

Popular-scientific summary of the project

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The art of deaf people in Poland – history and analysis

The aim of this project is to analyse the activities of deaf artists in the history of Polish art and to create a comprehensive pre-modern and contemporary art history of Polish deaf artists. The project aims to look at kept historical materials from the history of Polish art and preserved artworks made by deaf artists to capture historical input in the background of the main mainstream of old and contemporary art. The history of the art of Polish deaf artists will be considered in relation to sociolinguistic research taking into account the specificity of deaf community as a language and cultural minority and the culture of the deaf community. It is possible to describe the art of Polish deaf artists in linear continuity as a transition from unaware of the distinctiveness of the deaf culture (pre-modern art) to being a proud deaf artist (contemporary art).

The research will include analyses of available historical and visual sources regarding the work of deaf and hard of hearing people, including:

- Preserved artistic objects, including at the National Museum in Warsaw, the National Museum in Krakow, the Museum of the Kuyavian and Dobrzyń Lands in Włocławek, in the private collections (works of deaf artists, including Franciszek Prek, Feliks Pęczarski, Kazimierz Wiszniewski, Maria Schayer Gorska, Henryk Osten-Ostachiewicz, Maria Ristau, Ignacy Klukowski).
- Analysis of available Polish and foreign scientific literature and album publications in relation to the deaf-art, the Deaf culture.

The most important results in the scholarship sphere will be:

- Creation of a scientific monograph which is the first comprehensive study of the topic in Poland, published in a bilingual format (Polish and English), including an appendix with selected Polish deaf artists with examples of their works. The monograph will also be the first such publication in Europe and may become a model for research in the field of the art of deaf people in Europe and in the world and for their publication.
- The publication of the research results will allow the development of a research concept in relation to creative personalities from the history of art of the deaf in Europe and may be the starting point for publications aimed at analyzing the work of deaf artists from a social, cultural and artistic perspective.
- Multimedia material in the form of video films with the translation of the research results into sign language with subtitles, will become complementary very important addition, which will allow deaf and hearing impaired people to get acquainted with the research in accordance with the principles of the availability of materials for deaf and hard of hearing people.

The publication, as a result of research planned in the project, will provide an objective look at this very little known fragment of art history and will be a very important complementary contribution to the literature collected so far on the subject of Deaf culture and Polish sign language.

In the social sphere, it can contribute to positive social reception, openness and respect for cultural and linguistic separateness, which is the environment of deaf and hard of hearing people. And it will also become an attempt to show historical evidence of the impact of deaf artists on their surroundings and the development of the culture of the deaf community in Poland.