**The exhibition *Lushness. Women’s Art in the 21st Century* in Chișinău**

**On 4 April, the exhibition *Lushness. Women’s Art in the 21st Century* will open in Moldova, showcasing works by 16 female artists from the young and the youngest cultural scene in Poland. The project celebrates women’s joy of life, freedom, and strength, as well as their creative energy and sense of community. The event, held at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Chișinău, is part of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council’s foreign cultural programme and will run until 18 May 2025.**

The exhibition, curated by Dorota Monkiewicz, will showcase works by sixteen Polish female artists representing the young and the youngest art scene in Poland. Deeply rooted in physical, emotional, and spiritual experience, their work explores themes of women’s joy of life, sexuality, fertility, and closeness to nature – both animate and inanimate. The artists employ diverse forms of expression, ranging from painting and sculpture to handicraft techniques and activities inspired by everyday domestic life. Together, they create a narrative of femininity as a force drawn from pleasure, sensuality, and creative fulfilment.

A unifying element in their work is *jouissance* – a French term for profound pleasure, first described by philosopher Hélène Cixous. This concept serves as the key to depicting femininity in its many dimensions: intellectual, physical, and spiritual. The exhibition will highlight *jouissance* not only as a source of female freedom and strength but also as a wellspring of creative energy and a sense of community.

The exhibition *Lushness. Women’s Art in the 21st Century* is divided into four thematic sections: **“Everyday Life”**, **“Narrations”**, **“Folk Healers”**, and **“Corporeal Geometry”**. Each explores a different dimension of female experience and creativity, ranging from daily life to spirituality, myth, and sensual abstraction.

**Everyday Life**

The exhibition opens with a portrayal of women’s everyday lives in Poland, viewed through the lens of painting. **Agata Kus** presents scenes from Krakow’s artistic circles, while **Marta Nadolle** focuses on the realities of a teacher’s life in Warsaw. **Karolina Balcer** explores family tensions through kitchen objects, and **Małgorzata Mirga-Tas** showcases paintings inspired by the lives of the Roma community in Czarna Góra.

**Narrations**

This section presents artistic visions of the future and reimagined histories. **Ania Grzymała** creates a fairy-tale world ruled by women, while **Julia Woronowicz** offers an alternative take on Polish history, centring on powerful female heroines such as Slavic warriors. **Viola Plaga-Głowacka** explores women’s fight for their rights, using the motif of knights and dragons as a metaphor for protests.

**Folk Healers**

Another key theme of the exhibition is folk healers – women endowed with knowledge, deeply connected to nature, and symbolising strength, freedom, and independence. This section features, among others, large-scale paper cutouts by **Nina Paszkowski**, paintings by **Natalia Bażowska** in which the female body merges with nature, sculptures by **Aleksandra Liput**, the enigmatic heroines of **Martyna Borowiecka**’s paintings, and vampiric female figures in the works of **Dorota Kuźnik**.

**Corporeal Geometry**

The artists explore how geometry can go beyond rigid, mathematical structures, taking on a human, physical dimension. **Kinga Popiela** captures the movements and reflexes of the human body in her paintings. **Anna Panek** embraces geometric abstraction, but in a handmade form – sewing with colourful fabrics. **Martyna Ścibior** works with an unexpected material – nail polish, which is closely linked to femininity and the body. **Agata Bogacka** presents the most delicate, soft form of abstraction through subtle, sensual paintings imbued with hidden tension.

**Accompanying programme:**

The exhibition will be complemented by a public programme involving Polish and Moldovan female artists, curated by **Anna Czaban**.

The exhibition is co-organised by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The exhibition partners are: Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, National Art Museum of Moldova, Polish Institute in Bucharest

**Visual and performative arts as part of the international cultural programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2025**

The exhibition *Lushness. Women’s Art in the 21st Century* is part of international cultural programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2025. The programme, organised by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute under the slogan “Culture Sparks Unity”, aims at promoting the idea of solidarity and international cooperation. It presents the most interesting phenomena taking place on the contemporary Polish art scene, at the same time placing new generation in the foreground. What other events in the field of visual arts will take place until end of June as part of the programme?

* **13 February – 20 April 2025:** Exhibition *EUROPEAN KINSHIP. An Eastern European Perspective* as part of the series titled *Photography – More Than Reality. The Art of Imaging* (Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center, Budapest).
* **6–31 March:** Exhibition of Polish illustrations and graphics: *Words and metaphors. The latest illustration from Wrocław* (Gellerup Bibliotek, Aarhus).
* **14 March – 29 June 2025:** (ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME) Exhibition *Familiar Strangers,* curator: Joanna Warsza (Bozar – Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels).
* **27 March – 25 April 2025:** Exhibition of Lia Dostlieva’s works *The Book of Long Objects* at the Polish Institute in Budapest (event accompanying the exhibition *European Kinship, Eastern European Perspectives* at Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center).
* **27–29 March 2025:** *Expert’s Weekend* in Budapest (event accompanying the exhibition *European Kinship, Eastern European Perspectives* at Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center).
* **2–5, 8–10 April:** Choreographic performance by Wojciech Grudziński *Teach Me Not* (Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Helsinki).
* **4–5 April:** Mapping of Krzysztof Wodiczko as part of the series *Photography –* *More Than Reality. The Art of Imaging* (Festival in Lille).
* **16–27 April 2025:** Exhibition of works by Sainer (Przemysław Blejzyk) – *Colorganism* (Künstlerhaus, Vienna).
* **25–27 April 2025:** *Unending love, or love dies, on repeat like it’s endless*, choreographed by Alex Baczyński-Jenkins as part of the series titled *Selected Polish Performances at European Theatre Festivals* (Réplika Teatro | Centro Internacional de Creación, Madrid).
* **9 May – 30 June 2025:** Presentation of the work by Małgorzata Mirga-Tas (Royal Museum of Art and History, Brussels).
* **14–16 May 2025:** Choreographic performance *Malign Junction (Goodbye, Berlin)* by Alex Baczyński-Jenkins at the Belgian *Kunstenfestivaldesarts* as part of the series titled *Selected Polish Performances at European Theatre Festivals* (*Kunstenfestivaldesarts,* Brussels).
* **23–25 May:**Conference *Identity Crisis Network* (Online, Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, Croatia).

Detailed information about the entire international cultural programme of the Polish Presidency can be found at: <https://poland2025eu.culture.pl/>.

**The Adam Mickiewicz Institute** **(AMI)** brings Polish culture to people around the world. Being a state institution, it creates lasting interest in Polish culture and art through strengthening the presence of Polish artists on the global stage. It initiates innovative projects, supports international cooperation and cultural exchanges. It promotes the work of both established and promising artists, showing the diversity and richness of our culture. The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is also responsible for the Culture.pl website, which is a comprehensive source of knowledge about Polish culture. More information: [www.iam.pl](http://www.iam.pl).

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