

# RAMA

Dear Artists, Friends and Supporters,

This has been a busy year for the foundation despite more COVID, lockdowns, isolation and more rules and regulations.

We hosted our artist Open Air Studio event, initiated the new networking opportunity for those of us interested in all things art, at our new PAF ART meet get togethers, that are set to continue in 2022.

We had set ourselves the challenge of running and hosting an online exhibition in historically the most uncertain times for the arts community and succeeded. And most important of all, we opened our arts door to a new generation of digital artists and new experiences.

Finally we celebrated with a picnic, and ended the year with a bang at our Fundraising Night.

Below are some of the highlights...

## “OBLICZA Polonii: Faces of the Polish Community” the 2021 thematic exhibition

We looked for conventional and unconventional interpretations of this broad subject from themes of community, belonging, identity and change as part of an evolving human journey.

What we did not expect for ourselves, was the application of an old saying.... there is a first time for everything....with a new voyage into the digital exhibiting world.

The time had come for PAF to run an art exhibition entirely online.

It has to be said that it was not our first choice, we spent the start of the year planning for our usual gallery space until Covid restrictions made it all but impossible until the very last minute when things changed again. We felt that cancelling would indeed deflate our artists and so, after some further negotiations with our funding body we managed to turn our ‘walls and mortar’ into a full digital experience with a live online Opening and a PAF gallery in cyber space.

The Opening event held on 29 October was hosted by our artist Asia Kosowski.



## FACES

of the Polish Community



With a special guest appearance by our Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Mr Andrzej Soszynski and a terrific panel of our artists featuring Aldona Kmieć, Daniela Miszkini, Gosia Kurban, Jarosław Wójcik and Janusz Kuzbicki moderated by Anna Maciejewska, Vice President of PAF. The intergenerational dialogue was both engaging and interesting, showcasing individual perspectives on belonging to two creative cultures and intertwined histories. The exhibition, which showcases 21 artists had very good attendance indeed (so far, more than 1200 people visited the gallery site). This frequency is much more than we usually expect from the traditional gallery set up, with viewers from all parts of the globe.

“Faces of Polish Community” is available for viewing at [www.polishartfoundation.gallery](http://www.polishartfoundation.gallery) and will be running online until the end of March 2022. All reviews we read and heard were very positive. Comments were made about the quality and variety of works, including our new digital media forms. But of course, it is best if you visit and make that judgement for yourselves. Enjoy!

Meanwhile next year, we hope to be back in the gallery and on the walls....



## A face to face gathering at last!

On November the 7th we had finally found the opportunity to get back face to face, this time at a picnic in Jells Park, Wheelers Hill.

This followed on from the recent opening of our first digital exhibition of Faces of Polish Community. We all looked forward to talking, exchanging views and ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.

Although the weather was not favorable, that did not deter people, and attendance was high. There came artists, friends, and members of PAF. More exhibition catalogues were sold, and a couple of new members joined our organisation.

We can certainly declare the day a success!



## PAF Fundraising Night 2021

After weeks of delay due to Covid, our planned Fundraising Dinner Event at Truffles finally came to fruition on Saturday the 28th of November at 7pm, and what a night it was!

PAF's President Mirek Kostecki and Vice President Anna Maciejewska-Kaszubska welcomed everyone. Our organisation was honoured by the presence of all of our guests, but a special mention must be made of our supporter and VIP guest - Honorary Consul General in Melbourne, Andrzej Soszynski accompanied by Mrs Soszynski, our artists, and Goska Zachwieja, whose enthusiasm assured that all our tickets were sold.

A traditional Polish buffet was prepared by Ola and Jarek Janczewski our Truffles hosts.

A variety of "pierogi" accompanied by "hunter's bigos" were both tasty and popular. It seems that everyone was rather surprised to learn that these were only an appetizer, and when the "Duck Confit", schnitzels, Dutch carrots, potatoes, red cabbage, and green salad appeared – we all realised that our appetites would be more than satisfied.

The atmosphere was cheerful. We were dancing, prancing, talking and making new friends. The evening was crowned with a magnificent cake decorated with PAF's red and white logo. We cheered our hosts, our guests and PAF itself! This memorable event provided us with a unique opportunity to mingle with artists, art lovers and supporters, to get to know each other, to have fun for a good cause.



The Polish Art Foundation is committed to its mission, and being a not-for-profit organisation, depends on grants as well as fundraisers and art sales to boost its budget to cover operational costs to run its events.

We at PAF, would like to thank our generous participants for their support and contributions.

Wishing you the best festive season, and of course we hope to see you all at our next Fundraiser Party.



## The new PAF ART MEET initiative has been launched!

On Sunday the 23rd of May a new group met at Truffles, in the popular suburb of St Kilda, where after lengthy preparations, lots of brain storming, PAF ART MEET was officially launched.

The formula of these networking meetings is loose and relaxed, allowing a gathering of artists and creatives to meet, chat, establish new friendships,

exchange ideas and collaborate all under the umbrella of PAF.

We look forward to continuing these events after another COVID interruption with the next meeting planned for Sunday March 6, at 3pm at Truffles. See you there.



## PAF on Instagram, everyone is welcome to join!

As many of you will note, PAF is now on Instagram, largely due to the efforts of our colleague Agata Mayes. 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 AGM

Please note, the Polish Art Foundation will host its Annual General Meeting for 2020/2021 on Friday 25 February 2022 at 7pm at the home of Mr and Mrs Glac, 7 Raymond Court, Oakleigh.

## PAF Membership – all the details are on our website

We have made it easier to start your PAF membership and renew it annually. Visit [polishartfoundation.org.au/become-a-member](http://polishartfoundation.org.au/become-a-member) and simply fill in the form and transfer your payment. Alternatively, you can always send us the form if you wish. Our membership fees are very competitive, allowing a discount when entering exhibitions, and of course providing precious financial support to this not-for-profit-organisation.

### Annual Fees

Individual \$35  
Individual (Artists, pensioners, students) \$25  
Family \$60

### Radio Interviews

The PAF Team continued its regular promotion activities including interviews on SBS radio.

We would like to acknowledge Darek Buchowiecki for his ongoing support of our organisation over the years.



### Artist Profile - Milada Kessling

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

My first encounter with PAF goes back to 1975 after I arrived in Australia with my mother Krystyna Hrykowska, and grandmother Maria Hrykowska Zagórska (both painters).

My uncle Olgierd Zagórowski, art historian and proprietor of the Golden Shield Gallery, introduced us to the founders and pioneers of the Foundation: Dr. Maria Luk-Kozika, Krzysztof Łańcucki, Tomasz Ostrowski, Marzena Brinberg, Mira and Szymon Meysztowicz, and Krystyna Prolisko (one of the initiators of the one of the first (if not the first) PAF exhibitions, dedicated to working of Władysław Dudkiewicz).

Soon, the three of us exhibited for the first time with PAF in the Art Show staged at the Architects Institute in South Melbourne. From then on, I recollect fondly numerous exhibitions, art auctions, displays in public libraries, and festivals that I had taken part in. I will always be grateful to PAF for assisting me in the smooth transition to the Polish and Australian art scene.



## Did you pursue formal art studies?

Before arriving in Australia, I studied Art at Liceum Plastyczne in Kraków, and this was the only formal institution that provided me with some valuable skills and instruction in the fields of painting, sculpture, art history, and applied arts.

Everything else I know, I learned from my family's professional artists and writers...

In Australia — though never abounding artistic practice — I had to focus on learning English and decided to do so while undertaking two years of full-time study in Psychology, Biology, and Sociology at the School of Behavioural Sciences at La Trobe University. Later, I continued with Electronic Publishing, Internet Security, Graphic Design, Dynamic Web Design, and finally, a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing, in Holmesglen Institute of TAFE and Swinburne University.





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

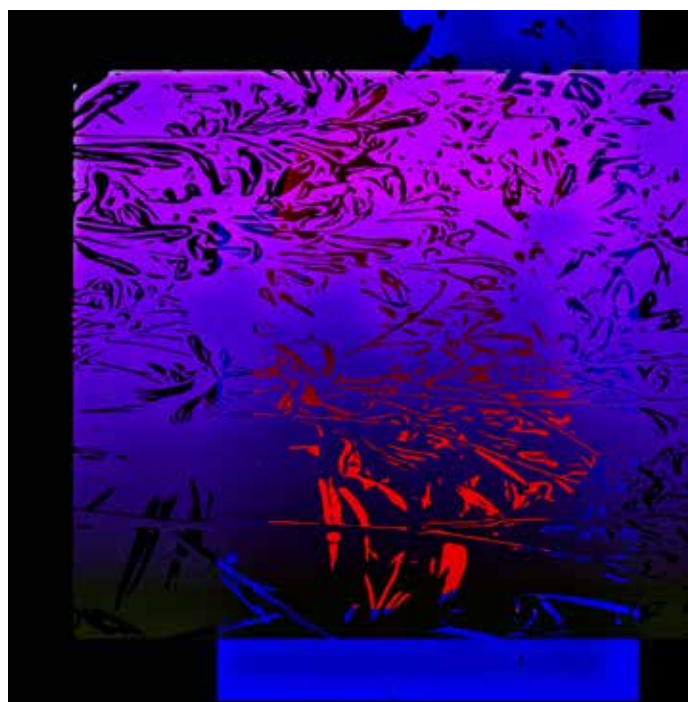
One could say I had no choice being born into a family of painters, writers, an architect, and a photographer... But no one forced me; it had always been the most joyful and easy feeling to be able to absorb it all. And the love for art, inquiry, and creativity became an integral part of me and as necessary as the daily bread.

### **What is your favourite medium?**

Probably watercolours, drawing, and sculpture. But then, in the last few years, I am also taken by the vast possibilities for expression through digital media and photography.

### **What inspires you?**

I am always inspired by the light that makes it possible to search and find an unusual angle, the focal point, or the visual edge. And when this happens, I know my work evolved; I gained an aspect of a narrative — and I find that fascinating.







Dear Artists, Friends of the Foundation  
and Board Members,

As we get closer to Christmas I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your collaboration once again and wish you all to stay healthy and in good shape during these continued uncertain Covid times, and retain your optimism for a normal future.

I would also like to wish you inspiration and artistic drive, and hope you join us in PAF activities once again. A very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022  
And God's blessings for us all.

Mirek Kostecki,  
*President, Polish Art Foundation*