traditional arts audience. Hanging Together's project history indicates the range of locations where the group has created works – ranging from historic monuments to shopping centres, a cemetery, car boot sale, hospitals, a derelict brewery, etc.

## **This Project**

Towards the end of 2002, the group began to discuss the possibility of an exchange with a number of artists based in Poland and Gallery XXI in Warsaw. The discussions centred around issues based on the impact of the new European borders together with the cultural distinctions and historic associations between Scotland and Poland specifically within the central belt, Stirling, Falkirk, Grangemouth, Alloa areas. Recent media debate surrounding the new countries acceding to the European Union (including Poland) bring these issues all the more to the fore.

The artists' exhibition exchange project has evolved through email, internet and face to face discussions. The project will take the form of a period of 'residency' for approximately one month in the host country, during which the visiting artists will produce work for installation at the host gallery. The visiting artists will be supported by the host artists and this arrangement will be reciprocated as the project changes focus to the other country. This application is for the Scottish artist's contribution to the project. The Polish artists will organise funding support from Poland for their residency in Scotland.

The artists have secured exhibition space within the programmes of a gallery known to them, within their respective countries. The Scottish artists will exhibit their work in Gallery XXI in central Warsaw and the Polish artists will show work in The Park Gallery – a contemporary arts and crafts gallery located in Callendar Park, Falkirk. The Park Gallery forms part of Falkirk Council Cultural Services department.

This project is significant for the development of Hanging Together. In previous projects the group have sought to reduce barriers, both geographic and cultural/social to the production and experience of artworks. Through their work on the web they have contributed to cultural debate and development of ideas world-wide and recognise that the work that they make operates on local, national and international levels. This project would be the first in which they, as a group exported their distinct way of working into a European context. The visit by the Polish artists will be supported by Hanging Together in terms of establishing opportunities for the Polish artists to share their experiences/ideas with the wider community in Scotland, both artistic and general.

The production and exhibition of the Scottish artists work will take place in Poland, however Hanging Together will be documenting and showing the project and the work produced on the web site. This will be advertised in Poland and Scotland during and beyond the project through poster, flyers and adverts, etc.

The visit by the Polish artists to Scotland will make a significant contribution to the cultural programmes of Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council areas. Hanging Together are currently discussing the possibilities for practical workshops, artists talks, etc with the Arts Development Officers, Cultural Coordinators, Education Officers and Venue Managers within these local authorities. To date, discussions have been very encouraging. We have letters of support for the project from arts administrators and professionals in the area.

**Contact**

Background information on the Hanging Together group and its past projects can be found online at <http://www.hangingtogether.co.uk> and further information about this project and images by the artists can be located at <http://www.hangingtogether.co.uk/polish/artists.htm>  
Contact: [ht@hangingtogether.co.uk](mailto:ht@hangingtogether.co.uk)

## Biography

|              |                                    |  |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Born:        | 15 May 1964                        | Saltcoats, Ayrshire                          |
| 1982-83      | Foundation Course in Art & Design, | York College of Technology                   |
| 1983-86      | BA(Hons) Textile Design,           | Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, London |
| 1987-88      | Arts Worker,                       | Valley Arc Arts Resource Centre, Ayrshire    |
| 1988-91      | Lecturer in Arts & Design,         | Ayr College of Technology                    |
| 1991 -92     | Arts Worker,                       | Irvine                                       |
| 1992-present | Arts Tutor/Lecturer (Freelance)    |  |

My work is concerned with the cyclic experience of the human condition. Since 1990 it has 'shadowed' my own experiences of pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood. However within this context it has addressed broad themes such as mortality, sexuality, spirituality, isolation and physicality.

In some of my work I have used my own body. This exposes myself and my own vulnerability. By using myself as the model a relationship evolves between me, the camera and the piece of art work. My physical involvement is an integral part of the work. To pose in certain positions of restraint which may be awkward or uncomfortable or revealing, adds to the creative process. In other pieces of work the actual way of making the work becomes all important. For example, in a piece of work about childhood and the mollycoddling and rearing of children the importance of the image and the process was integral to the final piece. By actually sitting knitting the piece of work out of dishcloth wool I was engaging with former generations. Wool being warm and comfortable and the first thing proud grannies reach for before the birth of a new grandchild and dishcloths being cold and rough and usually unceremoniously used to wipe childrens dirty faces and hands.

I use a range of media including photography, print, collage, fabric, construction, painting, drawing and text as well as found objects. I also use household materials such as soap, salt, clothing, food, etc. My use of materials is considered and integral to the reading of the work.

My work has been made for, and exhibited in, exhibitions throughout Scotland including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Stirling and Ayrshire.

I am a professional member of the Society of Scottish Artists (SSA) and a founder member of Stirling-based artists group, Hanging Together.

# Jonathan Claxton & Karen Laing

## Biography

### **Collaborative Projects:**

“Two Artworks for New Aberdour” - Integrating art into rural community space. For this project we are creating two harmonious site specific installations in New Aberdour church. A sculptural response to the balance of community, culture and their environmental landscape. (This project is Arts Council funded.)

“North East Remote”- A series of artist led projects using community spaces in rural North-East Scotland, locating art out of the urban mainstream. The intention is to root art firmly in the source of its inspiration, forging a productive association between artists, communities, and community spaces.

Aden Park Carers Commemorative Garden - Mosaic Commission — Spring 2003

Pentagon Centre, Glasgow - January 2004. We are creating a site-specific show in this exciting big exhibition space.

### **Brief Summaries of Individual Works**

#### **Karen Laing**

Bachelor of Arts (hons.), Fine Art. Robert Gordon's University, 2002 - Painting, Printmaking.

Master of Arts. University of Aberdeen, 1981- Psychology, History of Art, Statistics

#### **Exhibitions:**

2002 - Sylavathy Gallery, Alford. Group Show— First prize winner - New Generation Show, Compass Gallery. Glasgow - R.S.A. Student Show, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow

2001- Aberdeen Artists Group Show - Aberdeen Art Gallery Student Show

2000- Aberdeen Airport Group Show - Peacock Printmakers Group show - Aberdeen Artists Group Show

Dec.2002- Green Gallery, Aberfoyle, March 2003- Under the Hammer, Aberdeen

#### **Jonathan Claxton**

#### **Solo Exhibitions:**

2002 - Museum of Scottish Lighthouses — “Sealines Seelines” Grampian Hospital Arts Trust.

2001- Scottish Sculpture Workshop - Sculpture Walk; “Five works in Baler-twine”, “132 Ways of Looking at You” - Huntly community, Aberdeenshire; “Groundword, Landlines, Constructions.”

1998- Peacock Printmakers., Aberdeen; “Buchan Works” - Scottish Sculpture Workshop

1997- Aberdeen Art Gallery; “Cow Byre Structures and Boxes” - Scottish Sculpture Workshop; “Boxes.”

#### **Public works:**

Bennachie Interpretive Sculptures, Aberdeenshire.

Norrbotton Sculpture Park. Sweden.

#### **Selected Group Shows:**

2001 - Sculpture commission — “Hildas’ Stone.” Art Attack - Community Education tutor. Pallasfell, Lapland:

Environmental Art project. Tyrebagger Experience - drama / dance / art summerschool. Environmental Art Summer-school, Duff House, Banff. “Conversations” conference installation

2000 - Artist in Residence - Deveron Arts, Huntly. SSA Edinburgh - installation. “Pagemakers” - poetry / art collaboration - Gracefield Art Centre, touring show.

1999 - “Skulpturutn” - Konstens Hus, exhibition; International Artsymposium; Sculpture Park: 4 Laments; Lulea, Sweden.

#### **Projected Exhibitions:**

Oriel 31, Powys, Wales - Insiders: box work. Nomination for Venice Biennale selection.

#### **Prizes / awards:**

SAC, Gordon Forum, Hopescott Trust, Banff / Buchan Forum: - artists awards. National Children's Art Awards - for Huntly Schools Residency. Belleview Gallery — purchase prize.

## Statement

Our work is based on meticulous rhythms producing series upon series of sometimes tiny, sometimes extended repeated actions, which hint at structural landforms, stability of life, of endless daily and seasonal routines, an immense strength built in simplicity.

## Karen Strang

### Biography

Attended Glasgow School of Art 1981-85, graduating with 1st Class Honours Degree in Fine Art (Drawing and Painting).

British Council Scholarship for Postgraduate Year at Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, 1985-86

Received various awards and scholarships enabling travel and study in central Europe.

Member of Scottish Arts Council Visual Arts Award Panel, 1988-90

Professional Member of the Society of Scottish Artists

### Selected One-Person Shows:

A Woman, Installation/Performance, Brama Gallery, Warsaw (1986)

Dis-Place-Ment, Installation/Performance, Transmission Gallery, Glasgow (1986)

Beat-if-ication, Installation/Performance, Macintosh Museum, Glasgow School of Art (1987)

Seduction/Saturation, Performance, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow (1987)

Polish Pieces 1986-1990, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews Festival (1991)

Lunacycle, Cowane Centre, Stirling and Crawford Arts Centre, St. Andrews (1994-5)

Insanadiorama, Smith Museum and Art Gallery, Stirling (1995)

Recipes For Disaster, performance / installation at Women and Text international conference, Leeds Uni. (1997)

Europa performances, Panzerhalle, Berlin (1998)

Weird Wimmin, Alloa Tower, Alloa (2002)

### Selected Group Shows:

Smith Biennale, Stirling (1983)

Artists For Peace International Biennale, Torun, Poland (1985)

Academy of Fine Arts Summer Show, Warsaw, Poland (1986)

Polish Artists Event: BIGOS Group, Three Choirs Festival, Worcester Art Gallery (1987)

National Review of Live Art, Riverside Studios, London (1987)

New Work; No Definition, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow (1987)

Bath Art Fair [through Cyril Gerber Gallery] (1988)

Arts-travaganza, Smith Art Gallery, Stirling [installation, performance & workshop] (1988)

BIGOS Group Exhibition, Dom Polonia, Warsaw (1989)

Aliens, BIGOS Group Show, Watermans Arts Centre, London (1990)

Scottish Artist Explorers in Eastern Europe, Richard Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh (1991)

Artists' Bookworks touring show, Collins Gallery, Glasgow (1995)

Waxworks, Collins Gallery Glasgow (1997)

"Constellation BIGOS", Polish Cultural Institute, London (1998)

"Scottish Spirit", Arthur Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania and tour of USA (1998-2000)

"Panzerhalle 98 Footsteps" exhibition, Berlin (1998)

The Plate Show, Collins Gallery touring exhibition, Glasgow (1999-2001)

Brewers Group exhibition, Maclays Brewery, Alloa (2003)

## Peter Russell

### Biography

- 1948 Born Portsmouth, Hants. Mother a GP, father a psychiatrist. Now based Stirling.
- 1966-69 University of Edinburgh, MA in Fine Art and Mathematics, after failed Architecture.
- 1969-73 Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art. DA in Drawing and Painting.
- 1975 Winner of Professional Prize, The Scotsman "Glasgow 800" Painting Competition.
- 1983 Elected Professional Member of the Society of Scottish Artists.
- 1986 Winner, WASPS/Salvesen Mural Competition.
- 1989 Guest Studio in Dusseldorf, in Glasgow - Dusseldorf Exchange.
- 1990 Studio in Berlin. First paintings on East Side Gallery, Berlin Wall.
- 1991 Elected to Council, SSA. Winner of SSWA Prize, SMC Exhibition.
- 1994 Member of Hanging Together group of eight Stirling-based artists. First exhibition a group installation at the Tolbooth, Stirling.
- 1995 Winner of the PAI Prize at Paisley Art Institute Drawing Competition.
- 1997 Flag Design selected Flags for Scotland, Stirling Bridge Cultural Project.
- 1998 Selected, and conducted Opening Exhibition Tour, "Scottish Spirit" Exhibition, Philadelphia, PA. Touring USA until 2001, finishing in Mount Vernon, Ill. "Footsteps", Berlin - Scotland Exchange with Panzerhalle Gruppe, Brandenburg. Aggregatzustand: Simple Constructions Installation, Electrical Works, Berlin.
- 1999 Hanging Together Group Installation at the Alloa Tower.
- 2000 East Side Gallery, Berlin. Sponsored re-painting of the wallworks. SSA Annual Exhibition, RSA Galleries, Edinburgh. Installation of nine plinths "A Scots Reliquary".
- 2001 "The Hut Gallery", Stirling. Curated by Hanging Together.

As an artist, group exhibitions such as the SSA - Society of Scottish Artists - (1977-2000) are the staple measure of practice, and many group shows also feature: RSA, RGI, PAI, SMC, RSW, AAS, Smith Biennial, etc. Galleries such as Collective and Transmission gave support. Also, solo shows, fourteen since 1985, allow a fuller statement of particular themes, such as industry and decay, transformation of substances, and urban, political aspects.

Working as a Secondary Schoolteacher (1974-91), community artist, tutor, workshop leader and lecturer has enriched the artistic life and brought the artist into contact with people from five to ninety-seven.

### Statement

*Having trained in Drawing and Painting, but being inclined to assemblage and site-specific spatial forms, I explore matters of growth, decay and regeneration. My work tends towards critical response to social and cultural histories, based on parallels with internal discontents. Distinguished since 2000 by a variety of media: from the museum form of plinth-mounted boxed relics as in "A Scots Reliquary" at SSA and art.tn, 2000, 2002, which questioned the mythologised national icons used to galvanise a new Scotland; to the lightbox column of "Pillar of the Community", 2003, critical of an entrepreneur's self-aggrandising, in "Salt" at Culross Palace; to office furniture with ledgers, process diagrams, job remits, and workforce images used to explore management failure at Maclays in "Nae Sma' Beer" in the brewery, ("Then and Now", 2003); and most recently (in collaboration with Karen Strang and Alban Dickson) a conspicuously shaky table of marketing goods, plus tacky suspended noticeboard and logo in the "euro-u.net", 2003, piece for "Blaue Halle - Euro Markt" about European Union enlargement, in Berlin.*

# Grzegorz Drozd

## Biography

Ur. w 1970r Lublinie

1991 – 1994r. UMCS Lublinie, Wydzia<sup>3</sup> Artystyczny, pracownia malarstwa..

1996 – 2001r. Pracownik CSW Zamek Ujazdowski w dziale realizacji i promocji.

2002 ASP w Warszawie, Wydzia<sup>3</sup> Malarstwa.

### *Wystawy indywidualne*

1997r. „Relacje, deformacje, satyra” Galeria w Przemyslu

2002r. „Mensonge” Galeria RLBQ, Marsylia, Francja

### *Wystawy zbiorowe*

2002r. „Pierwsza A” ASP w Warszawie

2002r. „FAUNOMANIA” Borey Art. Galery, ST. Petersburg, Rosia

## Alicja Łukasiak

### Biography

1975 born in Radom, Poland

1995-2000: Attended Art Department of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (graphic arts studio of prof. Piotr Lech).

2000 One year's grant from Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

### Individual exhibitions

1998 Fotografia, Galeria Chatka Zaka, Lublin

1999 "Elementum", installation, Galeria Biala, Lublin

2000 "Ornamenty", installation, Galeria Biala, Lublin

2001 "Transpozycja", installation, Mala Galle CSW, Warsaw 2001 "TranspozycjaII" Galeria Fotografi przy Scenie, Poznań

2002r. "Kalejdoskopy genotypw", Galeria XX1, Warszawa

2002r. "Zosia", Galeria Biala, Lublin

2003r. "BABA", CSW Laboratorium, Warszawa

### Collective exhibitions

1990 "Europe without Borders" - poster, international exhibition, Utrecht, Holland

1996 "Wire Material" -fashion show, Wydział Artystyczny UMCS, Lublin

1997 "Drutowizualizacja", "Rozpad", installations, Lublin

1997 "Nowogrodek 97", Galeria Chatka Zaka, Lublin

1998 "Uczłodrutowanie", installation, Wydział Artystyczny UMCS, Lublin

1998 "Wilno 98", Lublin

2002r. "Novart.pl", Bunkier Sztuki, Krakw

2002r. "Faunomania", Centrum Rzeźby Polskie w Oroskuj

2002r. "POSTACADEMIA", Centrum Sztuki Wspczesnej w Kijowie, Ukraina

2002r. "Alternatywy Technologi" Teatr Akademia, Warszawa

2003 III Bienale Fotografii, Galeria Arsena, Pozna

2003 Faunomania, Galeria Amfilada, Szczecin