

Press release, 12.06.2024

Exhibition of Polish Paintings Opens the First Ever Poland-Romania Cultural Season 2024-2025

On 21st June, the exhibition "The Tatras: Wróblewski, Karłowicz, Wyczółkowski" will open at the Brukenthal Museum in Sibiu. The exhibition is organised by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute (AMI), the Brukenthal National Museum, the Andrzej Wróblewski Foundation, and the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology, with support from the Polish Institute in Bucharest. The opening ceremony will be attended by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Hanna Wróblewska and AMI Director Olga Wysocka.

THREE PERSPECTIVES ON THE TATRA MOUNTAINS

The exhibition "The Tatras: Wróblewski, Karłowicz, Wyczółkowski" will be shown at the Brukenthal Museum, the oldest museum institution in southeastern Europe. It features works by three outstanding Polish cultural figures connected by their fascination with the highest range in the Carpathian Mountains. The exhibition includes geometric abstractions and inks with views of the Tatras by Andrzej Wróblewski, original photos of mountain landscapes by Mieczysław Karłowicz, and paintings, pastels and graphics by Leon Wyczółkowski from the early 20th century. The curators of the exhibition are Prof. Anna Król, Dr. Magdalena Ziółkowska and Wojciech Grzybała.

Andrzej Wróblewski (1927-1957) was one of the most eminent Polish painters of the post-war period, as well as a critic and art historian. The exhibition's collection of black-and-white ink drawings depicting the Tatra landscapes, the "Tatras I" and "Tatras II" series, were created in 1952-1953. The exhibition will also feature Wróblewski's gouache series "Mountains" and abstract compositions, all of them translating his mountain experiences into a visual language. His fate was forever tied to the Tatras, when he died at the age of 29 during a hike on the Oswald Balzer Road. His body was found on the side of a snow-covered path between Toporowa Cyrla and Zazadnia Glade.

The exhibition also includes a collection of 127 photographs from 1906-1908 by **Mieczysław Karłowicz (1876-1909)**, a distinguished composer, conductor and avid mountaineer and photographer of the Tatras. The collection, complete with his comments, is normally kept at the Central Mountain Library of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society in Kraków. He also met his end in the Tatras, dying tragically in an avalanche on Mały Kościelec in February 1909.

Leon Wyczółkowski (1852-1936) was a painter, graphic artist and draftsman during the Young Poland period. The exhibition in Sibiu will present landscapes by him painted in oil, pastels and watercolours, as well as the artist's graphics from the series "The Tatras: Eight Aquatints" from 1906. Wyczółkowski painted and drew scenes from the life of the local highlanders, as well as portraits of writers associated with Zakopane, including Jan Kasprówicz, Henryk Sienkiewicz and Stefan Żeromski with his son. However, what fascinated him most were mountain landscapes and their variability. His views of Giewont, the mountain slopes, forests and lakes show echoes of his passion for Japanese aesthetics and art. In recognition of Wyczółkowski's work, the Tatra Society honoured him with honorary membership in 1913.

THE POLAND-ROMANIA CULTURAL SEASON 2024-2025

The POLAND-ROMANIA Cultural Season 2024-2025 is the result of joint efforts by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, AMI, and the Romanian Ministry of Culture and the Romanian Cultural Institute, supported by the Polish Institute in Bucharest. The season includes dozens of concerts, theatre performances, film screenings, exhibitions and literary events. The season's slogan is "We Share a Common Language", referring to the language of culture, a language that allows for deep understanding and communication through a diversity of forms, means of expression and traditions. Its logo, a collaboration between graphic design students from Poland and Romania, was inspired by the diacritical marks characteristic of these two challenging languages.

AMI – THE MAIN ORGANISER OF THE POLAND-ROMANIA CULTURAL SEASON 2024-2025

AMI is a national cultural institution in operation since 2000. AMI aims to **build lasting interest in Polish culture worldwide through international cultural exchange**. AMI has carried out projects in over 70 countries across 6 continents, including the United Kingdom, France, Israel, Germany, Turkey, the USA, Canada, Australia, Morocco, Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia, as well as China, Japan and Korea, for which it has received awards and distinctions at international exhibitions and festivals. In 2023, the Polish Pavilion "Poetics of Necessity," organized by AMI, received a medal at the London Design Biennale.

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