

PRESS RELEASE



ANNA JOCHYMEK CROWD CRYSTAL

Crowd Crystal is a video-performative project conducted by Anna Jochymek. Curated by Klio Krajewska and exhibited at Watermans. This exhibition is the culmination of Jochymek's PhD project.

Public online opening: 14 January 2021 (Thursday), 7 pm [WATCH HERE](#)

A panel discussion between Anna Jochymek and Katarzyna Depta-Garapich. The discussion will be hosted by Klio Krajewska, Head of New Media Arts Development at Watermans.

Running time: 14 January - 6 June 2021

While the venue is closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, until 20 May, the exhibition will run as an online platform for the time being. [ONLINE VIEWING ROOM](#)



Through her performative action - that took place in London between 2017 and 2019 in the aftermath of the Brexit referendum vote - Anna Jochymek explores the concept she developed and named the 'space of fear.' She came up with this concept because she felt that there is a lack of terminology to express her personal experience of the dynamic of ongoing socio-cultural transformation. The project is driven by a need to speak up about the issue of limitation of perspectives, its relationship to power and how it affects the social atmosphere of our time.

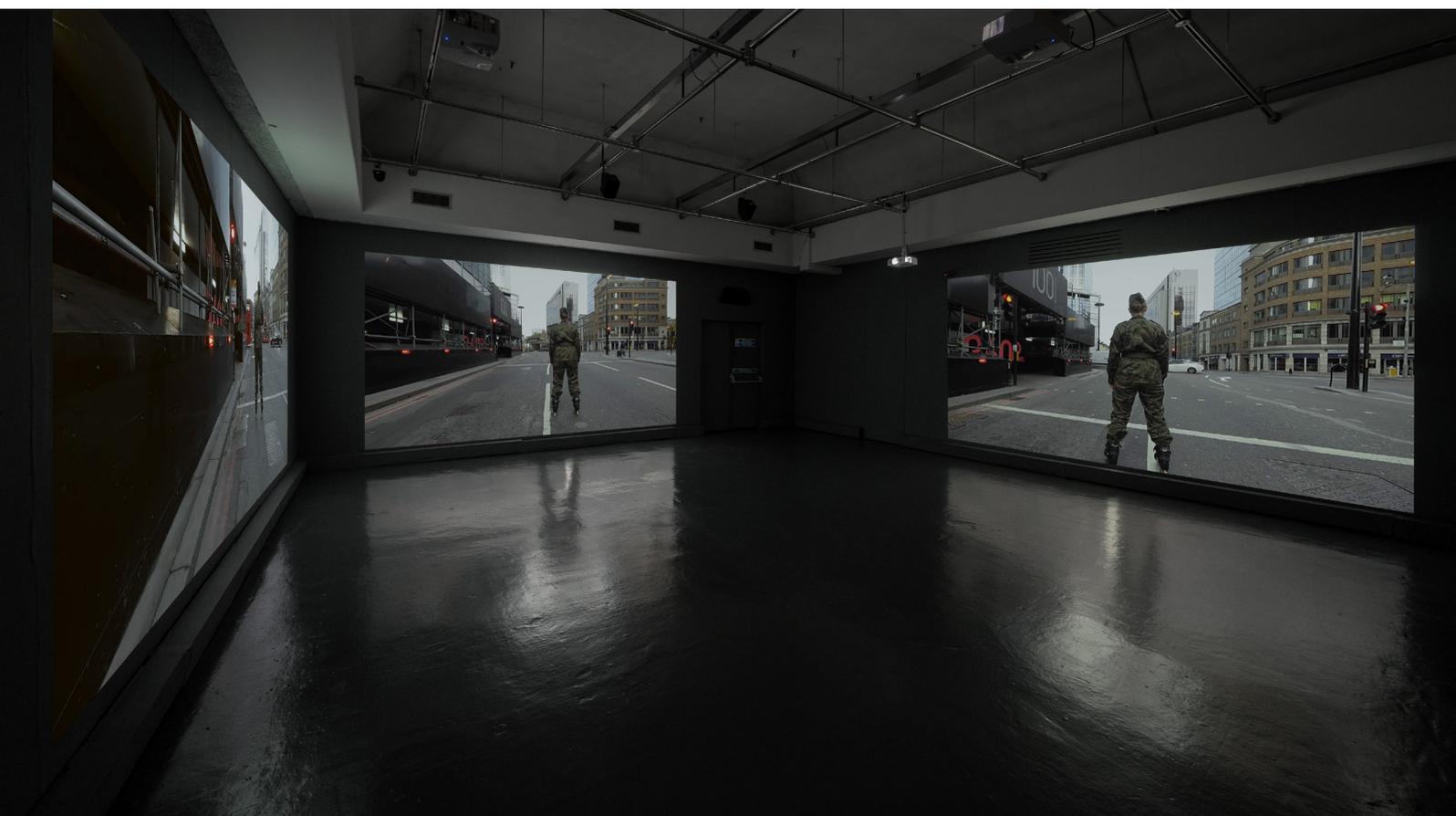
For the purpose of this project she wears her father's military field uniform, combined with inline skates. This unorthodox fusion became the instrument for addressing the social climate in Europe suffused with tension, gravitas and absurdity.

Military uniform symbolises archetypical armour while skating - freedom and rebellion. The latter is associated with a process of experiencing the space creatively and unconventionally, challenging yourself with every given surface. It is also a high-risk sport; essentially a death drive.

The route she chose was the original historical border of the city of London - the Roman Wall. London (Londinium) was established by the Romans who invaded Britain in the 5th century. In the city's complex and multi-layered history, she marks her ephemeral presence along the historic border of the city founded and expanded by invaders.

Crowd Crystals are a phenomenon introduced by Elias Canetti in his book 'Mass and power'. He explains them as small structures within society, which are the nucleus of power. Having pure potential without real power, the structure can become stronger and more significant when the political or societal situation is favourable. Expanding upon Elias Canetti's concept the figure of a lonely inline skating soldier becomes the embodiment of the potential we all carry within ourselves to influence change.

The outcome of the project is a video installation, which is designed in a way in which viewers can almost physically feel the space of fear surround them - yet they are located in a peaceful centre.



NOTES FOR EDITORS

Anna Jochymek

Visual artist, born in Poland, lives and works in London.

She asks questions about social exclusion and marginalisation. Her research led to developing the concept of the 'Space of Fear' which she explores regarding the condition of contemporary society. She works at the intersection of visual art performance, digital media experimentation and site-specific interventions. She holds a PhD from the University of Fine Arts in Poznan and she held a position of Honorary Research Associate at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.

<https://www.annajochymek.com>

Klio Krajewska

Head of New Media Arts Development at Watermans Arts Centre. Curator at Wro International Media Biennale in Wroclaw, Poland. Programmer at Mains d'Oeuvres in Paris, France.

Katarzyna Depta-Garapich

Visual artist, born in Poland, lives and works in London.

Through her work she explores the relationship between art and utility, specifically the contradiction between 'useful' and 'useless'. Her works are often aimed to be a process oriented and open ended leading from one project or work to another. Her practice takes a variety of forms including sculptural objects, site-specific installations and performative gestures. She often relies on contradictions, dualities, boundaries or their lack and play between what is expected and what is real. She currently is a practice-led PhD candidate at the Slade School of Fine Arts, UCL, London.

<https://katarzyna-depta-garapich.com>

Watermans Art Centre

Watermans is West London's leading arts centre with a thriving and inclusive programme of independent cinema, family theatre, live performance, exhibitions and courses.

Watermans runs a year-round programme of cutting-edge digital arts for which it receives National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England, and has done so for many years.

Watermans also leads several outreach projects, primary concerned with broadening access to high quality arts in communities where there is little arts provision

<https://www.watermans.org.uk>



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