

# Alina Szapocznikow, Sculpture Undone

exhibition: 10 September 2011 – 08 January 2012

location: WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels

This expansive survey of Polish sculptor Alina Szapocznikow (1926–1973) coincides with the Polish presidency of the European Union and is one of the first major solo exhibitions of the artist's work outside of Poland. It concentrates on her most experimental period from the 1960s and 1970s, before her untimely death at age 47. As a Holocaust survivor who began working in the post-war period in a rather classical, figurative manner, her later experimentation and re-conception of sculpture left behind a legacy of provocative objects – at once sexualized, visceral, humorous, and political – that sit uneasily between Surrealism, Nouveau Réalisme, and Pop Art. Her tinted polyester-resin casts of her lips and breasts transformed into quotidian objects like lamps or ashtrays, her spongy polyurethane forms often embedded with casts of bellies or live grass, and her construction of resin sculptures that incorporate found photographs remain as remarkably biting, visionary, and original today as when they were first made. The exhibition features extensive archival materials as well as more than 100 artworks, including drawings and photography alongside Szapocznikow's sculpture and object-making.

Curated by Elena Filipovic & Joanna Mytkowska

Curatorial Collaborator: Marta Dziewańska

Curatorial Assistant: Benoit Lamy de la Chapelle

Alina Szapocznikow: Sculpture Undone, 1955-1972 was organized by WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, and the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw in collaboration with The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Travelling to the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio.

The WIELS exhibition is presented in the framework of I, CULTURE, the International Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency coordinated by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in cooperation with the Polish Institute in Brussels.

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Opening Friday 09.09