



The "Na Lasockiem" Historic Building at 28 Długa Street, serving as the headquarters of the Institute of Art

Sources of Art

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The Institute of Art is Poland's sole interdisciplinary research unit, lacking a university counterpart, that pursues research and documentation work in the humanities within two specific domains: the study and history of art

On the outskirts of Warsaw's historic New Town district, the former Palace of Maria Radziwiłłowa née Lubomirska at the address of 26/28 Długa Street now serves as the

headquarters of the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Institute is Poland's only (and largest) interdisciplinary research unit without a university counterpart, whose set objective is to pursue research and documentation work in the humanities within all aspects of two specific domains - the study and history of art (including the fine arts, architecture, music, theatre, film, the audio-visual arts, photography, folk and popular art, musical folklore, cultural anthropology). Its scope of interest embraces the plus history and theory of these fields, stretching from antiquity to the present day.

This outstanding research unit was first set up in 1949 as the State Institute of Art subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and Art, in 1959 becoming known as the Institute of Art under the framework of the Polish Academy of Sciences, positioned among the humanities-related insti-

tutes of the Academy's Division I. Its statutory activities are financed from the state budget as well as from its own publishing efforts.

The Institute's program affairs and substantive issues are overseen by its Scientific Council, whose members are specialists in the fields of art and art history, elected for a four-year term. During the current 2006–2010 term, its Presidium consists of: Dr. Marian Arszyski (chairman), Dr. Henryk Jakub Pokora (assistant chair), Dr. Barbara Przybyszewska-Jarmińska (assistant chair), and Dr. Marta Leśniakowska (secretary). Executive and management functions are exercised by the Institute's director, a post currently held by Prof. Elżbieta Witkowska-Zaremba as the 7th director since the institution's inception.

The structure of the Institute of Art comprises four departments, as follows: 1. History of Fine Arts, 2. History of Music, 3. History and Theory of Theater, 4. Anthropology of Culture, Film, and Visual Arts. The departments each encompass various specialized workshops and editorial boards which pursue individual and team-based research projects, including such monumental publications as the *Bibliography of Polish Art*, the *Catalog of Historic Works of Art in Poland* (in cooperation with a branch workshop in Kraków), the *Dictionary of Polish Artists*, *Monumenta Musicae in Polonia*, *Polish Songs and Folk Music*, and the *Dictionary of Polish Theater*. The departments have produced extensive synthetic studies addressing the history of art, music, theater, and film.

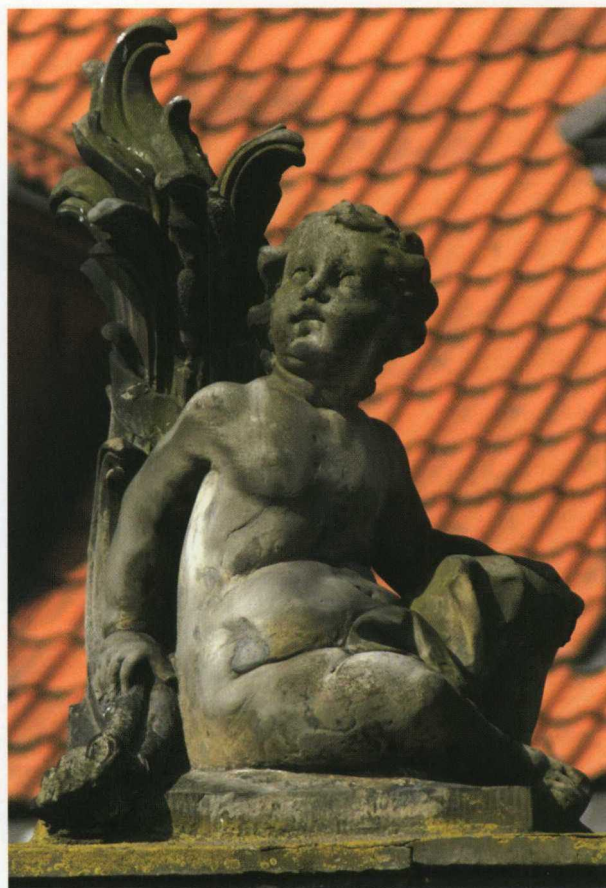
The Institute possesses its own publishing house which prints books authored by its academic staff members plus 8 specialist periodicals of nationwide scope: *Almanach Sceny Polskiej* (Almanac of the Polish Stage), *Biuletyn Historii Sztuki* (Bulletin of the History of Art), *Dagerotyp* (Daguerreotype), *Konteksty. Polska Sztuka Ludowa* (Contexts – Polish Folk Art), *Kwartalnik Filmowy* (Film Quarterly), *Muzyka* (Music), *Pamiętnik Teatralny* (Theatrical Diary), and *Rzeczy Teatralne* (Theater Miscellaneous).

Research and Collections

The Institute's archives and collections, of fundamental import for art-related research of nationwide and international scope, have been amassed since its very inception. The Institute possesses the largest specialist library on art, art studies, and the humanities (including more than 122,000 volumes and some 30,000 periodicals). The Photography and Measurement Drawings collection encompasses some 20,000 measurement drawings from the late 18th to contemporary times, as well as more than 450,000 photographs (negatives, including 100,000 glass negatives, plus positives and albums) dating from the mid-19th century to the present day, constituting a unique body of documentation on works of art and Polish artistic life. The Phonographic Collections (the Musical Folklore Archive), in turn, represent Central Europe's largest body

of folk music and songs (some 120,000 recordings) from all of Poland's ethnographic regions and ethnic minorities (the oldest recordings dating back to 1904). The Catalog of Musical Sources in Poland is a pool of information (computer database) about musical sources from the 11th to 18th centuries, preserved in Polish collections. The resources of the Special Collections and Theater Documentation archive include documents from the period of Polish artistic life in the 19th–20th centuries plus Poland's only microfiche collection of the Library of Count Leopold Cicognara. The workshop of Modern Polish Art and its documentation, working on the *Polish Artistic Life* publication, boasts a precious archive concerning some 30,000 modern Polish artists plus galleries, groups, and artistic events in Poland since 1945.

The Institute actively engages in international collaboration with similar academic establishments in Europe (including the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in Munich, the Academies of Sciences of Croatia, Lithuania, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Hungary, and art history institutes belonging to the RIHA). It organizes conferences and seminars featuring outstanding foreign researchers, and also initiates international research projects concerning regions of mutual cultural heritage. The Institute is currently carrying out projects funded by two EU grants. ■



A sculpture of Pluto gracing the entrance gate of 28 Długa Street