



Press Release

**Pied à Terre
Artist in Restaurant 2011**

**Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva
The Wish of the Witness
7 September – 31 October 2011**

This September restaurant Pied à Terre will present an exhibition of works by artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva, following an eight-month residency. Elpida is Pied à Terre's first Artist in Restaurant, an annual residency scheme for emerging artists. *The Wish of the Witness* will comprise some 10 sculptural and installation works made primarily with found materials sourced from the restaurant kitchens including scallop skirts and corals, quail carcasses, sheep testicles and fish skins and bones.

The Wish of the Witness is the result of a period of in-depth research by the artist and the works are influenced by the restaurant's daily routines, menus and by the preparation of Pied à Terre's dishes. The locally significant materials used have been selected through a process of collaboration between the artist and the chefs. Many of the sourced materials have required an experimental approach from the artist, and have been subjected to forms of manipulation to create works that carefully balance the brutal and the beautiful.

Of the residency, Founder and Owner of Pied à Terre, David Moore comments: *"Food and art are historically close allies. As a Michelin-starred restaurant, this relationship is even more vital with our chefs building dishes that are both visually exquisite and that taste extraordinary. We have always commissioned and exhibited artists at Pied to create an interesting and stimulating dining environment. This residency takes our commitment to contemporary art to a new level, enabling chef and artist to work alongside, and for an exchange of creative processes. We are delighted to have Elpida as our first artist in residence and look forward to exhibiting the results."*

Elpida is spending time at the two-Michelin starred restaurant, both as a diner and with exclusive behind the scenes access to the kitchens. One work created during the residency will become part of Pied à Terre's collection of contemporary art, which already includes works by Peter Blake, Richard Hamilton and Howard Hodgkin. Elpida was selected in December 2010 by the Residency's committee, from a list of ten artists put forward by the scheme's nomination panel, and her residency commenced in January 2011. The selection process for Pied à Terre's 2012 Artist in Restaurant will commence in September 2011.

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva creates ambitious sculptural works and site-specific installations. Working with materials that are unusual, precious, ordinary and ephemeral, from organic materials and foodstuffs to gold leaf, Elpida's practice questions preconceived notions of beauty. Central to the artist's approach is an interest in responding to the particularities of a given location, its history, environment and communities.

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva was born in Kavadarci, Macedonia. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1996, with 1st Class Honours and was awarded an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, London in 1998. Her work has been extensively commissioned and exhibited nationally and internationally. Exhibitions include: 'me, you & them' at the 51st Venice Biennale; 'Inherent Beauty' at Public Room, Skopje; 'Butterflies in the Stomach' at L'H du Siege, France; and 'Time Stands Still' at Kilmainham Gaol Museum, Dublin. She has taken part in a number of European residency programmes including at ArtSway, Gloucester Cathedral; Irish Museum of Modern Art and Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship. She has also worked on a number of public art commissions including: 'Raison D'etre', Southgate Project, Bath; 'Transpire', St Bede's Catholic College, Bristol; 'We Are Shadows', Unit2, London; 'Life Cycle', Bristol; 'Re|Sort', Fabrica Gallery, Brighton and 'Ambush', The New Forest. She lives in Brighton.

Notes to Editors:

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva

The Wish of the Witness

7 September – 31 October 2011

Pied à Terre, 34 Charlotte Street, London W1T 2NH

www.pied-a-terre.co.uk

Admission: Free

Opening Hours: Daily, 3pm – 6pm

www.artist-in-restaurant.co.uk

The Artist in Restaurant Committee:

Professor John Aiken, Slade Professor, Director of the Slade School of Fine Art and Sculptor
Gill Hedley, Independent curator and consultant

Marie-Lise Sheppard, Grants Adviser for Arts at The Wellcome Trust & Artist in Restaurant
scheme manager

Drew de Soto, Founder of Nancy Victor gallery

Calum Sutton, Managing Director Calum Sutton PR

The committee is chaired by Pied à Terre's founding Director, David Moore

Pied à Terre

Pied à Terre was established in 1991, operating under the guidance of David Moore with Shane Osborn joining as co-owner and head chef in 1999. Marcus Eaves recently took over as head chef. The restaurant has gained some of the highest awards and accolades possible, earning its first Michelin star in 1993, becoming a two Michelin star restaurant in 1996.

For further press information and images, please contact

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