

**CONTEMPORARY MEDALLIC SCULPTURE
FROM POLAND**

at
Medialia ... Rack and Hamper Gallery Space I
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Hours: Wednesday to Saturday
12:00 to 5:00 and by appointment

opening reception: May 7, 3-6pm

For more information and visuals, please visit our website: www.medialiagallery.com

This exhibition was curated by Pawel Leski who has brought together 12 contemporary medallic artists. Mr. Leski is a one of the leading artists in Poland, and is the current Polish Delegate to the Fédération Internationale de la Médaille/International Medal Federation (FIDEM*). Of the artists in the exhibition, Bronislaw Krzysztof and Ewa Olszewska-Borys, have previously been shown by Medialia.

Exhibiting artists :

Joanna Bebarska • Stanislaw Cukier • Magda Dobrucka
Dominika Griesgraber • Bronislaw Krzysztof • Pawel Leski • Alicja Majewska
Krzysztof Szczepan Nitsch • Jerzy Nowakowski • Ewa Olszewska-Borys
Beata Watrobska-Wdowiarska • Marcin Zalewski

The Polish medal has been known by the international medal art community for having a clear and unique expressionistic statement, as well as being strong in technique. Particularly, the powerful relief work by Ewa Olszewska-Borys has made a lasting impression on the young generation.

Mr. Leski said about the Polish medallic art in the XXIX FIDEM** Congress catalogue:

Medallic art in Poland, like in other countries, attempts to reflect and transmit the image of the changing world in such a way and by such means as will appeal to the contemporary audience. This is true of both theme and the techniques employed by the medallists.

Polish medallic art has always sought to represent and combine the past with the present and future... The [FIDEM] collection features medals which highlight the importance of the natural environment, medals which show the human being's search for identity, and medals which present intuitive explanations of problems that permeate the chaotic and unpredictable modern world... The form is also supposed to express our desires and ambitions in a way that is comprehensible to the current generation. The forms range from abstract renderings that appeal through diversified materials and colours to realistic representations. All the experiments are artistic responses to the question, "What is a human being?" ...

Polish medallic art has been developing steadily owing to the activities and endeavors of academics, museums, stage agencies, and private collectors.

*FIDEM was founded in 1937 as a transnational organization representing the major producers of commemorative medals. In the succeeding decades, the scope has been broadened to emphasize the activity of sculptors and collectors, with the art of the medal as the primary focus. The principal activity of FIDEM is the organization of an international congress and exhibition for its members, usually every two years. At the congress, lectures and workshops explore the aesthetic, production, and history of the medal. The exhibition features thousands of medals by artists from member countries. Each country's exhibition work is selected by its own delegation by the process of competition.

**The 29th FIDEM Congress, October 22 - 25, 2004, was held in the city of Seixal, Portugal. The exhibition of medals ran October 22 - November 27, 2004.

Mashiko Nakashima
Director
Medialia ... Rack and Hamper Gallery