

Henryk Musiałowicz

Born in 1914 in Gniezno. In 1936 enrolls in the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Studies painting under Professor Leonard Pękalski. Graduates in 1948 from the studio of Professor Stanisław Kowarski. During the 1944 Warsaw Insurrection loses about 100 paintings, his entire output to date. After the war lives and works in Warsaw. Here he paints the first series of compositions addressing the recent war and the city's tragedy: *Ruins*, *Warsaw'45*, *Anonymous Heroes*, *Occupation, 1939-45*, and in the 1950s *The Sea Bottom* and the particularly important series *Imaginary Portraits*.

In 1956 he visits the Netherlands. The trip, and particularly Musiałowicz's encounter with Rembrandt's works, will prove very important for his future art. Having returned to Poland, Musiałowicz rejects colour, turning to concise, monochromatic forms executed in black and white. The *Sea Bottom* and *War against Man* series initiate a new, original and still open chapter in contemporary Polish art, titled: Musiałowicz.

The process of gradual reduction of artistic means and the development of a new form for his novel ideas unfold over the years, reflected in such series as *Reminiscences*, *Epitaphs*, *Family*. These works are very well received and successful on the international art scene, where Musiałowicz gains many admirers among art critics and viewers.

The years 1984 and 1985 prove another turning point in his life and work. Musiałowicz finds a new home and studio at the village of Cieřsza in Puszcza Biała, in the Kurpie region; also his art and life acquire a new impetus. He turns an old country dwelling into a masterpiece and builds a gallery nearby to show his works to artists and art lovers from across the world who come to visit him. Here a number of new series originate: *The Birth of Earth*, *Mother Nature*, *Reflections*, *Expectation*, *Wedding Portraits*, *Sarcophagi of the Bygone Life*, *A Window Open into the World*, inspired by Nature, understood as universal and undergoing continuous metamorphoses. Here, to the surprise of all those familiar with his earlier works, Musiałowicz creates his "pillar paintings", constructed of painted elements prepared in advance. Objets d'art emphasizing the sculptorly aspects, they are assemblages rather than paintings; Musiałowicz refers to them as "poles at the cross-roads". Generally, however, it is difficult to distinguish stages or phases in Musiałowicz's art, his works are not easy to date. This reflects the attitude of the artists who frequently returns to the supposedly "finished" works to change or "stir" them, to look at them again from a different perspective... and then leave them alone until he feels the need to do something with them again. Musiałowicz's works have been presented at several dozen individual exhibitions in many European countries, America and Japan. He has also participated in numerous national and international group exhibitions. Winner of many prestigious awards and honours.

Henryk Musiałowicz is a member of:

Société Européenne de Culture, Accademia Tyberina in Rome; AIAP - IAA; Accademia Italia delle Arte e del Lavoro; Accademia Europea; Accademia Bedriacense.

Works in the collections of:

National Museums in Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań, Szczecin and Wrocław; District Museum in Toruń; Silesian Museum in Opole; Museum of the Archdiocese of Warsaw; Museum of Independence; Museum of Polish Army in Warsaw; Museum of Sport and Tourism in Warsaw; Provincial Office in Warsaw; District Museum in Częstochowa; Museum of Ziemia Lubuska in Zielona Góra; Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Poland; Galleries *Studio*, *Zapiecek* and *PN* in Warsaw; The Provincial Gallery Foundation in Lublin; Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland; Musée des Beaux-Arts, Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Staatliche Kunsthalle, Mannheim, Germany; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA; Galleria Martello, Milan, Italy; Galerie Alice Pauli, Lausanne, Switzerland; Galerie Numaga, Auvernier, Switzerland; The Society of Arts, Chicago, USA; The W. Fibak Collection, Paris, France; The Podl Collection, Seattle, USA; The K. Szyber Collection, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA; The A. and M. Witkowski Collection, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, USA.

