

8th International Biennial of Miniatures

„Melchior Wańkowicz. About Poland and Poles”

This year's edition of the biennial focuses on the vision of Poland and Poles seen through the eyes of Melchior Wańkowicz. As the organizers of this event, we invite young people to create a miniature - an art work in the 20 x 20 cm format, which will be an individual creative statement about our compatriots and the country - Poland. We are curious how this vision is shaping among the generation of young artists, both in our country and among young creators from other countries. Every perspective, every impression, every image of Poland that appears within our native culture as well as in the international arena is interesting to us.

The year 2024 was established by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland as the year of Melchior Wańkowicz. It is the 50th anniversary of the writer's death, the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino, and the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. These dates are strongly associated with the work of Melchior Wańkowicz.

Wańkowicz is one of the greatest Polish journalists in history, the father of reportage. As stated in the resolution, "he was a model and symbol of Polish journalism" who "served the community by honestly describing reality." The resolution recalled the times in which he wrote and works related to it, such as "Sztafeta", "The History of the Korzeniowski Family", "Westerplatte", "The Battle of Monte Cassino". The series "From Stolpce to Cairo" was also quoted, which was a record of his own fate and a collection of reportages about the Poles he met, the fate of emigrants and the formation of Polish troops.

He was a master of aphorisms. Slogans such as "Sugar strengthens you", "A flight closer" and "Legends are lasting truths" have become a permanent part of Polish culture.

In 1972, the Polish Television broadcasted the meetings with a writer who spoke about "What Poles are we like" in a series of nine episodes. He had a critical attitude towards his compatriots, a broad view of national affairs, and often did not mince his words when revealing the bitter truth.

Many of Melchior Wańkowicz's texts are universal, relating to each human.

"I felt that beauty should not be experienced, that beauty should be lived. Beauty must be like air - necessary and unconscious while it is there."

Melchior Wańkowicz, „The herb on the crater”

"Where is this Homeland? Our blind hands and unknowing eyes follow the hot trace of her feet, bending down, tracing the colors of her blood, the places where her body was taken, the places where the air vibrates with her voice.

Where are you, Homeland? We're coming to you. You're getting closer. We feel you close and bless you. And we don't regret – no, nothing. And for you and for them – for those who lie here."

Melchior Wańkowicz, Hospital in Cichinice

"Sometimes it's good to look at yourself through the eyes of others."

Melchior Wańkowicz

"Let no step forward be frightened by the fear that it will be false. Every step, even in the wrong direction, leads higher."

Melchior Wańkowicz