

The Douglas Hyde Gallery
January 21 – March 23, 2011

Gallery 1
Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz
Between Honey and Ashes (PART 1)

Gallery 2
Mirostław Bałka
Between Honey and Ashes (PART 2)



Gallery 1

Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz

Between Honey and Ashes (Part 1)

Ghost

c. 1930-35

Photograph

8.8 x 14 cm

Collection of Ewa Franczak and Stefan Okotowicz

Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz *Between Honey and Ashes* (Part 1)

S.I. Witkiewicz, born in Warsaw in 1885, died in 1939 on the day that Poland was invaded by Russia. His father was also an artist. 'Witkacy', as he became known, is mainly remembered in his homeland as a painter, novelist, and playwright; his photographs are only one aspect of his art. Witkiewicz was an intense and troubled man who believed that Western culture was decadent, degenerate, and undermined by the collapse of ethical and philosophical certainties. Trapped between a decaying past and an uncertain future, he used photography, perhaps more than other art forms, as a way to explore his existential anxiety.

In Witkacy's view, the individual is essentially alone, confronted by the impersonal indifference of others. He deeply disliked those aspects of life that he regarded as collective and trivial, predicting in his writings on the theory of contemporary culture that they would destroy everything of real value in the world. His portraits, which make up the majority of the photographic work, attempt to explain, or at least come to terms with, the enigmas of personal existence and the threat of its effacement. His personal despairing pessimism—not unlike that of Antonin Artaud—is the source of the dominant tone of the photographs, which is an almost unbearable tension between closeness and distance. There is madness and violence in many of his images, which may not be entirely unrelated to his occasional use of hallucinogenic drugs, but they also contain a lighter sense of absurdity and buffoonery.

This exhibition focuses on landscapes and the artist's self-portraits.

Invited to choose a selection of S.I. Witkiewicz's photographs for this exhibition and to accompany them with a work of his own, Mirosław Bałka has done so with characteristic enthusiasm and perspicacity. The Douglas Hyde Gallery thanks him warmly for his commitment to the project. We also wish to express our gratitude to Stefan Okołowicz and Ewa Franczak, from whom we have borrowed the original prints in this exhibition. It is largely because of their dedication that Witkacy's photographs have become more widely known in recent times, and for this, as well as their generosity in making them available to us, the Gallery is most thankful.

Artist's Talk

On the day of the opening, at 5pm, Mirosław Bałka will hold a conversation with Declan Long on his own work and the work of S.I. Witkiewicz. There will be forty seats; doors will open at 4.50pm.

Talk

Sheena Malone will give a talk on the life of S.I. Witkiewicz.
Wednesday, February 23 at 1.15pm.

Film

Special screening of *Sátántangó*
by Béla Tarr
1994 | Black and White | 450 minutes
Thursday, February 3 at 11am

Noted for its artistry, uncompromising vision, and tremendous ambition, Béla Tarr's epic seven-hour *Sátántangó* is based on the eponymous novel by László Krasznahorkai. In this dark and melancholic film, which reflects on the collapse of a Hungarian farming collective in the final days of the communist regime, Tarr employs his characteristic long takes to convey the torpor of a disintegrating world that has come to a virtual standstill.

Because of the length of the film visitors are welcome to come and go as they wish!

With warm thanks to Mokép-Pannónia Kft.



Gallery 2

Mirostaw Batka

Between Honey and Ashes [Part 2]

apple T.
2009/2010

Video

Courtesy the artist

Gallery 2

Mirostław Bałka

Between Honey and Ashes (Part 2)

Mirostław Bałka needs little introduction to Irish audiences, as he exhibited at this gallery in 2003 and at IMMA in 2007. (He has also shown widely all around the world, perhaps most notably in 2009 at the Turbine Hall in London's Tate Modern). His work, usually made with industrial materials and such elemental things as ash, soap, and salt, deals poetically with issues related to history and memory.

In this exhibition, Bałka will show a video entitled *apple T*.

Talk

Barry White will give a talk on the work of Mirostław Bałka.
Wednesday, March 9 at 1.15pm.

The Douglas Hyde Gallery
Trinity College, Dublin 2,
Ireland

T +353 1 896 1116

F +353 1 670 8330

E dhgallery@tcd.ie

www.douglashydegallery.com

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday, 11am-6pm

Thursday, 11am-7pm

Saturday, 11am-4.45pm

Staff

John Hutchinson (Director)

Barry White (Curatorial Assistant)

Sheena Malone (Assistant to the Director)

Michael Hill (Gallery Assistant)

Board

Moray McGowan (Chair)

Dermot Boyd

Declan Long

Caoimhín MacGiolla Léith

Valerie Mulvin

Danielle O'Donovan

Kieran Owens

Simon G. Williams

Patrons

The Academy of Everything is Possible

Fierman Bennick Bolt

Dr. John Cooney

Dónall Curtin & Anne O'Donoghue

John Daly (Hillsboro Fine Art)

Marie & Joe Donnelly

Margaret Downes

Maire & Maurice Foley

Seamus & Marie Heaney

Alan & Mary Hobart (Pym's Gallery, London)

Ruth Hutchinson

Peter & Paula Ledbetter

Ellie McCullough

Nicholas & Susan Mosse

James O'Driscoll

Daniel O'Keeffe

A.J.F. O'Reilly

William Roth

Ronald Tallon

Friends

Dermott Barrett

Una Crowe

David Horkan

Maureen Kincaid

Melanie Le Brocqy

Ciarán Nicholson

Professor C. Salvadori Lonergan

Michael Warren

Financially assisted by
The Arts Council / An
Chomhairle Ealaíon
& Trinity College Dublin



We also are grateful
for the support of the
Embassy of Poland
in Dublin

