

# L'étrangère

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*We live day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute*  
(*Eye of Krystyna Budnicka/Hena Kuczer*) - Joanna Rajkowska, 2023

Krystyna Budnicka was born Hena Kuczer in Warsaw in 1932. Part of a large Jewish family that was to find itself confined within the Warsaw Ghetto, she survived the ghetto uprising of 1943 in a bunker built by her brothers. After escaping to the "Aryan" side, she was taken in by the Budnicki family, taking their name when they passed her to a convent orphanage as they were being forced to evacuate Warsaw following the 1944 Warsaw uprising.

The project *We live day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute* is the eye that looks and at which we look. It is an exchange of glances and a play of views. The project also refers to the accounts of those who were in the ghetto during the uprising and saw people watching from rooftops on the "Aryan" side, and the accounts of those who were watching. What they had in common is an eye, a human eye.

Joanna Rajkowska asked Krystyna Budnicka to be able to take a photograph of her eye in a macro scale. As a result we see what we normally cannot see: her eye magnified about 160 times - pupil, iris, sclera and eyelids. The most complex is the structure of the iris with its thin, pigmented structure - regularly arranged elevations (trabeculae) and depressions (sinuses, cryptae). The deep, vivid brown colour of the iris makes the photograph very material. Presented as a lightbox it has almost a three dimensional effect - it is organic, soft, sculptural and palpable.