



OPPOSITE: Izabela Pluta, *After the pleasure of ruins (fragment 01)*, 2014-19. Photo silk screen print on found book page, box frame with glazing, 25.4 x 18.7cm. \$ 2,000

ABOVE RIGHT: Izabela Pluta, *Untitled #2 (stair)*, 2020. Silver gelatin photograph, box frame with glazing, edition of 3 + 2AP, 51 x 6cm. \$3,800

ABOVE LEFT: Izabela Pluta, *Fold*, 2018. Chromogenic print on metallic paper, acrylic face mount, edition of 3 + 2AP. 61 x 51cm, \$3,800

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND GALLERY SALLY DAN-CUTHBERT, SYDNEY.

IZABELA PLUTA

Born: 1979

Price range for work: \$1,600 to \$10,000. Commissioned wall-based photo murals up to \$20,000 depending on scale.

Contact: Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Sydney.

Izabela Pluta and I first met in 2016 when I curated her work into a group exhibition at MAC Lake Macquarie. A year later, the artist completed her PhD *Allegories of Diaspora: Gleaning the residues of spatial and temporal misalignments* at the University of Wollongong, situating herself firmly within Australia's contemporary art scene. Pluta has been widely exhibited and collected nationally and internationally, with work recently featured at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in the 2019 iteration of *The National*.

Pluta's permanence as an artist arises in part from her two-decade persistence in experimentation with the form at the core of her practice: photography. While she also employs sculpture, sound, installation and

film in her work, her rule-breaking with photography makes hers an ever-evolving language, as she wrestles with the visual articulation of tensions between diametrically opposed elements.

Fold (2018, priced at \$3,800) resonates as a sculpture as much as an image. It's a considered exploration of texture, light, surfaces and timbre. Pluta's laboured technique of capturing, folding and recapturing highlights the barely perceptible: movements of the telluric depths of the earth, echoed here on its surface. The work captures this soft mutability with piercing clarity by creating a space where scientific and surreal merge.

"This studio still-life sits within my broader exploration around temporality and the impermanence of places," says Pluta.

"I'm interested with how linear time and cyclical time can be interrupted – how the physical engagement with found material and the encounter itself could recreate experiences of displacement and longing, and bring them together in the present through the work." In this way, Pluta's themes democratically resonate, especially with the feeling of impermanence buried in us all.

Forthcoming exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Gallery Sally Dan-Cuthbert, Sydney, in September. In April 2021 the Spazju Kreattiv, Malta's National Centre for Creativity, will hold a major solo exhibition for Pluta titled *Variable depth, shallow water*. The show has been postponed from its original 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ineke Dane