

Polish Institut Düsseldorf  
Citadellstr. 7, 40213 Düsseldorf  
Tu + We + Fr 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. / Th 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
[www.instytutpolski.pl/duesseldorf](http://www.instytutpolski.pl/duesseldorf)

## P R E S S R E L E A S E

### ALICJA BIELAWSKA. A PLACE FOR FOLDING AND UNFOLDING TIME

**We are pleased to announce that the Polish Institute in Düsseldorf will open a solo exhibition by the Polish artist Alicja Bielawska on November 14, 2025.**

*Matter swirls and unfolds*

*The time unfolds between one gaze and another*

*A record of lines and shapes develops.*

**Alicja Bielawska**

*A Place for Folding and Unfolding Time* by Alicja Bielawska is an exhibition that combines various levels of experience: the material and the ephemeral, the present and the memory, the pause and the fluidity. The artist treats time as if it were plastic matter – something that can be compacted or loosened, folded or unwound, or draped like fabric. The undulating structures of her artworks suggest that time is not a straight line: it can bend, repeat itself and overlap, creating a network of connections between moments, expanding in multiple parallel directions.

The sculptures and drawings by Bielawska engage in a close dialogue with the space where they are displayed. In this case, said space consists of former residential interiors – places that served to store traces of everyday life, accumulated memories, gestures and glances. The artist fills these interiors with her own objects that do not just occupy a specific position in the space but also invite visitors to inhabit them: to sit down, pass through or stop for a while. Throughout the time of the exhibition, an intimate topography is being created and accumulated, representing the meetings between artworks, the venue, and you – our visitors.

The matter employed by Bielawska consists of fabrics that were dyed manually by the artist using plant-based dyes made of spruce pines, madder roots and onion peels. Thanks to the draping, they gain exceptional density, enriching the palette of hues, subtly nuanced shades of

colours that change according to the angle at which you look at them, or the intensity of light in the room. The shapes of draped fabric evoke the presence of human body, while endowed with an above-human corporeality.

Movement is also part of this exhibition on many levels. Draped fabrics slide over edges, drawings are filled with shapes dripping with colour, they vibrate with tiny shifts in their lines, and the layout of objects within the space allows for a slow-paced and smooth passage between them. Even if sculptures stay still, their forms suggest gestures – captured half-way, suspended between appearing and fading away. The same movement can be found echoing in your choreographies, when you walk between rooms, stopping, passing by, or looking at artworks from different perspectives. Each one of your glances becomes the next stage in a sequence proposed by sculptures and drawings.

Bielawska introduces the element of playing with visual perception: colours shift depending on the light, fabrics sway gently under gusts of air, textures reveal themselves when you come closer, and the proportions of shapes in the drawings enter into a dialogue with the shapes of ceramic sculptures on the walls or the draped fabrics. We hope that, as viewers, you can feel more aware of the interaction between your presence and the artworks in this space. It is a way for the exhibition to break away from a closed layout and instead become a living, ever-shifting composition whose ultimate shape can only be achieved in cooperation with you – our audience.

*A Place for Folding and Unfolding Time* can be treated as a space for creating common rhythm – a time-space woven of multiple layers, where the material meets the memory, and commotion meets moments of stillness. It is an invitation to a more careful and sensual perception, where every step and every moment of viewing adds your own fragment to the story created from presence.

Katarzyna Słoboda

**Exhibition:** *Alicja Bielawska. A Place for Folding and Unfolding Time*

**Curator:** Katarzyna Słoboda

**Opening:** Fri, 14 Nov 2025, 7 p.m.

**Duration:** 15 Nov 2025 – 26 Feb 2026

Polish Institut Düsseldorf, Citadellstr. 7, 40213 Düsseldorf

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Photo: Alicja Bielawska, *Stratification*, 2024, Fot. Tytus Szabelski-Różniak, © Courtesy the artist and Foksal Gallery

**Alicja Bielawska** – sculptor, works with drawings, installations, sculptures and writes poetry. Her work focuses on the material sphere of everyday life and the relationships between objects, interiors and memories, touching on the relativity of human perception and the role of memory. Her art incorporates elements of choreography and performance. She is a graduate in Art History (University of Warsaw) and Fine Arts (Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam); she holds PhD in Fine Arts and completed two-stage courses in experimental choreography at Centrum w Ruchu in Warsaw. She collaborates on dance performances with internationally renowned choreographers, creating set designs, costumes, sculptural installations. She represented Poland at the 2021 London Design Biennale, together with CENTRALA, and Aleksandra Kędziołek, with an exhibition *The Clothed Home: Tuning In To The Seasonal Imagination*. The exhibition was also presented in 2022 at Lisbon Architecture Triennale 2022, Design Biennale BIO 27 in Ljubljana and at Seoul Museum of Craft Art in 2025. She is a lecturer at School of Form – Faculty of Design at SWPS University in Warsaw and at Atelier Foundation in Warsaw. [www.alicjabielawska.com](http://www.alicjabielawska.com)

**Katarzyna Słoboda** - curator, choreography researcher, dance dramaturge, holds PhD in humanities. Assistant professor at the Academy of Art in Szczecin (curatorial studies). In the years 2009-2022 worked at the Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź where she curated such exhibitions and projects as: *Prototypes 06: Alicja Bielawska. At the Intersection of Lines* (2022), *Prototypes 04: Agata Siniarska. (Land)Slip* (2020), *Come, we'll show you what we do. On dance improvisation* (with Sonia Nieśpiałowska, 2013), *Urban Ecologies* (with Aleksandra Jach, 2011-2013) or *Frames of Reference. Choreography in the museum* (with Mateusz Szymanowka, 2016). She is an editor and author of publications and texts on contemporary art, dance and choreography. Author of the book *Embodied Attention in Selected Contemporary Dance Practices* (2023). <https://kaciasloboda.cargo.site/>