

DOROTA JURCZAK

BZZZ

24 MAY – 12 AUGUST
NO.5

Dorota Jurczak was relatively unknown in her native Poland until she showed the exhibition "Bzzz" at Piktogram in Warsaw in 2015. After living for a good 15 years in Belgium and Germany, and with a succession of international exhibitions behind her, she returned to her Polish roots to exhibit a number of brand new paintings, etching, sculptural vases and objects (puppets).

At first glance Jurczak's motifs may seem innocent and exclusively beautiful, since it is the rich combination of colours and different materials, the mixture of flat image patterns and sculptural forms, that first strikes you, and which creates a dynamic, rather decorative overall impression of the exhibition. If you look closer and go deeper into the iconography, though, you will see that the apparently simple motifs involve a dream-like ambiguity that points towards the impenetrable, sombre and eerie. The paintings *Bzzz* and *Bzzz Bzzz* (both 2013), for example, show timeless and sexless figures without eyes who are ringing doorbells to invisible doors, while the prosaic concept "match head" takes on new and bizarre associations when we gaze further at the work *Zapalki (Match)* from 2014 and find the facial features of the two aforementioned figures recreated in the red sulphur. The critic Pablo Larios picked up on this undercurrent of unease when he wrote in a review of the exhibition in *Frieze*: "There's the nightmarish suggestion that a head is a thing lit on fire, or that the head 'buzzes' like a doorbell".

Jurczak's artistic idiom is complex and draws on several art-historical and cultural references; most obviously perhaps on the development of poster art, with particular emphasis on the post-war period's Surrealism-based Polish School of Posters, where the politically charged symbolism of the time was given form by an individualistic, absurd visual imagery. The material and craftsmanship-based aspect, as we see it

expressed in the glass vases with toy-like heads, can be associated with both *La Belle Époque* in France in the early 1900s and the Bauhaus in Germany a few years later, while the textile puppets, and the exhibition as a whole, can be read with clear references to Czech puppet theatre, animation and illustration art.

Dorota Jurczak (b. 1978 in Warsaw, Poland) lives and works in Warsaw.

At NO.5 Bergen Kunsthall re-presents artworks and exhibitions that have been previously shown elsewhere. The programme series is a response to the increasing acceleration of both the production and reception of art, and an opportunity to slow down, revisit and focus on selected works or exhibitions.

*The exhibition "Bzzz" was shown at Piktogram, Warsaw, in 2015. The works in the exhibition were first created for the exhibition "Lucifers", one of the *Etablissement d'en face* projects, Brussels (2015), and have later been shown at *Fundação Caixa Geral de Depósitos — Culturgest, Lisbon / Porto* (2016).*

A new publication by Bergen Kunsthall is available for download as PDF at www.kunsthall.no from May 24.

NO.5 #15

Dorota Jurczak

Bzzz

Text: Fatima Hellberg

Tours:

Every Sunday

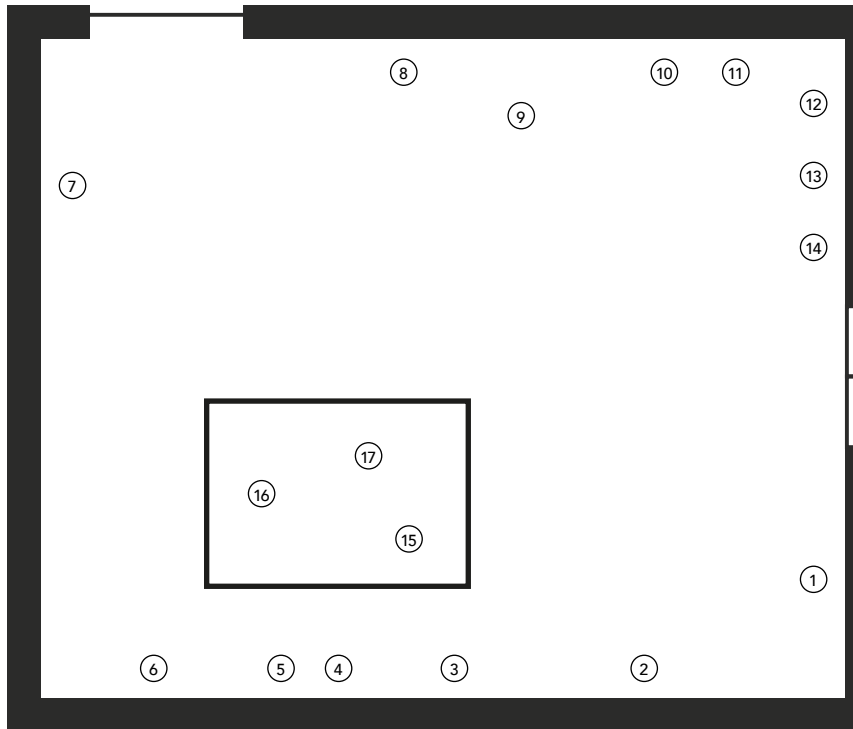
27 May, 13.00 for Families

14 June, 18.00 for Members

Platform

14 June, 19.00

Fatima Hellberg on Dorota Jurczak



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <u>Brama</u> , 2014
Vinyl paint and ink on canvas, 120 x 80 cm | 10 <u>Głowy</u> , 2015
Etching, ed. 1/3, 53 x 43,5 cm |
| 2 <u>Bzzz</u> , 2013
Vinyl paint and ink on canvas, 120 x 80 cm | 11 <u>Zapałki</u> , 2014
Vinyl paint and ink on canvas, 100 x 60 cm |
| 3 <u>Zapałki 4</u> , 2015
Lithography, ed. 4/15, 70 x 50 cm | 12 <u>Alfred</u> , 2017
Painted ceramic relief, 34,5 x 51,5 cm |
| 4. <u>Zapałki 10</u> , 2015
Lithography, ed. 10/15, 70 x 50 cm | 13 <u>Denton</u> , 2017
Painted ceramic relief, 30 x 43,4 cm |
| 5 <u>Zapałki 6</u> , 2015
Lithography, ed. 6/15, 70 x 50 cm | 14 <u>Leo</u> , 2017
Painted ceramic relief, 27 x 47,5 cm |
| 6 <u>Untitled</u> , 2015
Bronze, paint, 40 x 80 x 5 cm | 15 <u>Sib</u> , 2015
Steel holder, textiles, fimo clay, paint, 109 cm |
| 7 <u>Zapałka</u> , 2014
Vinyl paint and ink on canvas, 80 x 120 cm | 16 <u>Jevi</u> , 2015
Steel holder, textiles, fimo clay, paint, 110 cm |
| 8 <u>Bzzz Bzzz</u> , 2013
Vinyl paint and ink on canvas, 140 x 80 cm | 17 <u>Szmuko</u> , 2015
Steel holder, textiles, fimo clay, paint, 111 cm |
| 9 <u>Ludwik 6</u> , 2015
Glass, styrofoam, fimo clay, paint, 100 x 30 x 30 cm | |