



Fire place and antique furniture in the PIASA president's Office.

NEWS AND EVENTS

News

- Lecture by Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz
- PIASA in the News
- 2011-2012 Annual Report
- Poland Shortlisted for US Sci-Fi and Fantasy Translation Awards
- The Polish Review seeks Editor-in-Chief The Polish Review
- Janusz Korczak and Children's Rights in Contemporary Perspective
- Charles Kraszewski's "Letter to the Editors of the Polish Review"
- President Gromada's Farewell Remarks
- Renovation at The Polish Institute
- Rev. Prof. Janusz Ichnatowicz, winner of the Award of the Union of Polish Writers Abroad (London) - 2011
- 8th International Conference on History and Culture in North Eastern Europe
- Will the U.S. become another Old Poland?
- ACLS Fellowships in East European Studies
- PIASA Launches New Website
- PIASA Appoints New Executive Director
- PIASA Books New Release
- 2009-2010 Annual Report
- US Ambassador Letter

Meetings

- 70th Annual Meeting (2012)
- 68th Annual Meeting (2010)
- 64th Annual Meeting (Photographs)

Current Topics

Symposium Announcement:

Jan Sawka: The Artist's Role in Changing the World
The Paul Robeson Galleries, 350 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Newark, NJ 07102
Saturday, November 16, 2013, Noon – 5:00PM
Admission is free



Solidarity Poster for AFL-CIO fundraiser "Let Poland Be Poland," 1981, copyright Jan Sawka Estate

Gallery Aferro will open at 11:00 for symposium participants to view the show prior to the symposium. All participants are invited to a reception after the symposium at Gallery Aferro, 73 Market Street, Newark, NJ

Gallery Aferro and the Paul Robeson Galleries of Rutgers University present a symposium examining the case of the late Polish American artist Jan Sawka and the meaning of his work in a socio-political context. Jan Sawka's career began with work that expressed artistic opposition to the totalitarian communist regime of his native Poland, leading to his being included in the Polish School of the Poster, but also to his exile by the age of 30. Upon reaching the United States, his creative collaborations merged into counter-cultural, activist, avant-garde and alternative movements within the country he would call home for the majority of his career. This included collaborations as diverse as off-Broadway set designs and working with Samuel Beckett, to creating a historic art installation set for the Grateful Dead. He continued to create work that would ultimately help change the political system of his homeland and that would bring attention to issues as diverse as a non-nuclear future, human rights, apartheid and Mid-East peace. In the meantime, he created paintings and fine-art prints that confronted issues of freedom on societal, cultural and deeply personal levels that were shown in over 70 solo shows at galleries in New York, Los Angeles and other cities. His work is in over 60 museum collections around the world. The last award of his life was from the American Institute of Architects for his design for an inter-faith peace monument for Jerusalem. This symposium is an event of "Reflections on Everyman: The Work of Jan Sawka," a large exhibition of the artist's works that is on-view at Gallery Aferro until December 14, 2013. This symposium is made possible by the support of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union.

The presenting speakers, their topics and biographies:

Cynthia Nadelman

Presentation topic: The subversive power of writing, letters, and coded language as manifested in Jan Sawka's visual art.

Cynthia Nadelman is an art critic, curator and poet based in New York, a contributing editor of ARTnews for over 25 years. Her art writing has also appeared in Drawing, American Heritage, Arts, Elle, Manhattan, Inc., Sulfur, American Ceramics and numerous museum and gallery catalogues. Her poetry has been published in The Paris Review, Pequod, The Gettysburg Review, New American Writing, Denver Quarterly, and Partisan Review. She first became acquainted with Sawka's work in the early 1980s. Ms. Nadelman, whose parents were with the U.S. State Department, was born in Italy and grew up in Poland, Germany, Liberia, and Washington, D.C. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1975, majoring in German. She has received fellowships from the Ingram Merrill Foundation and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Ms. Nadelman is an authority on the work of her grandfather, the Polish-American sculptor Elie Nadelman.

Jeffrey Goldfarb

Presentation title is: "Living in Truth through Art: The Power of the not so Powerless." (Title references the essay "The Power of the Powerless" by the Czech playwright, political activist and first president of a free Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel.)

Jeffrey Goldfarb is the Michael E. Gellert Professor of Sociology at the New School for Social Research and he teaches "Media and Micro-politics" and the "Advanced Seminar in Sociology of Culture." His most recent publications include "The Politics of Small Things, Left and Right" (2006), The Politics of Small Things: The Power of the Powerless in Dark Times (2006) and Civility and Subversion: The Intellectual in Democratic Society (1998). He also studied the freedom movements of Central Europe and one of his books deals with the transitions of the political systems there: "After the Fall: The Pursuit of Democracy in Central Europe" (1992).

Frank Boyer

Presentation topic: "Art in the political and public space, then and now." Mr. Boyer's presentation will provide an overview of how the place of artist expression, and thus that of the artist's role in society, has undergone change since the 1980's to today within the art scene of New York and its surrounding area.

Frank Boyer holds an MA in Humanities and DA (Doctor of Arts) from the Program in Art and Art Professions in The Steinhardt School of Education at NYU. He teaches art-related subjects at SUNY-New Paltz and SUNY-Ulster, and in addition to poetry, fiction, and drama, writes art theory and cultural criticism. Dr. Boyer participated in the performance art scene of the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the 1980's. He has worked as an arts administrator and grant-writer, particularly in the realms of art in education.