
contemporary polish artists
from private collections
in new jersey

During the nineteenth century, Poland did not appear on the map of Europe. She was partitioned by her powerful neighbors, Austria, Prussia and Russia. To preserve their national identity under these trying conditions, her people developed an interest in the past. Patriots and historical themes increasingly became the subjects for writers and artists. Alexander Orłowski, Piotr Michałowski, Adam Świrski, Maksymilian Świrski, Jan Matejko — these are the leading Polish painters of that period whose creative output served as a link with the great and dramatic past of their country.

At the same time, however, a trend of another type appeared, centered on social themes. An excellent example of this orientation is Aleksander Świrski. Still another direction was introduced by Józef Penckiewicz and Władysław Podkowiński, who on their return from Paris, introduced impressionism in their 1890 Warsaw exhibit.

A major turning point occurred in Polish art after 1918 when the country regained its independence. At that time a number of dynamic avant-garde groups interested in constructionism sprang up, in close contact with similar groups in Russia and Western Europe. The most famous of these Polish groups was "Iskry," founded in 1919. Among its members were Władysław Strzemiński, Katarzyna Kobro, Stanisław Szukalski, Teresa Żamojska and Henryk Sławomski.

This trend spread in Poland in the mid-twenties and found its culmination in the person of the now active Henryk Szamowski. Some artists of the younger generation gave it their own articulation defined by their study of sciences and mathematics. A good example is provided by the art of Ryszard Winiarski of Warsaw, winner of the main prize for the development of contemporary art at the First Symposium of Artists and Scholars held in Poznań in 1966.

Constructionism continues to motivate the work of an important group of Polish artists. But side by side stands another group of artists interested in the social, moral and political issues facing Poland. The "Ręport" group, founded in Cracow in 1966, is a good example of this orientation.

The artists produced such luminaries as Roman Opalko, who won a number of international prizes; Wojciech Fangor, who was featured in a one man show at the Guggenheim, in 1970; Franciszka Szczęśniak, whose works appeared in a number of American museums, winning a number of gold medals in international exhibitions; Jan Dobrzański, Jan Lechnerstein, Zbigniew Gołkowski, Jan Borysiak, Zbigniew Makowski, Zdzisław Jurkiewicz, Witold Małachuk and Tadeusz Kantor, all of whom received a warm reception in the United States.

The most recent example of the growing interest Americans are showing in Polish art is the 1979 "Fotografia Polska" organized by the International Center of Photography, called one of the "top best" shows in the United States that year.

The present exhibition attempts to present the broad range of contemporary Polish art which has found its way into private collections in New Jersey. Many of the artists presented have an international reputation; few others, Artymowski, Urbanowski, Tukan and Mironowiczki are less well known in the United States but are all major contributors to the current art scene.

This exhibit will give the viewer an opportunity to take the flavor of contemporary Polish art and hopefully stimulate his appetite for continued pleasurable viewing.

Eric J. Page
September 1981
New York, New York





works in the exhibit

WITOLD K.

- "New Mexico" 1971 oil on canvas 18 x 17"
"Finger" 1970 oil on canvas 40 x 4"
"Two Figures" 1968 oil on canvas 18 x 18 1/2"
From the collection of Richard Laks, Garfield, N.J.

EUGENIUSZ WOLSKI — TUKAN

- "Tree 1" 1978 gouache 17 x 13 1/2"
"Tree 2" 1978 gouache 11 x 8 1/2"
"The Forest 1" 1978 gouache 13 x 18 1/2"
"The Forest 2" gouache 13 x 18 1/2"
"The Forest 3" gouache 18 x 12 1/2"
"Wood Still" 1978 gouache 18 x 12"
From the collection of Mr. & Mrs. H. Wojnowski, Clifton, N.J.

ROMAN OPALKA

- "Dziew 1482 839 1900484" 1965 acrylic on canvas 77 1/2 x 50 1/2"
Courtesy of John Weber Gallery, New York, N.Y.

JAN LEBENSTEIN

- "Aerial Figure Composition IV" 1968 oil on canvas 40 x 28"
From the collection of Mr. & Mrs. Casimir Wyszocki, Hackensack, N.J.
"Les Femmes" 1969 heavy acrylic and oil on canvas 50 x 50"
From the collection of Eva J. Page, New York, N.Y.

TAD DOMINIŁ

- "Country Landscape" 1962 acrylic 30 x 30"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. Edward Laks, Garfield, N.J.
"Garden Landscape" 1971 acrylic 28 x 28 1/2"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. John Zasadzinski, Garfield, N.J.
"Zalozne Szaliki" 1978 acrylic on canvas
"Lake" 1974 acrylic on canvas
From the collection of Dr. Joseph Malaja, East Rutherford, N.J.

ANDRZEJ LISIANKOWICZ

- "Happening in Sleeping Sarcophagi Bay" 68 x 68" oil on canvas
From the collection of Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kowalski, Rockaway, N.J.

STEFAN GEBROWSKI

- "Depth" 1972 oil on canvas 40 x 50"
From the collection of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gebrowski, Wayne, N.J.

- ROMAN ARTYMOWSKI** "Waterloo" 1974 watercolor 14 x 20"
From the collection of Mrs. Maria Luka
- ZBIGNIEW GOSTOMSKI** "Untitled" 1972 acrylic on canvas distych 57 1/2 x 20"
From the collection of Eva J. Page
- JERZY NOWOSIELSKI** "Art with Variations" 1971 oil on canvas 40 x 20"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. E. Luka
- STEFAN KNAPP** "Untitled" 1969 enamel on metal 15 x 20"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. E. Luka
"Untitled" 1960 acrylic on canvas 20 1/2 x 20 1/2"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. E. Luka
- JAN DOBKOWSKI** "Furies Dance" 1972 acrylic on canvas 30 x 40"
From the collection of Eva J. Page
- FANCIOR** "M-50" 1969 oil on canvas 40 x 40"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. E. Luka
- ADAM NIEMCZYC** "Meeting with Jeanne" 1967 acrylic on wood 20 x 16"
From the collection of Richard Luka
- RYSZYARD WINARSKI** "Sunset 117" 40 x 40", acrylic on wood
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. E. Luka
- HENRYK STAZDZSKI** "Untitled" 1971 acrylic on wood 24 x 24"
"No. 1" 1978 acrylic on wood 24 x 24"
"Metal Relief" 1969 metal on wood 24 x 24"
"No. 1" 1968 gouache 13 x 8 1/2"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. Edward Luka
"No. 8" 1968 acrylic on wood 20 x 20"
From the collection of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Saborowski, Wayne, N.J.
"No. 28" 1970 acrylic on wood
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. John Zawadzski
"Textured Composition" 1930 lithograph 10 1/2"
From the collection of Dr. & Mrs. E. Luka
"No. 18" 1979 acrylic on wood
From the collection of Dr. Joseph Stajka

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