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MEDIA CONTACT: SHANI K PARSONS | INFO@TYPOLOGY.CA



Maria Flawia Litwin, Anima (detail), 2015

The Lowest Relief | Maria Flawia Litwin, curated by Katherine Dennis

AUGUST 21 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Summer opening reception with curator and artist: **FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015 FROM 6 – 8 PM**

Fall kickoff celebration with the artist: **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 FROM 6 – 8 PM**

TPOLOGY launches its Fall 2015 season with an intimate solo exhibition of art by Maria Flawia Litwin, curated by Katherine Dennis. In this new body of work, Litwin uses *wycinanki* (pronounced vih-chee-nahn-kee), a Polish paper cutting tradition, to weave stories layered with personal memories, social history, symbolism and mythology. Each work stems from a significant autobiographical detail in the artist's life. Yet the illustrations are stripped of overt personal narrative. The focus instead is on quintessential life experiences—those as simple and complex as birth and death, and as fleeting or all encompassing as love, alienation, pain, fear or passion—that transcend gender, geography and culture.

Whimsical but touched with dark humour, the complex cuts, colours and patterns draw the eye in. Through these intricate details we are eased into the absurdity of memory, a space where the recollections of the artist become a jumping off point for the experiences of the viewer. The fantastical vignettes, filled with elaborate costumes from Polish folk to Canadian plaid, and animal and human actors ranging from a murder of crows to an armed attacker or gentle lover, unsettle and disturb as much as they delight.

Providing opportunities for independent curators and participating artists to mount fully realized exhibitions within a critical framework, TPOLOGY is a not-for-profit project space which seeks to build curatorial community and resources for the exchange of ideas on art and exhibition-making as a way to engage and inform audiences from all walks of life. Visit our website for more information and submission guidelines: www.typology.ca.

Maria Flawia Litwin is a visual artist who grew up in both Poland and Australia, straddling the Iron Curtain. She has spent the last 18 years living and working in Toronto. Encounters with communist and consumer ideologies within social and educational structures have made Litwin sensitive to the fluid and shifting nature of belief systems. She is particularly concerned with the way changes in ideology manifest themselves in her figurative and literal environment. Marxism, feminism and humour have greatly impacted her art production. Although trained as a sculptor, Litwin's work is not medium specific and takes the form of textiles, data collecting, performance, acting, video, photography, and fiction writing. Litwin holds a BFA from the Ontario College of Art & Design and a Master's degree from York University in Toronto.

Katherine Dennis, a Vancouver-based curator and researcher, has worked with a range of institutions, from historic houses to public museums and independent galleries. Her practice bridges disciplines including exhibition making, public programming and visitor studies, and places such as British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. Currently, Dennis is Adult Public Programs Coordinator at the Vancouver Art Gallery and Research Associate at Pivotal Research Inc.

TPOLOGY

180 SHAW ST / SUITE 302 / ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE / TORONTO / ONTARIO / M6J 2W5 / WWW.TPOLOGY.CA / INFO@TPOLOGY.CA
REGULAR EXHIBITION HOURS: FRI–SUN 12–5 PM AND BY APPOINTMENT