



# RAMA

## PAF Special Meeting March 2023

The Polish Art Foundation held a Special Meeting of its current members on 17 March to update its Constitution.

This was to ensure that our constitution is a document that is in line with current legislation as outlined by Consumer Affairs, and uses contemporary language.

Our revised constitution is based on a set of „model rules for association” released in 2012, which is still the model that is applied today.

The revised document will be soon available on the new PAF website.

Thank you to those members who attended and contributed to the discussion as well as those who sent their proxy.

## The New Contemporary Drawing Biennale

Conscious of the scarce supply of drawing exhibitions available to the public, we invite artists to join our unique competition and showcase their concepts reflecting a view of the significance and role of drawing in contemporary art.

Building on our 20-year tradition of running a drawing competition, we are unveiling a broader scope to enable more artists to participate in this special event.

For the purpose of outlining the scope of the renewed competition, drawing is defined as:  
**the record of a tool moving across a surface in the form of an artistic expression.**

The work can be presented in pencil, crayon, conte, charcoal, pen or combined with a brush using any of the previous tools, on paper or other suitable material. The competition organiser also

invites works created by utilising mechanical and electronic means such as photography, film, video, and new media as long as drawing is part of the creative process.

The biennale competition acknowledges the universal value of drawing and is proudly brought to you by the Polish Art Foundation (PAF), based in Melbourne, Australia.

This is a national Australian event, with entries open to artists from overseas if they wish to participate.

**Deadline for Entries:** 1st September 2023

**Exhibition Dates:** 16th - 22nd October 2023

**Location:** No Vacancy Gallery, 34-40 Jane Bell Lane, Melbourne

### Prizes:

- First Prize: \$5,000 cash (non-acquisitive)
- Innovation Prize: \$1,000 voucher
- People's Choice Award: selected by our audience

**The Conditions of Entry** will be made available on the PAF website. Please note the site is undergoing reconstruction and is a little untidy, so please be patient with us.

## PAF Art Meet continues

We are happy to report that we continue to meet as a small group, and have meandered through and visited more artistic spaces, most recently a group of us visited the Convent in Abbotsford. This is one of Australia's largest multi-arts precincts. Home to lots of artist studios, gallery, café and lots of green open space. The weather was great and the company wonderful as usual.

For anyone interested in joining our mailing list, [email us at polishartfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:polishartfoundation@gmail.com)

and look out for our announcements on Facebook and Instagram.

Our next event to be held in June will focus on visiting a professional artist studio.

Stay tuned on our social media platforms for more details about upcoming events.



PAF Art Meet event held in March earlier this year.

## DANCE PARTY Fundraising Night

The PAF Team is already planning its next fundraising event. This time all our money will go towards our Drawing Competition Artist Prize. This is an exciting opportunity for the winning artist, when our Contemporary Drawing Competition Biennale will go live in October 2023.

We are hosting a PARTY to raise funds for the unique arts event.

**When:** Saturday 27 May at 7pm

**Where:** Truffles Café in St Kilda

**Cost:** \$95.00 per person includes 3 course meal, and a portion of the profit going to the foundation artist prize, BYO, corkage \$5.00

Tickets will sell fast! Our sales will begin at the end of April, so please HOLD THE DATE.

We are looking forward to hosting you at the party for a great cause!

## PAF on Instagram

As many of you will note, PAF has had an active presence on Instagram, largely due to the efforts of our colleague Agata Mayes. We have had lots of positive feedback from artists and organisations, and would love to have more of you, our PAF artists on this site.

If you would like to be formally included on our PAF page, do not hesitate, email the [polishartfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:polishartfoundation@gmail.com) and express your interest formally, and we will touch base to make sure your work is displayed. Make sure you also subscribe to our Facebook page.

## PAF Membership

We have simplified our membership payments!  
**We now have one annual subscription fee for all.**

- Our artist membership fee of \$35.00 per year enables individuals to fully participate in all of our exhibitions and increase their profile on our newly developed website. (Coming soon)
- Our general PAF supporters fee of \$35.00 per year allows our art lovers to support their creative community.
- Note, artists who are not PAF members and wish to participate in our events pay higher administrative fees.

- Help raise important funds for our not-for-profit
- PAF membership renewal forms and all further information is found at [polishartfoundation.org.au/become-a-member](http://polishartfoundation.org.au/become-a-member)

Please make a direct payment to: Polish Art Foundation, Westpac Bank; BSB: 033083 Account No: 751141 (Please state your name against your payment).

For all those individuals who renew their membership THIS WEEK, we have double passes to the latest film by Jerzy Skolimowski EO, now showing. To get your tickets, once you renewed your subscription to PAF, email [polishartfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:polishartfoundation@gmail.com) with your address details and we will send you the tickets. Do not delay.

Thank you for your support of our organisation.



PAF website under reconstruction

We are currently rebuilding our PAF website, watch this space and please be patient with us.

## Artist Profile - Jacek Pakula

### Where has your interest in the arts sprung from?

I was born in Kozienice, Poland and I am currently based in Melbourne.

Ever since I could remember, I always had a passion for the arts and literature. I studied extensively, the lives and body of work of many artists and writers. My dream was to become one of them one day. When I was 15 years old, I started to write poems and sketched a lot, but nothing too serious.

I adored paintings of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Salvador Dali, Francis Bacon and Witkacy to mention only a few. I wanted to see their work in the flesh, so I did lots of travelling to see as much art as it is possible; I went to Germany, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, England and Scotland, taking lots of photos and sketching a lot. My first little painting, I did it, when I was 20 years old.

### What is your favorite medium?

My favourite medium is oil pastel and oil paint stick. I started my practice with a small visual art journal and oil pastels because I could take it anywhere and paint in nature. I like pastels and paint sticks because I can work directly with my hands on canvas or paper; I love that there is no barrier between me and the canvas, so I become one with my creation. These days I use a variety of mediums including acrylic, oils and oil pastels on a range of different supports, from paper through to canvas and boards.

### Did you pursue formal art studies?

Yes and no. In 2005, I completed a Bachelor Degree of Information and Library Science from Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. When I arrived in Australia, I became a qualified librarian and started working in Public Libraries. During my visits to the National Gallery of Victoria, I learnt more about the famous Victorian College of the Arts, which compelled me to do more with my artistic pursuits. In 2012, I graduated with a Post-Grad Certificate in Visual Arts from the Victorian College of the Arts, The University of Melbourne. It was a very proud moment for me.

This experience provided the opportunity to meet amazing painters and other artists; it was a big eye opener for my visual art practice.

## What inspires you?

My biggest inspirations come from my dreams and my visions. I have a note pad next to my bed and as soon as I wake up, I try to jot down what I can recall from my dreams. I usually have very vivid dreams, with lots of colours, mosaics, patterns, vast spaces and architectural structures from different cities around the world. I called my dreams/visions internal landscapes.

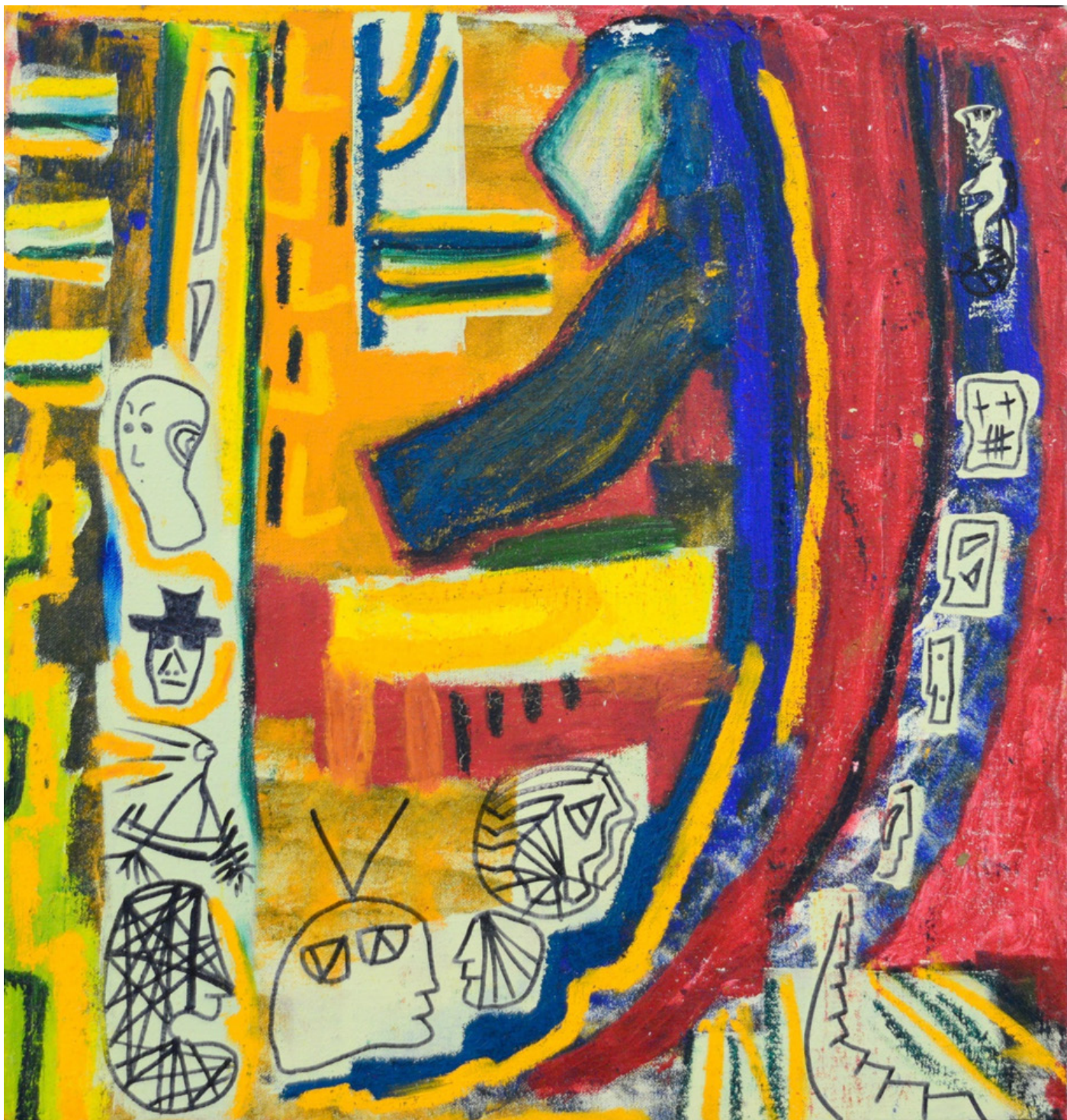
Nature is also a big inspiration and major influence. I observe and study the changes in our environment, as the seasons change; in particular, the colours of trees, the sky and the ocean - I find it all so captivating. I immerse myself in the moment and take in the sounds around me, such as birds chirping in the background - nature is so fascinating. I also love the deep blue colour of the night sky and always find a full moon as a breathtaking sight to behold.

## How has your association with the Polish Art Foundation allowed you to showcase your work?

I can't express how much the Polish Art Foundation helped me with the promotion of my art. Whilst going through a very difficult and long Covid19 lockdown, I was selected to present my paintings during an online exhibition in 2021 - 'Oblicza Polonii: Faces of Polish Community'. It was a very special experience, that gave me a creative outlet and allowed me to forget about the pandemic and focus on my art. In 2022, I was delighted to be selected for a new group exhibition called 'Borders/Granice'. The exhibition was located at the historical Victorian Artist Society Gallery and I was very honoured to have my work on show, along with the many other talented artists on exhibit. I was also provided with the unique opportunity to do a short poetry reading of my own work on the night of Meet the Artists. I would like to thank, once again, the Polish Art Foundation for being so supportive of me and my art practice.



KING IS IN THE MIRROR Acrylic, oil paint stick and oil paint on canvas 92x87cm



SEASONS Acrylic, oil paint stick, black marker and oil paint on canvas 76x74cm