

Parasol unit

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Press Release

Jakub Julian Ziótkowski: *In Utero*

9 June – 29 July 2011 (Preview: Wednesday 8 June, 6.30–9 pm)



Gladiator, 2009, oil on canvas, 154 x 132 cm, Private Collection, Courtesy Hauser and Wirth, Photo Barbora Gerny, Zürich; *Untitled*, 2009, acrylic and oil on canvas, 170 x 152 cm, Private Collection, Courtesy Foksal Gallery Foundation; *Untitled*, 2010, gouache on paper, 120 x 80 cm, Private Collection, Courtesy Foksal Gallery Foundation; All images © Jakub Julian Ziótkowski.

Parasol unit is pleased to dedicate a solo exhibition to the Polish artist **Jakub Julian Ziótkowski**. Ziótkowski's paintings are a wild hallucinatory journey into his strange and often frightening universe. Skeletons battle soldiers in murky swamps; towers of eyeballs goggle cartoonishly; flesh peels wetly off bare bones. Ziótkowski has an unflinching attitude to the corporeal: the body takes centre stage, at once defiled and dissected.

Ziótkowski's vision parallels a collision between the fantasy planet of Hieronymus Bosch and the grotesque cartoonish world of Philip Guston, viewed through the lens of the artist's extraordinary imagination. Influenced by the folk tales and the often dark history of his native country, and by contemporary culture, Ziótkowski's references are wide-reaching: from the Ancient Greeks to André Masson to Frank Zappa. Ziótkowski's measured and often delicate command of his medium belies his sinister subject matter. His paintings resonate with an unnerving atmosphere which speaks profoundly of the darker side of human nature.

Jakub Julian Ziótkowski was born in Zamosc, Poland, in 1980; he lives and works in Zamosc and Crakow. The exhibition at Parasol unit will be his first solo exhibition in a public institution in the UK. It will feature a selection of paintings executed throughout his young career.

Ziótkowski's solo exhibitions include Hauser & Wirth in New York and London (2010 and 2006 respectively), Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland (2009), F.A.I.T. Gallery, Krakow (2007), Foksal Gallery, Warsaw (2005) and the Academy of Fine Arts, Crakow (2004). He participated in group shows 'Library of Babel / In and Out of Place' at 176 Gallery, London in 2010, 'Head-Wig' at Camden Arts Centre in 2009, 'psyche' at Galerie Dennis Kimmerich, Düsseldorf and 'Schüttelreime' at Office Baroque Gallery, Antwerp (both 2008). In 2009, his work was featured in the exhibition 'Younger Than Jesus' at the New Museum in New York. He took part in '1000 Lives,' The 8th Gwangju Biennale, Korea in 2010 and 'Heaven', the 2nd Athens Biennale in Greece in 2009.

This exhibition is accompanied by a new publication with essays by Ziba Ardan and Jakub Banasiak. It will be co-published and distributed internationally by Koenig Books.

The exhibition is generously supported by Polish Cultural Institute.



Visitor information

Gallery opening hours: Monday: by appointment; Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am–6 pm; Sunday, 12–5 pm
Admission: Free

Directions:

From Old Street Tube station, leave via Exit 1 and walk up City Road for five minutes. Turn right into Wharf Road after passing the Texaco petrol station.

From Angel Tube station, turn left and walk down City Road for ten minutes before turning left into Wharf Road at the Texaco petrol station.

Buses 43, 205 and 214 all travel down City Road.

Note to editors

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is an independent educational charity devoted to promoting contemporary art for the benefit of the public. The core activity of the foundation is to showcase contemporary work of leading and emerging international artists who work in a variety of media. In conjunction with each exhibition Parasol unit organises a series of talks and educational events. Parasol unit mounts four exhibitions a year, most of which are accompanied by a publication. To encourage the widest possible access to its exhibition programme, Parasol unit does not charge admission fees for its exhibitions. For more information please contact Anna Lehbruck on anna@parasol-unit.org.