

2016 has been another busy year for the Polish Art Foundation and we would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

Art Auction at Gabriela Rovski's Studio

On the first Sunday of June a special event took place at our resident artist Gabriela Rovski's studio in Camberwell.

A combination of an art auction, an opportunity to meet and chat to our artists and a social gathering rolled into one. And despite the chilly Melbourne conditions the event still proved a great success, with paintings sold and plenty of chatting, drinking and eating.

Thank you Gabriela for your generosity in opening up your wonderful creative space. An afternoon enjoyed by all.



Impressions Exhibition

The Polish Art Foundation hosted a special pre-Christmas exhibition in November 2016 at the Victorian Artists Society Gallery.

This time round we had focused on smaller works open to complete interpretation in both the 2D and 3D form. 18 artists had showcased their works and the Opening Night hosted on Saturday the 12th of November was well attended despite the change from our regular Friday events to a Saturday.

Among our guests were His Excellency Mr Pawel Milewski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland and Dr George Luk-Kozika, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland with Mrs Denise Luk.

The evening had once again proven that our community enjoys our unique events, an opportunity to interact with the art and the artist.



Polish Art Foundation Annual General Meeting 2016

During this extremely busy time we have also managed to have an AGM in order to fulfil our legal obligations towards the Victorian government.

In accordance with clause 8 of the Polish Art Foundation Inc. Constitution regarding Annual General Meetings of the Polish Art Foundation in Australia, the Management Committee determined Friday 25th of November 2016 as the date for the annual general meeting.

Here are the results from the vote on the evening:

Mr Jerzy Edward Glac
PAF President

Ms Anna Maciejewska
PAF Vice President

Mrs Barbara Steinberg
Secretary

Mrs Anna Stainwald
Treasurer

Mrs Anna Friedhuber
Public Relations

Mrs Gosia Kurban
Art Director

Mr Ryszard Friedhuber
Member

Mr Mirek Kostecki
Member



A BIG THANK YOU

Asia Kosowski has been an active member of PAF as both an artist and a Board Member for the past four years. Unfortunately Joasia has had to resign from the Board earlier this month.

We would like to acknowledge her fantastic contribution to the Board of the Polish Art Foundation as an exhibition curator and Board member. Thank you Asia, we look forward to seeing your works in our future exhibitions and wish you all the very best.



Artist Profile - Aldona Kmiec

Raised in Poland, Aldona moved to Australia in 2009, where she has been residing and creating in Ballarat. Recently, she's moved to East Gippsland with her partner, and is living part time between the two towns. Aldona is currently exhibiting in the East Gippsland Art Gallery.

Where has your interest in photography sprung from?

I've always been on the move and wanted to experience things for myself, learn from my mistakes rather than other. You are either born creative or not.

The things you do in life is a reflection of you - it reflects your values and interests. Are you a risk taker? Do you like to be challenged? Do you value self-expression? Social commentary? Beauty in nature? Spirituality? What stimulates and soothes your soul? What triggers you? The real fun is in the adventure of searching and discovering the perfect life for you.

I'm grateful for being raised on the dairy farm and around animals, having to work hard to appreciate what life is and learning sensitivity and empathy towards the world. This was I think crucial to the way I see things now and that also hugely influenced my life philosophy.

Photography came to my life after my 6-year stint with piano accordion (which I still play), sport, growing food and travel. They equally interest me.

Dividing my work into two, I run a freelance commercial photography business while also pursuing various creative endeavours, both for private exhibitions and as part of larger collaborative projects. Both my commercial and artistic work inevitably overlaps fuelling one with energy for another.

Did you pursue formal art studies?

I did pursue photography and studied Photography at London Metropolitan University but I stopped believing in institutions. Having a HECS debt when you leave your art school isn't very enticing for your career start. Aren't we spoiled in Poland having a free education?

I've recently been looking into the topic of migration and how it affects creativity and awareness. Being involved in the Ballarat International Foto Biennale, you get to meet people who are very academic. Having a mentor or two is a treasure and you don't need a PhD to do what you love well - as long as you're prepared to get better at it.

Never stop learning.



What inspires you?

People fall in love with art because they have been moved, spoken to, inspired or elevated.

Like falling in love, something resonates deep within oneself. Sometimes it starts with a mild interest and grows, sometimes it is instantaneous – Love at first sight. The mystery of love and art will forever be philosophised but we have all experienced it.

My partner and his career work with young swimmers is very inspirational for me to see every day. Waking up in wee hours of the morning and being good at what he does.

My strength lies in portraiture, openness towards people, analysing and ... dreaming. I realised I've always been a good visualiser, imagining or rather 'projecting' my work, my future, my life.

I had a tattoo made on my arm in 1995 I think, it wasn't particularly popular with my family and had negative connotations, but I was always prepared to break the rules, to untie the ropes that we were bound with for too long. This trivial body mark represented a symbol of my personal freedom and throughout my life I have been true to myself following the path I've always thought was best for me.

Looking at life through a lens or rather my eyes, lens are just one of the tools, I use photography as a way of expressing my many passions and philosophies, and also as a tool of connection with people and expressing what they want to say to the world. Too many times I've photographed people who have nothing material, but who escaped the war, prosecution and face racism in Australia every single day. How could that not inspire you to do something...

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

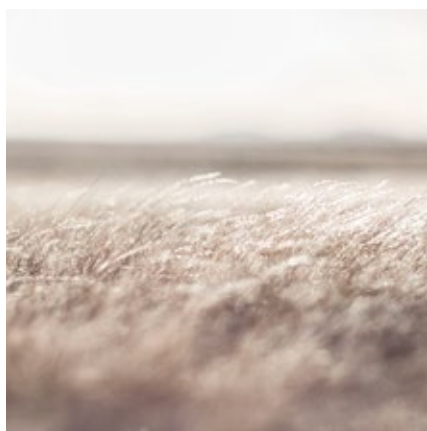
It's great to have your own cultural institution in a different country and be part of an art group, take part in exhibitions and having your work seen by different people. It helps your practice; your native tongue and you get more involved in some of the Polish cultural traditions.

Pol-Art festival is one great example so are other Polish Art organisations like PAF. For artists like myself that choose not to live in a city, being it's member is a great way to connect with other Polish artists in Victoria and interstate at annual exhibitions. The catalogues are great!

It's also worth mentioning how important it is to keep strengthening the positive cultural identity, through our art seen in major Australian festivals and on TV, in Poland and abroad. To know that we Poles, despite our 'beatings' by our history, have good reasons to celebrate our 'Polishness', share it so that others can get a better understanding of our identity. No one wants to be remembered or referred to as a moaner, hole-digger and overly guilty and shameful victim of religion.



BIRDS, C-Type Archival Photographic Print



FIELDS, C-Type Archival Photographic Print

PAF Initiatives for 2017

The IX International Drawing Biennale is getting close. We will be sending out a call to artists at the beginning of the year. Meanwhile hope you are already working on those concepts for what promises to be another great international exhibition.

An art auction will be held on Sunday 12 March at the Mr and Mrs Steinberg household in St Kilda, more details to come.

Finally we will be hosting a special weekend workshop at Healesville, on the first weekend of April 2017. We will be sending out Expressions of Interest in the weeks to come as places are LIMITED.

Annual Membership and New Membership payments: ensure we can support our artists

We appeal to all our members to go to the PAF website, print out the Annual Membership Renewal Form, fill it in, and send it to us with a cheque, or money order.

For new members we have a New Member Form, anyone wishing to join us, and support the work we do, please do so by filling in this form and sending in your payment.

We have to stress again, and remind members to fulfil your duty by paying your membership on an annual basis.

Your contribution is vital for our organisation, for our functioning and our mission of helping artists, and promoting art with a capital A.

We will be grateful if anyone who shares our spirit, considers making a donation as we are continually seeking new funds, we can assure you that every dollar is well spent, and supports our artists.

OUR ARTISTS NEED YOU, AND SO DO WE



A Christmas Message to our Artists, Patrons and our Sponsors

Christmas is fast approaching and many of us are still very busy preparing for this profound period in the Christian calendar.

The Board of the Polish Art Foundation would like to wish all of our Artists, Patrons, Donors, Sponsors and Enthusiasts a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017 filled with good health, lots of human kindness, peace in our families and our communities and hope for a better tomorrow.

God bless you all.

From the Board of the Polish Art Foundation

A special thank you to our sponsors:
Tygodnik Polski, Radio SBS, Henry Bernard Pty Ltd Certified Practising Accountants and
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www.polishartfoundation.org.au
email: polishartfoundation@gmail.com