

# RAMA

## The 10th International Drawing Biennale in memory of Tomasz Ostrowski

This year the Polish Art Foundation celebrated a special milestone.

The International Drawing Biennale celebrated its round anniversary, with its 10th competition exhibition officially opening on Saturday 7 December 2019 at the Victorian Artists Society Gallery in Melbourne.

The bi-annual event pays tribute to Tomasz Ostrowski, the foundation's first secretary, who began his association with the organisation in 1977, and continued his contribution for the next 15 years. When Mr Ostrowski passed away in 1994, he left the Polish Art Foundation a valuable bequest that still provides substantial financial support today.

At the end of the 20th century, PAF wanted to create an event that would allow contemporary artists from around the world to reflect on the important role of drawing as a principal technique in art. From the very beginning, the biennale involved young and emerging artists, recognising new trends proposed by the participants. An independent competition jury was invited to help judge the artistic level of the works and in this way provide a consistent standard throughout the competition.

Through the history of the biennale, the Polish Art Foundation respected the style and individuality of each artist. We also appreciated the chosen subject, as each participant expressed their own unique ideas that inspire them to create.

The first International Biennale took place in 2001, and since that time we have received and judged over 850 works by artists representing 30 countries from as far as Europe, Asia, America, Africa as well as Australia.

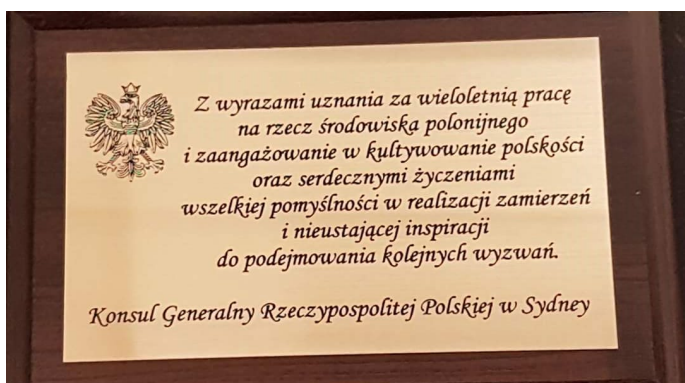
This year's special jubilee biennale exhibited 71 works from 13 countries, and the works were judged by four local artists: Jarek Wojcik, Robert Clinch, David Glyn Davis as well as Liz Sullivan. As a group of experts, who have held many solo and group exhibitions and worked on commissions both overseas and in Australia, they deliberated on selecting the works for the exhibition as well as allocating prizes to our winning artists.

This year's special Opening event was attended by guests including our newly appointed Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Dr Monika Konczyk, Honorary Consul General Dr Luk Kozika, Ms Nina Taylor MP representing the Minister for Planning, Housing and Multicultural Affairs and the Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC.



Robert Clinch Jury Artist, Anna Maciejewska Vice President, Jarek Wojcik Jury Artist, Mirek Kostecki President, Dr Monika Konczyk Consul General, Republic of Poland, Dr Luk Kozika Honorary Consul General, Ms Nina Taylor MP, Mr Jerzy Glac PAF Curator, Mrs Denise Luk and Ms Ewa Figiel, Board Member, The Australian Multicultural Community Services

Dr Monika Konczyk used the occasion to thank the Polish Art Foundation for its many years of devoted service to the cultivation of Polish culture here in Australia, handing the newly elected President Mr Mirek Kostecki a plaque acknowledging PAF's contribution as a gesture of recognition for its work.



Consul General, PAF President handing out the Popular Choice Award to Mr Konikowski

## PAF Exhibition 2020

The subject for the bi-annual PAF thematic exhibition has been set. We will be looking for works in any medium, addressing the broad interpretation of KLIMATY or Vibes, as the inspiration forward. We will share more information closer to the date.

## Artist Profile - Bozena Wiszniewski



### Did you pursue formal art studies?

At primary school my art teacher recommended that I apply for entry exams to the Secondary College of Applied Arts in Warsaw and I followed her advice. I passed my entry exams. That was the beginning of my professional artistic adventure. In 1983 I started my five years of study at the Department of Interior Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. I completed the course in 1988 with honours.

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

Since my childhood I remember that I drew and painted very often and I always enjoyed it.

### What is your favourite medium?

For many years I was working with oils. But I found acrylics to suit me better as they dry much faster. Not that long ago I started to use collages and I love to experiment with this. Often I am mixing techniques and there is always something new (for me) that I discover on the way.



What inspires you?

I draw my inspiration from the surrounding landscape. The environment provides the raw energy that I translate into my own language, which is separating from nature more and more, and becoming abstract. Colour is the most powerful “tool” for me. It creates, enhances, changes, reveals, and establishes the mood.

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

The Polish Art Foundation gave me the opportunity to present my work in various group art shows in 2013, 2014 and 2015 at Steps Gallery and at the Victorian Artists Society Gallery in Melbourne.

It is the time that I meet other artists and I feel connected to them. PAF is doing a fantastic job by creating a professional and friendly atmosphere around all their events.





## *Christmas Greetings*

As we countdown to Christmas, the Polish Art Foundation would like to wish all of its members, artists, patrons and sponsors a very joyful celebration of Christ's birth and a happy, prosperous and creative New Year 2020.

The Board of the Polish Art Foundation



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