"Keep Alive This Heritage" Pope John Paul II

A Newsletter About Polish Culture And Current Events Established In 1979



PACIM Open House

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota welcomed Polish artist, Ryszard Miłek, to



PACIM President John Radziłowski with Ryszard Miłek.

Minnesota in grand style at their Open House on Sunday, May 21, 2006. Over 120 guests stopped by during the afternoon to check out the new location at 2514 Central Ave NE. Miłek was on hand to visit and talk about his art and guests had the opportunity to view over 25 of his paintings.

John Radziłowski, president of PACIM, welcomed Miłek and took him on a tour of the new space and spoke a little about the mission of the Institute before introducing him around to the assembled guests.

After the winners of the Silent Auction of three of Miłek's paintings were announced, Miłek had this to say:

"Jestem szczęśliwy że mogłem pokazać swoje prace w tym miejscu. Oglądając z uwagą reakcji oglądających, stwierdziłem z przyjemnością

że wachlarz przezyć i wnikliwych uwag jest bardzo szeroki. To potwierdza trudność wyboru mojej ekspozycji. Gdyż dla artysty ważne jest jaki oddzwiek budzi w sercach i umysłach, i że ten oddzwięk wyraża się i staje się czytelny w dociekliwych pytaniach, kiedy i z jakiej inicjatywy powstaje dzieło sztuki. Wystawiam w wielu miejscach, jak ziemia długa i szeroka, ale możliwość wystawienia tutaj w Minneapolis ma dla mnie szczególne znaczenie z prostego powodu – widząc serdeczność i przyjazne nastawienie państwa, porzychylność i otwarcie, wiem że nie pozostawiłem Was obojętnymi, a to jest największy zaszczyt który mogł mnie spotkać."

"I am pleased to have introduced my art to you. When I looked around the room on Sunday, I saw only wonder and curiosity—the two experiences that remind me of how difficult it is to come up with an arrangement that captures people's hearts. To evoke such resonance within each one of you is by far and large the most important aspect of my creative work -art is supposed to launch one's inquisitiveness and insight. The many cities I've shown in, none was as unique as this one. I think it is the result of your friendliness, openmindedness, and courtesy. I hope the show left you inspired, touched, and more attuned to art-I could not have wished for more.

Thank you!"

Wanda Urbanska Keynote Speaker

Wanda Urbanska was a keynote speaker at the Living Green Expo at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds on



Sunday, May 7th. As some of you may know, Wanda is an author, and host and producer of the show, Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska. While she was in town,

I had the opportunity to sit down and chat with her. I wasn't quite sure what to expect... was she just another person with a Polish last name? I was intrigued, however, that she used Urbanska instead of Urbanski, the Polish feminine form of her last name. Boy was I in for a pleasant surprise...

Within seconds of our meeting, Wanda was off and running, talking of her passion for her Polish heritage and how meaningful it continues to be for her. She wanted to know more about what the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota was involved in and how we promote Polish heritage and culture here. She told us about how her show examines what people can do to make their lives easier, more stress free, more environmentally friendly, financially responsible and achieve greater community involvement, subjects which

Urbanska continued on page 3

Happy Birthday Amy Hooper 103 years Old & Still Going!

Polish Woman Seeking Temporary Work 612-789-6445

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Pol-Am

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We appreciate your continued generosity and support. Dziękuję

My Thoughts Managing Editor

It's 10:30 pm and I'm sitting down at the computer to pull together this month's article on the White



Stork. What I find so amazing is that while I sit at my computer here in Minneapolis, in the corner of my screen is a small window opened to a cam shot of

a stork nest in the village of Chyby, Poland just outside of Poznań. It's early morning there, but the stork is sitting on her eggs, and is quite active, preening and scratching her head quite oblivious that she is famous world wide as we await the hatching of her chicks. Another surprise is the number of cars driving by on the road below this early in the morning in such a small village, but I guess people commute there as well. This just brings home to me how small a world we now live in. I'm sure my grandparents who left the "old country" over a century ago, never to return, would be thunderstruck by how close the computer and email has made the distance shrink between America and Poland.

What a pleasure it was to meet Ryszard Miłek from Nowy Sącz at the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota's Open House. It's not too often that we can attract such big name Polish cultural notables all the way to Minnesota and then to have them be so supportive of our work here. It tells me that we are doing something right. We wish him continued good fortune during his stay here in America.

Finally, as we move into summer, keep sending in your ideas for articles and ways to improve Pol-Am. We appreciate hearing from you and what you have to say. Until next month...

-Steven Ukasick

Od serca do serca Heart To Heart

The recent open house at the headquarters of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota



(PACIM) at 2514 Central Avenue NE was truly a grand event. Guest Polish artist Ryszard Miłek is from Nowy Sącz, but in my conversations with him I told him I lost my

heart in Kraków's old town having spent my summers there in the 70s and 80s. Was hoping that some of his art would show that beautiful ancient city that was not destroyed in World War II because Hitler planned to use it as his retreat home.

T. Ronald Jasinski-Herbert writing in Chicago's Polonia Today had an article "Tomorrow's Polonia." I feel confident that tomorrow's Polonia here in Minnesota will be active and try to reach all members young and old. This event was put together by members of the young Polonia: Steven Ukasick, Jerzy Hornik and Aneta Toporowska.

Can't help but remember when Ed Rajtar, then president of the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, the late Mary Jane Sokolowski Gustafson, then editor of the Brooklyn Center Post and I met in her home to discuss our local Polonia. The outgrowth was a need for communication within Polonia-resulting in Pol-Am. We are now fortunate to have Steven Ukasick continue this newsletter assisted by one of the best graphic designers in the area—Bruce Rubin of Rubin Cordaro Design. January 2004 was one of my favorite issues; its front page had an article with a paragraph "Things I've Learned." One of the things: Everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

For various personal reasons, this is my last regular "Heart to Heart." I will, from time to time, share my thoughts with you.

Dziękuję wam i żegnam wszystkich. Koncę swój udział i słów do tej gazetki. Thank you and I bless everyone. I am completing my work and my words in this newsletter. Until next time... Czesław Róg

Urbanska continued

she admits have little to do with being Polish. Yet, her commitment to her Polish heritage is so strong that even though the show was only in the second season, she broke with the show's usual format and did a special on her trip to Poland.

Her commitment to her heritage came from her father, a journalist in Gdańsk before the War. He was marked for death by the Nazis and fled to America via Mexico. This love for Poland enkindled by her father made her "more driven than most to really understand my roots to know the real story." Her Polish special hammers out the truth about Poland and its past, especially the great tragedy of World War II. There are interviews with historians and authors, even with then mayor of Warsaw, Lech Kaczynski now president of Poland.



to such somber subjects. She also traces her roots and she celebrates with her Polish cousin and

But it is

devoted

not all

family's roots and she celebrates Wigilia with her Polish cousin and joins in a joyful family reunion. All of which she brings to the national American audience.

This dedication and tireless promotion of her Polish heritage has not gone unnoticed. On February 11th she was honored by the American Institute of Polish Culture in Miami with their "Amicus Poloniae" (Friend of Poland) award. Janusz Reiter, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, issued the award "for her work promoting the understanding and appreciation of Poland and its many contributions

to the world and to the United States." The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Lech Walesa.

So how can we support and promote our Polish heritage? Support others who bring our Polish heritage and culture to a national audience.

Please make a point of watching Wanda's show, Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska, on PBS, TPT channel 2 on Fridays at 2 pm. Her website, http://www.simplelivingtv.net/ is another great resource to learn about Wanda and the show. If you like the show, pass the word and let TPT know that you like the series, via emails, phone calls or letters. Vote for your Polish pride. Next season suggest that they broadcast the series in primetime.

TPT 172 E Fourth Street St. Paul, MN 55101 651-222-1717 www.tpt.org

Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School Trip to Winona

The Polish Saturday School children, their parents and teachers went on a bus trip to visit the town of Winona on April 29th. Father Andrzej Salapata of the Society of Christ, school principal, led the group of over 50 people. Despite a not so sunny day, it was a wonderful experience for everybody.

On the bus we played games, sang songs, told jokes and prayed, of course. It took us 2 hours to reach St. Stanisław Kostka church which is a beautiful landmark of Winona nestled on a large island in the Mississippi between river bluffs that rise to 500 feet. Upon our arrival at the church, Mr. Ben Schulz, a retired teacher whose family has lived there for generations, greeted us. Polish immigrants built the original structure in the middle of 19th century!

The present building, dedicated in 1895, is in the Romanesque-style - very impressive with beautiful stained glass windows with Polish church organization names signed underneath. Mr. Schultz told us the history of this congregation.



On April 2, 1871 the Polish community, just 100 families strong, decided to organize a parish under the name and patronage of Stanisław Kostka. They were very dedicated and determined to build a church as soon as possible. In 1872 a small wooden chapel was completed. There were many people coming from the Polish region of Kaszubia, so they decided to build one large structure that would meet the needs of future generations. The first pastor, Rev. James Pacholski, came to the parish in 1894 and served as pastor for over 38 years.

After praying together by the statute of the Virgin Mary we literally inspected every single corner and window of the church. Then we went downstairs to Pacholski Hall where we enjoyed our pizza lunch.

The next point of interest in this historical town was the Polish

Museum. An unimpressive entry led us to a huge exhibition hall. It was founded in 1976 by Rev. Paul Breza, a Winona native. Father Breza was determined to preserve the local Polish history, which he felt was being lost. At first it was meant to hold his collection of artifacts and explain the history of people from the Kaszuby region. Nowadays, the museum is a place where the cultural and religious heritage of the large number of Poles of Winona is on display. We had many questions to ask about Winona's history. The nice souvenir shop was staffed by warm and friendly volunteers from the museum. After saying goodbye to two very knowledgeable caretakers of the Polish Museum in Winona, we took a short bus tour and climbed up high to Garvin Heights Park Bluff from where we saw the astonishing panoramic view of Winona and surrounding area.

After another two hours of laughter, singing and praying the rosary with Fr. Andrzej we were back where we started at the Church of the Holy Cross in Northeast Minneapolis.

— Marta Alicja Swica, teacher at the Polish Saturday School

The White Stork of Poland Bocian Biały

On May 31st, Poles celebrated their 4th annual "Dzień Bociana" or "Day of the Stork." In 1990 a group of people in Poland concerned about the natural environment came together and formed the Polskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciól Przyrody "Pro Natura." The goal of this "Polish Society of Wildlife Friends" is the conservation and restoration of

the endangered elements in the natural environment of Poland. They have taken on the cause and preservation of this beloved bird, the stork, in



Poland for several reasons. First, since the stork favors wetlands, by saving the stork in Poland, the society will save many other species as well; second, the stork

has a special place in the hearts and minds of Poles; and third, while the stork is endangered and extinct in many countries of western Europe it is still very common in Poland.



How common is this stork, *ciconia ciconia*, in Poland? Fully one quarter of the world's storks breed in Poland each summer. That's over 40,000 pairs! Evidently, the stork finds Poland to its liking more than any other country. In



fact, if you were to look at the old Polish Commonwealth borders, including the present countries of Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, and the western half of Ukraine, the percentage would rise to one half of the world's white stork population. France has fewer than 100 pairs and they are non-existent in Great Britain, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries.



Efforts there to reintroduce them are producing tame birds that do not migrate to Africa for the winter.

The majority of the storks in Poland live near lakes, rivers and wetlands and are found concentrated in the northeastern half of the country in Warmia, Mazury Lake District and Podlasie. But they are found all over Poland. The city of Kraków has eighteen nests, which are protected and cared for by the city. Villages with more than 10 stork nests are called "stork villages." Some villages have more storks than people, like

Zywkowo in north Warmia where 36 people live side by side with 180 storks in 40 nests. The birds are virtually everywhere and when they migrate south in the fall, they leave an empty feeling in the village, especially since over 2,000 tourists from all over the world come to see the storks.

Klopot is another stork village, about 45 miles from Zielona Góra, and there you will find a White Stork Museum, the only one of its kind in Poland. The village of Tykocin by the Narwia River in the



Podlasie region is a holder of a prestigious title—the European Stork Village. Tykocin received the title in



2001 from the German ecology organization, Euronatur, when 19 stork couples set their nest on one of the farms. A special watch-tower was built for tourists who want to observe the birds in Tykocin.



The white stork is a large bird over 3 feet high with long bare legs and a red beak. Its plumage is white except for black on the wings. They are oppor-

tunistic feeders, preferring wetlands where they can find frogs, tadpoles, fish, and insects, but also eat snakes,



rodents and lizards. They build their nests on buildings which they have been doing since medieval times.



Among Poles it is considered good luck if a stork couple builds a nest on your building and it is said to bring prosperity. The stork, however, would much pre-

fer to reuse nests from years before and some nests have grown quite large and heavy. In the last 20 to 30 vears the storks have taken to building their nests on electrical poles. When they fly south in the fall, the electrical company takes the nest down and puts up a special nesting platform so that the risk of electrocution is reduced for the next year.

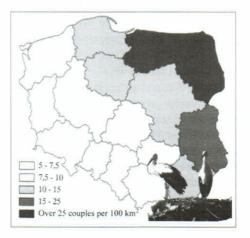
The first storks arrive in Poland in mid-March and by April they begin

egg laying and can have up to 5 to 7 eggs but usually only raise 1 to 2 hatchlings. The eggs hatch in mid-



May and by the end of August and early September the adults and youngsters are already to begin their migration to Africa. They will not fly over the Mediterranean Sea so they fly through Turkey and the Middle East to Africa. The birds are fully protected in Europe but are not so protected in Asia and Africa. One stork returned to Poland one spring with an African spear through its neck!

To watch a stork pair raise their chicks live on cam go to: http://www.bociany.kalinski.pl/ which is a 24 hour live cam set up in the village of Chyby just west of Poznan. Their eggs should be all hatched by the time you get your Pol-Am newsletter.



Proverb:

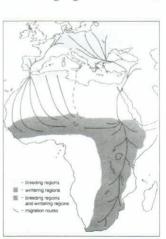
Gdzie bocian na gnieździe, tam piorun nie ūderzy / Thunder does not strike a stork nest.

A Polish legend on why the stork is black and white and flies to Africa each winter:

In ancient times, the carefree stork lived only in Egypt and was blessed by God with magnificent plumage of the most eye-dazzling hues. However, the magnificence of her plumage was matched only by her great arrogance and conceit, for she was compelled by her own beauty to feel superior to all the other birds.

When time came for the animals to board the Ark, all were saddened to leave their homes but accepted their fate with humility and gratitude to Noah; all, of course, except the stork who showed no gratitude, shed no tears, felt no humility. For her pride, God cursed the stork forever, taking away her colorful feathers and painting her wings a mournful black.

After the Flood, the other creatures were happy to be alive and have new homes, but the stork could only think of her glorious past, longing to go back. And so, the melancholy stork now has two homes-Poland and Egypt. Yet in each, she is filled with longing for the other, eternally



wandering back and forth, singing a note of sadness in her travels.

Photographs courtesy Government website.

PACIM NEWS

News from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent limited by law. Please consider including us in your tax and estate planning. We appreciate your generous support.

Polskie Przysłowia Polish Proverbs

Jest to cnota nad cnotami, trzymać, język za zębami.

It's a virtue above all virtues, to keep one's tongue behind one's teeth.

From the PACIM Library...

Our library is located at our building at 2514 Central Ave NE, one block north of Lowry Ave. Everyone is welcome, however only members of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota may check out materials. The library will be closed on July 2 for Independence Day.

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Thanks to Danuta Warec for 4 wonderful books she brought back from Poland. Please, if you travel to Poland, stop at a book store and ask the clerk for their latest (not the most popular) piece of fiction. We have a number of Polish readers and it is hard to add new books fast enough to keep up with their interest.

New books added this month:

Christine, Polish translation of Stephen King thriller. Kashubia, a beautiful picture book of northern Poland Osama Bin Laden, War Against the West

- Judith Blanchard, Librarian

Kalendarz: Mark your Calendars

September 10 Polish Folk Wedding October 27 Soup Festival December 3 Wigilia

Membership:

As with all volunteer organizations we are only as strong as our members and volunteers. For all of you who volunteer your time we thank you; for all of you who support us through your membership we are indebted to your generosity.

Generous Members: Sponsors:

Irene Colston J. Michael Joncas Julie Smedzuik-O'Brien

Festival of Nations

The PACIM's Polish Café at the Festival of Nations was once again very popular. Even though our location is set way back in the far corner regular Festival goers always know where we are and new folks soon find us. We are one of the few cafes that offer hearty hunger satisfying food....Kielbasa, Pierogi, Makowiec and Cheese Cake were the big sellers this year. We offer large portions at a good price; students will drag their friends to our café and word of mouth soon spreads.

All of this would not be possible without the many hours of work put in by Marta Pachnik. She runs a tight ship and such dedication shows by the smooth running of the café. She wishes to thank all her volunteers who put in many hours of help both in the kitchen, at the counter and behind the scenes in getting everything ready from set up to pull down.

Renata Stachowicz from Adam Mickiewicz Saturday Polish School did a wonderful job with Polish Culture Booth at the Festival. This was her first time in coordinating the Culture Booth and the Festival organization sets limits and rules on the culture booths and we are very grateful for all of Renata's great work this year!

And finally, Dolina Polish Folk Dancers performed along with their Slonecznik children's group and ran the Polish Bazaar at the Festival with their usual aplomb. We are fortunate to be present at the Festival each year to highlight and promote our Polish heritage.

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Co, Gdzie, Kiedy What, Where, When

Events

Many events are given to us well in advance of the actual date. Please call the contact information to verify particulars. To list your event, contact Judith at judytam@usfamily.net

If you would like more timely and last minute updates to local events, email us at polamnewsletter@yahoo.com and put "Polish Update" on the Subject line. We'll add you to our Polish Events email list.

Dolina Polish Folk Dancers Upcoming Performances:

June 3 - Ashton, Nebraska June 10 - Hillsboro, Wisconsin June 24 - Polish Fest, Milwaukee, WI

Month of June Holy Cross Church

There will be no Friday night masses dedicated to the Sacred Heart during the month of June due to the transfer of Father Salapata.

Sunday, June 18, 3-7 pm Historical Village Playhouse Benefit

1701 W. Houghton Lake Drive, Houghton Lake Michigan The Polish Kid & Company \$10 per person Polkas - Waltzes - Country - Swing -Ballroom Large Parking Area - Food and Beverages available Information: 989-389-4374, 989-728-7724, 989-422-6393

June 23-25 Kaposia Days

South St. Paul Polish American Club is sponsoring the Minto Polish Dance Group in Friday night's parade. The 7 pm parade starts at Southview Boulevard and 12th and runs down Southview to 5th Avenue. Possible street dance with Polish polka band on Saturday afternoon. For more information, 651-451-7258

June 23-25 25th Anniversary Milwaukee Polish Fest

America's Largest Polish Festival Polish Music, Exhibits, Food and Entertainment Summerfest Grounds: Henry W. Maier Festival Park, Milwaukee. Ticket prices: Gate Tickets: \$10, Advance Tickets: \$8 (from internet), Senior (55+) Gate Tickets: \$7, and Children (15 years and younger): FREE. See their website for more details: www.polishfest.org The Midwest Polka Association will be taking a bus trip to the Milwaukee Polish Fest. For more information, contact Barb at 763-757-5458 or polkapres@netzero.net.

June 29, Thursday, 7 pm Polish American Club, St. Paul

1003 Arcade St, St. Paul Krewe De Walleye, The Lost Bayou Ramblers, Cajun Dance 651-774-6748

July 9, Sunday Chicago Push Band

Coming to Minnesota on Sunday, July 9th to the Medina Ballroom the Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push Band from the beautiful state of Massachusetts for info call Barb 763-757-5458 sponsored by the Midwest Polka Association.

August 8–18 Best of Poland Tour

Hosted by Fran Toler. Visit Warsaw, Kraków, Częstochowa, Rzeszów, Wadowice and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and more. For more information call Fran at 612-781-7694

August 12 Polish Fest

Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church, 420 22nd Avenue NE, Minneapolis. More next month.

University of Minnesota Beginning Polish

PLSH 1101, Fall Semester
Tuesday, 6:10-09:30 pm
09/05/2006-12/13/2006
Folwell Hall, Room 340
9 Pleasant Street SE
Twin Cities Campus, East Bank
5 credits
Instructor: Professor Leonard A.
Polakiewicz
Description: This course is first in
sequence of courses (Plsh 1101 and

Description: This course is first in a sequence of courses (Plsh 1101 and 1102) designed to develop basic proficiency in Polish in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and to acquaint students with Polish culture.

Students do regularly assigned grammar exercises, listen to tapes, and are required to participate in each class session through individual recitation, and whole-group and small-group interactive communicative activities. Target audience includes: undergraduate and graduate students, particularly those interested in East-Central European Area Studies, students who intend to engage in business in Poland and East-Central Europe, and those pursuing Slavic Studies. For registration: 612-624-4000 For information: 612-625-1384 Register now. Senior citizens are reminded of the unique opportunity to study Polish nearly cost free.

Study Polish This Summer!

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is offering three 5 week Polish language classes this summer at our Institute at 2514 Central Ave NE in Minneapolis. The instructor for all three classes is Elizabeth Suszynski.

Tuition is \$30 for PACIM members, \$35 non-members.

Classes will be Thursday evenings starting July 6th and run through August 3rd.

Beginning Polish: Learn the Basics. Excellent for those traveling to Poland 5:30 pm

Continuation of Polish I: For those already in Polish I and others who already can speak Polish.

6:30 pm

Conversational Polish: A conversational class for those who have the ability to speak Polish.

7:30 pm

(Class availability and times subject to change due to minimum of 5 students per class)

Pre-registration encouraged. To preregister please send your name, address, phone number and check made payable to PACIM to PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418. For more information please call and leave message at 612-378-9291

Swedish Classes at the American Swedish Institute:

8 weeks for 1 1/2 hours a class Tuition: \$70 members, \$85 non-members. Book \$40 Total for members: \$110

Figures Of Poland's Culture And History



Jan Kulczyk Billionaire 1950-

Jan Kulczyk born June 24, 1950 in Bydgoszcz is the richest man in Poland with a fortune estimated at 4 billion US dollars (12.5 billion złoty). He carries

on a family business tradition into the third generation. In 1988 he established Kulczyk Tradex Company, which was the only official dealer of Volkswagen and Audi in Poland and landed a contract to sell vehicles to the Polish police in 1992 which earned him his fortune. Since then he has expanded into breweries now holding 35% of the Polish beer market and capital markets with international companies. All this growth has not gone unnoticed and he has been investigated by the Polish government for improprieties in his financial dealings.

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The Polanie Club of Minneapolis and Saint Paul is offering a limited number of \$2000 scholarships for the academic year 2006-2007. Qualifying applicants are United States citizens or permanent residents of Polish-American ancestry who are Minnesota residents with a GPA of 2.5 or better. Scholarships will be available to those persons ages 18-25, who are seeking financial aid for further education beyond high

Polanie Club Scholarships

Applications must be postmarked by July 1, 2006. Applicants will be notified about the decision in August 2006.

To request an application or additional information, please contact and send a self-addressed and stamped legal size envelope to: Polanie Club of Minneapolis and Saint Paul Att: Scholarship Committee

643 Madison Street NE Minneapolis, MN 55413

Polish Word Tips—Inspired by the Art of Ryszard Miłek

The universe of art is full of beautiful metaphors and expressions. Even though some of them do not find use in daily lingo, they are truly inspiring and motivating. Below you'll find a few examples of expressions relating to art that are commonly used in Poland. Enjoy them, as much as the many enjoyed Miłek's art display on a Sunday afternoon,

Sztuka jest cenniejsza niż słoto. Art bears greater value than gold.

Sztuka trwa wiecznie, życie szybko

Art outlasts one's life, it thrives into eternity.

Artysta wnosi w życie piękno, które on znajduje.

An artist's role is to bring alive the beauty he finds along the way.