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## Family Values: Polish Photography Now at Calvert 22

Written by Marigold Warner

“Many significant Polish painters are in increasingly large positions on the world stage and I think the same needs to happen for photographers,” says Kate Bush, adjunct curator of photography at Tate Britain, and curator of the show

“Eastern and Central Europe has a lot of treasure in its photographic histories,” says Kate Bush, speaking about the exhibition she has curated for Calvert 22, *Family Values: Polish Photography Now*. It’s the first exhibition in the UK to focus exclusively on Polish photography and, says Bush, “hopefully, it will all be part of feeding a greater understanding and interest”.

*Family Values* is part of Calvert 22’s mission to show the cultural and societal change in eastern Europe, the Balkans, Russia and central Asia through photography, and Bush – who is adjunct curator of photography at Tate Britain – was commissioned by the gallery for the project shortly after the EU referendum. She sees the exhibition as an opportunity to celebrate London’s Polish community, the largest outside of Poland, as well as commemorating the centenary of Poland’s independence.

Two prominent artists of the communist period, Zofia Rydet (1911-1997) and Józef Robakowski, will be exhibited alongside four contemporary photographers, and all of the images on show consider the concept of family, whether literally or figuratively speaking. For Bush, the show is about “individuality and subjectivity within a family grouping”.



*Scythe*, 2016 © Aneta Bartos



*Lody*, 2017 © Aneta Bartos

Aneta Bartos examines her own family, rather than other peoples’, in an unsettling series in which she poses in her underwear with her Speedo-wearing, bodybuilder father. The images leave you “with a sense of disquiet”, says Bush, and hints of “underlying sexuality and narcissism” that are unusual in this family dynamic.