



**Nowa Soda: Solvay Transformed - May 13th, 2010 - July 13th, 2010**  
**Opening for Press and Public, Thursday May 13th 7pm**  
**Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Solvay- Krakow , ulica Zakopianska 62**

Located on the edge of Krakow, at the last stop on the tramline is a nest of hyper malls and rampant development. In the middle of this sits the lone surviving building from the once massive Solvay Soda Ash Complex which employed at its peak three thousand men and their families. "Solvay" has a complex and fascinating history (Pope John Paul II worked there during World War II to avoid deportation) but stands today as a forgotten monument and symbol of the transformations that have occurred in Poland over the last 20 years. Solvay has quietly become the defacto community center of the area - the singular dedicated space for creation and production amid the giants of Capitalist consumerism.

Conceived and curated by Halfslant, NOWA SODA: Solvay Transformed is a month long artist in residency which challenges four international artists to create a site-responsive installation while bearing witness to the past and present of the building.

Four artists were selected from a pool of nearly 300 submissions particularly for their enthusiasm and acknowledgement of the challenges this project poses. Hagen Betzwieser, Ninar Esber, Tara Hughes Hall and Luke Montgomery each developed proposals that uniquely addressed not just the history of the building, but the living community that uses the space every day. Halfslant chose international artists explicitly so as to highlight Solvay's unique presence with a fresh new interpretation, a fresh new transformation.

Hagen Martin Betzwieser was born in Germany and is currently a PHD candidate in Art & Design at the Bauhaus University, Weimar. He received his M.A.in European Media (with distinction), from the University of Portsmouth, UK. He has participated extensively in AIR programs and exhibited site-specific installations internationally, having a notably positive experience at the Zamek Ujazdowski in Warsaw where he was recently a panelist at the Re-Tooling Residencies conference. [www.iat-research.com](http://www.iat-research.com)

Ninar Esber is a French-Lebanese artist based in Paris. Her past works include a performance at La Perouse for Le Fooding in Paris where she whispered sensual recipes into the ears of audience members and standing atop the entrance to a concert hall with a giant ball gown expanding into curtains that guests had to walk through to enter. She has exhibited internationally and is represented by Galerie Sans Titre in Brussels, Belgium, and L'Appartement 22 in Rabat, Morocco. [www.ninaresber.com](http://www.ninaresber.com)

Tara Hughes-Hall is a multi-media artist from New York City who has experience both running and participating in residency programs such as the prestigious Franconia residency where she assisted in the fabrication and installation of project for Jerome Fellowship Artists. Her previous exhibitions include a past collaboration with Halfslant for the Bush Garden Lightbox and group shows at Greenwich Village Potters in NYC, North Main Gallery, NY and Usdan Gallery in Vermont. [www.tararhughes.com](http://www.tararhughes.com)

Luke Montgomery attended the Glasgow School of Art where he received his BA in Painting with honors. He has had two solo exhibitions in Glasgow and many group shows through London such as the Royal Academy Summer Show, SHUNT Space, Space In Between, Matteblak At Home House, Round House Chalk Farm and site specific installations such as Tunnel 228 (Underneath waterloo Station). [www.lukemontgomery.com](http://www.lukemontgomery.com)

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