



GUILDFORD LANE GALLERY

20-24 Guildford Lane, Melbourne 3000

Phone 61 3 9642 0042 Mobile 0422 442 363

Hours: 12 - 9 Wed - Fri, 12 - 5 Sat & Sun

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

SMS - SZCZECIN | MELBOURNE | SZCZECIN

AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF SZCZECIN, POLAND



IMAGES L-R by Jarek Wojcik: *Afternoon (3)*, 10 x 10cm, Acrylic on Archival Paper, Private Collection; *Other Side (3)*, 10 x 10cm, Acrylic on Archival Paper, Private Collection.

An International Group Exhibition is opening at Guildford Lane Gallery in October

We are proud to announce an international art exhibition presented by the harbour City of Szczecin, capital of the West Pomeranian province in Poland. From 14th October until 1st November, *SMS (Szczecin – Melbourne – Szczecin)* will be exhibited at Melbourne CBD's innovative contemporary art space - Guildford Lane Gallery - and will be officially launched by His Excellency Mr. Andrzej Jaroszyński, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Canberra on Thursday 15th October at 6pm.

The *SMS* exhibition includes a selection of works by a group of ten artists from two “peripheries”, two geographically distant but otherwise connected “localities”. Of this group, five artists including Przemysław Cerebież –Tarabicki, Danuta Dąbrowska, Jarosław Eysymont, Waldemar Wojciechowski and Wojciech Zieliński are based in Szczecin, whilst the other five artists: Andrzej Janczewski, Longin Sarnecki, Adam Simmons, Gosia Włodarczak and Jarek Wójcik are based in Melbourne. Yet they all are bound by one place - a city in Poland - where they were either born, have lived or worked.

The concept of the *SMS (Szczecin – Melbourne – Szczecin)* project oscillates around communication, dialogue and bilateral exchange. Just as the abbreviation for Short Message Service (SMS) has become synonymous with communication itself, *SMS* the exhibition is a way of prompting and engaging artists, who come from diverse areas in art practice and geography, in establishing conversation with one another and with an audience of differing levels of interest and commitment to art.

The idea of *SMS* is to recognise the potential of visual language (or languages) created in very specific geographical locations. Imaginary tales, personal iconography, marks, symbols or sounds create unique constellations of thoughts, feelings and personal experiences and are presented within this exhibition through a fantastic array of mixed-media. These intimate worlds, however, appear in the context of the realities of modern social life, thereby creating a dialogue and contrast between individual and universal experience. The artists' in *SMS* simultaneously explore individual identity and shared cultural boundaries, invoking parallel spaces of their immediate and distant environments.

SMS attempts to explore the interplay between communication, cultural exchange and globalization and if the "... concept of "locality" is no longer bound to a specific place... the place as an identity label has not disappeared. What is more, it has acquired a new meaning".*

The *SMS* project is a realisation of a dream to bring these distant, yet related expressions together, resulting in a diverse and hopefully surprising presentation.

*Piotr Piotrowski, *Toward a Horizontal Art History*
paper at CIHA Congress, Melbourne University, January 2008.



WHEN:

Opens 6pm Thursday 15th October
Exhibition runs 14 October – 1 November 2009

Gallery hours:

12 – 9pm Wed – Fri
12 – 5pm Sat & Sun

Office hours:

10am – 6pm Mon – Fri

WHERE:

Guildford Lane Gallery
20 – 24 Guildford Lane
Melbourne

ADMISSION IS FREE

Image: *Tower of Babel (2)*, Adam Simmons, Metal music box, bamboo, paper, 20 x 21 x 28cm, 2009.

For images or further information or to arrange an interview with an artist or two please contact:

Yolande Pickett, Manager, Guildford Lane Gallery

manager@guildfordlanegallery.org

03 9642 0042

0422 442 363

Guildford Lane Gallery is a for-hire contemporary art space. Emerging and established Artists, Curators and Festivals form the basis of our exhibition program, which includes the flagship *The Wednesday Project*, an innovative weekly event exhibiting marginal, peripheral and ephemeral art forms.

www.guildfordlanegallery.org