

Marcin Dudek: Gate III

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10 June – 14 August 2026



Edel Assanti is pleased to present *Gate III*, a presentation of works by Marcin Dudek in anticipation of his solo exhibition PAWILON at the gallery's Fitzrovia space in October 2026, and his specially-designed booth for the gallery's presentation at Frieze London, also opening in October 2026.

Oskar Hansen's Open Form theory describes a flexible structure, which invites the public to interact with and participate in its process of continual transformation; it can exist at any scale, from film strips to large apartment complexes. In this work, the most recent work from the *Gate* series, Marcin Dudek draws inspiration from Hansen's "rhythm exercises", a visual game developed with students at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts. From a quiet, self-contained rectangle, *Gate III* (2025) unfolds into eleven separate segments, whose delicate hinges can be placed in almost as many positions as the viewer can imagine, including a configuration where the work completely envelops the spectator.

The *Gate* series depicts moments of transformation, emerging from the artist's personal experience with subjects such as survival economies and sports mega-events. The architecture of the arena returns as a leitmotif throughout Dudek's work, representing power dynamics, crowd psychology, and a space of both exaltation and traumatic memory. The closed form of *Gate III* borrows from stadium entrances, narrow openings designed to admit one body at a time, a safeguard against the violence of mass movements.

As it opens, the polyptych progressively reveals a landscape. Its horizon line is formed by stills of a pyrotechnic display, conducted by Ultras at the Krakow Derby: at its center, the still-distinguishable crowd lights a flare; as the line extends outwards, flames increasingly engulf the image. The wooden panels lighten and taper, as the explosive encounter echoes outside of the stadium, its smoke blanketing the city. The external regions of the landscape are occupied by cross-sections of stadium terraces, like skeletal blueprints for a spectacle to come. Crowds, seen from above, stream from every corner towards the central panel, passing over charred carvings and crossroads made from razor blades – studio waste turned ornament. At the center, these masses collide, in flashing pulses of scratched lines and vivid color.

As the viewer plays with the possible compositions of this landscape, the spectacle is replayed, the individual entrance loses its authority, the aerial view finds itself constantly reconfigured. At the margins of the image, on the very bottom of the central panel, dust from settling nerves has coated the metal frames of housing blocks, seen from afar on a long walk home.

ABOUT MARCIN DUDEK

Across performance, sculpture, installation and painting, Marcin Dudek repurposes salvaged materials and memories to interrogate the psychology of group dynamics and the structures that shape our everyday lives. Often archival and site-specific, his installations frequently take the form of 'memory boxes' – immersive sculptural environments that archive lost or inaccessible spaces drawn from his own experiences. His subjects have included cafes, supermarkets, football stadiums and hair salons; sites of everyday interaction where social relationships are negotiated and behavioural norms take shape. Within these arenas, layered narratives unfold, shaped by the inconsistencies, ruptures, and distortions that characterise our relationship to formative and traumatic events. His research ties his personal archive to a broader history of society's inseparable relationship to spectacle, whilst developing an artistic vocabulary attuned to fragmentation, instability, and the unreliability of memory.

Dudek (b. 1979, Krakow) studied at the University of Art Mozarteum, Salzburg, and Central Saint Martins, London, graduating in 2005 and 2007 respectively. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions including the Museum Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany (2024); IKOB - Museum of Contemporary Art, Eupen, Belgium (2023); Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris, France (2021); MNAC National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, Romania (2019); and the MWW Wrocław Contemporary Museum, Wrocław, Poland (2019). Dudek has participated in group exhibitions at the Kronika Center for Contemporary Art, Bytom, PL (2025); the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK (2022); Entreprendre & KANAL-Centre Pompidou, Brussels, Belgium (2021); The Warehouse, Dallas, US (2020); and many others.

His work is included in public and private collections including the Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection, Berlin, Germany, MWW Wrocław Contemporary Museum, Wrocław, Poland and National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, Romania. His first monograph, *Department of Subterranea*, was published by MER in 2015, followed by *Slash & Burn*, published by Hopper & Fuchs in 2023. In 2025, Dudek received the Prix de Sculpture de la Fondation Marie-Louise Jacques. Marcin Dudek lives and works in Brussels.

ABOUT EDEL ASSANTI

Edel Assanti was founded in 2010 in London by Jeremy Epstein and Charlie Fellowes. The gallery programme focuses on narrative-driven work by international contemporary artists whose practices engage with the complex realities of the moment in which they live.

Having been located in London's Fitzrovia since 2014, in 2022 the gallery opened its 4,000 square foot flagship space in a renovated Grade II listed building on Little Titchfield Street. In June 2026, Edel Assanti opened second London location at 11 Bury Street, St James's, in the heart of one of the city's most historic gallery neighbourhoods, broadening the scope of programming for its artists and their multifaceted practices. The Little Titchfield Street gallery stages four to five ambitious solo exhibitions per year – tending towards interdisciplinary, research-led work – with biannual expansive group exhibitions providing a platform to bring together non-represented artists in explorations of emerging themes of artistic interest. Bury Street offers an intimate, salon-style environment for focused presentations by both represented artists and those new to the programme, highlighting individual works, significant periods and definitive themes.

Our premises play host to a dynamic events programme in parallel to gallery exhibitions, encompassing performance, talks and live music. The gallery's digital presence includes a series of short films and artist interviews published to accompany exhibitions.

In 2021, Edel Assanti's Jeremy Epstein founded London Gallery Weekend (LGW), an annual celebration of London's diverse gallery community, bringing together 130 contemporary commercial galleries. Now in its sixth year, Epstein remains at LGW's helm.

CONTACT US

For further press information and high-res images, please contact Ella Lewis-Williams (ella@edelassanti.com).

IMAGE

Marcin Dudek, *Gate III*, installation view, Edel Assanti, St James's, London, UK. Courtesy the artist and Edel Assanti. Photo by Clara Corriez.