

Wallpaper*

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*INTERNATIONAL DESIGN INTERIORS LIFESTYLE



Poznan may not be the first Polish city on the urban tourist's itinerary but it won't disappoint those with a thirst for culture, from architecture to art, design to drama. It is also the source of Poland's leading liquid export, its super-premium, single-estate vodka, Wyborowa Exquisite, which uses the region's finest rye, carefully selected from just one area, and the purest water from 200m underground, creating a nutty sweetness and a slightly spicy aftertaste. Having ennobled the humble spirit by adjusting the quality of its components and distilling processes to please the more refined contemporary palate and housing it in a bottle designed by architect Frank Gehry, Wyborowa has become a standard-bearer for Poznan's cultural legacy and the catalyst for a push into the 21st century.

The city has a rich, ever-evolving art scene and is home to one of Poland's most respected artists, Jan Berdyszak. At the age of 74, Berdyszak is still prolific and recently added this striking light installation (*Into the Light*, 2006), created for a retrospective exhibition curated by Marta Smolinska-Byczuk and hosted by Sary Browar's Kulczyk Foundation, to his stock of inter-disciplinary work. The foundation funds and organises events at one of Poznan's cultural focal points of recent years, the converted Sary Browar brewery, now a vast centre for shopping, art, theatre, music and dance (plans include a high-end 'concert hotel' for music lovers).

Light is a new medium for Berdyszak, who has crossed fields from graphics, painting and sculpture to spatial art and stage design. Work representing all phases of his career was displayed at Sary Browar, demonstrating the extraordinary breadth and synergies in the artist's oeuvre.

Into the Light, which filled the 15m-high 'chimney' of the oast house area of the former brewery, features strips of fluorescent light that the observer can walk between.

Sary Browar and Jan Berdyszak are key players in ensuring that Poznan remains a city that produces exciting art, architecture, design and music.

www.sarybrowar.pl/en/



OAST WITH THE MOST
Artist Jan Berdyszak's installation *Into the Light* at Sary Browar, in Poznan, Wyborowa's home town

Neon night

Wyborowa throws light on contemporary Polish culture and discovers exquisite art at Sary Browar, a converted brewery in Poznan
Photographer David Hughes. Writer Emma Moore