



Press Release

Monika Sosnowska: *Weight of Matter*

Dates: 10 September - 22 November 2026, Main Gallery & Fire Station Galleries

Press & Influencer preview: 9 September, 9.30am - 11am

This autumn, the South London Gallery (SLG) will present *Weight of Matter*, a major solo exhibition by Polish artist Monika Sosnowska (b. 1972, Ryki). Spanning the Main Gallery and two floors of the Fire Station, the exhibition will feature some of Sosnowska's monumental sculptures, including deconstructed forms rendered in steel, concrete and other materials associated with modernist architecture.

Sosnowska's sculptural practice explores urban transformation, and how architecture reflects social and political change, in particular the implosion of the Communist regime in Poland and the legacy of modernism. Her interest lies in the impact that architecture and space have on people and the challenges involved in transforming existing structures.

At the SLG, a monumental site-specific installation in the Victorian Main Gallery will unite a group of previously disparate large-scale works suspended from the distinctive beams beneath the vast glass ceiling lantern. Made of construction materials such as steel and rebar, and some weighing over half a tonne, this huge display will seemingly test the fabric of a 135-year-old institution. The skeletal works will hang from the rafters like carcasses, remnants of architectural and broader histories in which individual elements merge into an intertwined and sometimes incomprehensible mass.

In the Fire Station building, which dates back to 1867, Sosnowska's works will again be positioned to be in direct response to the architecture and history of the gallery spaces. A sculpture based on the form of a collapsed black metal staircase will be shown in the former engine room to be in clear dialogue with the Fire Station's new white metal stairs which were inspired by the architectural language of fire escapes. The adjacent gallery overlooking a leafy outdoor space will be overtaken by sculptures with plant-like forms to create a concrete garden of rebar branches and collapsing trees. Upstairs in what used to be the firemen's living quarters, painted steel works reminiscent of crumpled paper and peeling walls will hark back to the dilapidated state of the building before it was converted for its current use.

Sosnowska is known for working with industrial materials and often on a large scale, but her ideas are developed through the creation of intricate paper models, which are rarely seen outside the studio and are shown here for the first time in London. These small-scale maquettes draw on the architectural tradition of model-making and reveal a fascinating aspect of the artist's working practice.

For further press information, images and interviews please contact Anna Jones, Head of Communications: anna.jones@southlondongallery.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

Address and Opening Hours

South London Gallery, Main Building: 65–67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH

South London Gallery, Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ

The gallery is open Wednesday – Sunday

southlondongallery.org

Social Media

Instagram: @southlondongallery

Facebook: South London Gallery

TikTok: @southlondongallery_

Monika Sosnowska Biography

Monika Sosnowska studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań and completed postgraduate training at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. She is now based in Warsaw. Recent solo exhibitions include *Monika Sosnowska: An Order Apart* at EMMA (Espoo Museum of Modern Art), Espoo, Finland (2024); *Ghosts* at Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne, Germany (2024); and a major presentation at Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland (2023). Her work is currently on show at the Princess Estelle Sculpture Park, Rosendal, Royal Djurgården, Stockholm.

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free Communities & Learning programme includes a peer-led young people's collective; family workshops; artist-led projects on local housing estates; and a programme for looked after children.

The SLG was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station, which opened to the public in 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and an artist-designed garden. The SLG is a registered charity, which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors, individuals, and fundraising events.

Monika Sosnowska: Weight of Matter is generously supported by:

Lead exhibition Donor: The Bukhman Foundation

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