

Being Ensnared
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(...) An elaborate openwork tunnel the shape of a huge funnel that grows out of a metal construction of the gallery's ceiling is an installation by Ewa Axelrad titled *Plant*. In the title of the work the artist provides a footnote – Eng. plant 1. tree, shrub or herb. 2. to put or set in the ground for growth. 3. trap. 4. to place firmly or forcibly; power plant 5. power plant, thus disclosing possible interpretations.

A monumental object was intended as an upturned smokestack of a nuclear power plant. Unfinished, it resembles rather a tornado which you can enter, shifting the body to the position of its centre, point zero. The work recreates perfectly the ceiling pattern and therefore we do not know where we deal with actual gallery space and where the artist's project starts. One can say that the artist takes hold of this space and imperceptibly claims and appropriates it. The work done is so impeccable that it is hard to say what kind of material was used to make the object. And, not to damage its charm, let it remain a secret. Axelrad one more time* tantalises the viewer by attractive precision and subtlety of her project. This is done only to make a viewer discover a mire of uncomfortable thoughts that lay at its origin and which at this moment become part of the work. It is charming in order to confuse, and the more it enchants the more it is confusing (...).

* In March 2011 at the Arsenal Municipal Gallery the artist made a site-specific installation *SUCHE* (The Dry), also intended to entice the viewer by a clear and pure situation, which however generated uncomfortable and unpleasant feelings.

