



Alicja Biala

*This is indeed a wonderful country*

Nov. 20 – December 22

In her first presentation in Paris, Polish artist Alicia Biala confronts feelings of displacement and wonder in foreign lands, and the persistence of heritage. Underpinned by reference to the historical diaspora of Slavic people, Biala adapts elements of folklore to a contemporary context. Working across painting, sculpture, lighting and lacework, Biala reflects on the estrangement of migration and the imminence of threat – a prevalent theme in today's settings of war and climate crises.

Culinary ingredients adopt symbolic weight, daily household tasks become stages of shared struggle, and hanging "spiders" (Pajanki) – traditionally made from straw and paper and hung to ward off spirits – are reinterpreted into ceramic lighting sculptures; the ensemble of which evokes both nostalgia for lost traditions and the immutability of roots that remain with wanderers. Throughout the work is a feeling of tension, defence, and relinquishment.

Biala, like her work, moves fluidly, being based between Poznan (PL), London and Amsterdam.