

INVITATION:
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
"Hommage à Jan Buck" – Lubuskie and Lower Silesian contexts: geography, history and art

| Febr. 2nd., 2024, Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej, Zielona Góra, al. Niepodległości 15, 65-048 Zielona Góra

Organisers and Partners:

Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra
 Museum of the Lubusz Land, Zielona Góra
 Sorbian Museum, Budyšin/Bautzen
 Marshal's Office of the Lubuskie Voivodeship
 Teacher Training Centre in Zielona Góra

Scientific direction of the research and exhibition project 'Hommage à Jan Buck' and symposium and moderation:
 PhD Lidia Głuchowska, Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra

Ladies and Gentlemen

you are cordially invited to an international research symposium organised within the framework of the scientific and exhibition project "Hommage à Jan Buck" (2022–2025) initiated by the Institute of Visual Arts of the University of Zielona Góra under the scientific direction of PhD Lidia Głuchowska. It takes place on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jan Buck/Buck (1922–2019), who is regarded as the most outstanding of Sorbian artists, as he led the art of his nation out of the narrow sphere of exclusive folklorism, in which it was stuck because of its resistance against assimilation with the dominant German culture, opening the way to European modernism. Jan Buck/Buck's work is a symbol of the identity of the Sorbian people, today living in parts of Brandenburg and Saxony, and formerly also in areas belonging to the current Polish Voivodeships Lubuskie and Lower Silesia.

The symposium with the participation of historians and art historians from Lusatia and Poland, as well as enthusiasts of Sorbian issues and witnesses from the period, including artists who were friends of Jan Buk/Buck, is very important for remembering the past and emphasising the dynamics of contemporary Polish-Sorbian cultural contacts in the cross-border region on both sides of the Oder and Lusatian Neisse rivers. The multi-voice and interdisciplinary debate is intended to make the audience aware of many little-known facts about the history, political geography and culture of the indigenous West Slavic inhabitants of these territories, as well as to provide an insight into Sorbian art and the latest artistic work of the Institute of Visual Arts in Zielona Góra created as part of the "Hommage à Jan Buck" project.

The programme is addressed not only to specialists in the fields of science discussed and to art lovers and artists, but also to students, students, doctoral students and regional activists. We also warmly invite teachers of history, civics, Polish and history and the present, as well as geography and visual arts, to come along with their students who are particularly interested, as the symposium's themes have multiple the content of the secondary school core curriculum.

A special attraction will be a display of original Sorbian costumes from the Eastern Lower Lusatia/Lubsko area, as well as a performance of the MANADA vocal ensemble, which will perform Lower- and Upper Sorbian folk songs, allowing us to listen to the sound of related Polish languages of our Western Slavic neighbours. It will take place within the framework of the double opening of the exhibitions "Everything is a Landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck" and "Hommage à Jan Buck (IV): EVERYTHING – NOWHERE – HOME", which will crown the entire event.

Patrons of the 'Hommage à Jan Buck' project include:

Minister President of the Free State of Saxony – Michael Kretschmer
Minister President of the Federal State of Brandenburg – Dr. Dietmar Woidke
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Wrocław – Martin Kremer
Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodship – Cezary Przybylski
Marshall of the Lubuskie Region – Marcin Jabłoński
Rector of the University of Zielona Góra – Prof. Wojciech Strzyżewski
Rector of the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław – Prof. Wojciech Pukocz

Please, send the confirmation of your participation to l.gluchowska@isw.uz.zgora.pl

We look forward to seeing you there!

Director of the Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra
 Prof. Paulina Komorowska-Birger

Director of the Museum of the Lubusz Land
 Leszek Kania

Marshal of the Lubuskie Voivodship
 Marcin Jabłoński

Director of the Sorbian Museum in Budyšin/Bautzen
 Christina Boguszowa/Bogusz

Director of the Teacher Training Centre in Zielona Góra
 Marzena Pulik-Sowińska

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"Hommage à Jan Buck" – Lubuskie and Lower Silesian contexts: geography, history and art

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Scientific director of the research and exhibition project "Hommage à Jan Buck", and symposium / moderator:

PhD Lidia Gluchowska, Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra

2.02.2024, 1.30–4.30 pm, Museum of the Lubusz Land in Zielona Góra, stained glass room

1.30–2 pm Welcoming

- Director of the Museum of Lubusz Land in Zielona Góra – Leszek Kania
- General Consul of Germany in Wrocław – Martin Kremer
- Director of the Saxon Office in Wrocław – Anna Leniart
- Member of the Board of the Lubuskie Voivodeship – Tadeusz Jędrzejczak
- Rector of the University of Zielona Góra – Prof. Wojciech Strzyżewski
- Plenipotentiary for Sorbian Affairs of the City of Chóšebuz/Cottbus – Anna Kosacojc-Koselowa/Kossatz-Kosel
- Director of the Sorbian Museum in Budyšin/Bautzen – Christina Boguszowa/Bogusz
- Director of the Teacher Training Centre in Zielona Góra – Marzena Pulik-Sowińska

2–4.30 pm Plenary session

1. PhD Lidia Gluchowska, Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra
Hommage à Jan Buck – towards a decentralised canon of art history
2. PhD Pěťš Šurman/Peter Schurmann, Sorbian Institute, Chóšebuz/Cottbus
Sorbian-Polish relations in the face of changing border divisions
3. Prof. Tomasz Jaworski, Institute of History, University of Zielona Góra, President of the Sorbian Studies Association
On Polish Sorbian Studies and the history and achievements of the Sorbian Studies Association in Zielona Góra (1992–2017)
4. PhD Tomasz Fetzki, Institute of Pedagogy, University of Zielona Góra
Traces of Sorbian culture in Lubuskie and Lower Silesia – impressions of an enthusiast

Coffee break

5. PhD Agnieszka Łachowska, Technical and Comprehensive School Complex in Głogów
Pragmatism of Sorbian social microstructures – concern for identity, material culture and folk costumes.
Analysis based on traditional design in the eastern part of Lower Lusatia
6. PhD Karolina Zychowicz, Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra/ Institute of Art History, University of Wrocław
Jan Buk/Buck and the open-air movement in Poland

Debate: Witnesses from the epoch on Polish-Sorbian relations and Jan Buk/Buck

7. Piotr Gaglik, Polish-Serbian Sorbian Society, Lower Silesian Branch in Wrocław
My half-century with the Sorbs
8. Pěťr Buk/Peter Buck, son of the artist
My father Jan Buk/Buck and his contacts with the Polish art scene
9. Visual artists from Lubuskie about the Energy Plenary, exhibitions in Lusatia and friendship with Jan Buk/Buck
– Adam Bagiński
– Henryk Krakowiak
– Grażyna Michalak-Bazylewicz

5–7 pm Double exhibition opening

"Everything is a Landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck" and "Hommage à Jan Buck (IV): EVERYWHERE – NOWHERE – HOME"

5–5.15 pm Musical setting – performance by the MAMADA ensemble, Upper and Lower Sorbian songs (part I)

5.15–5.45 pm Introduction:

- Leszek Kania – director of the Museum of Lubusz Land in Zielona Góra
- PhD Lidia Gluchowska – Scientific director of the "Hommage à Jan Buck" project, Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra
- Christina Boguszowa/Bogusz – director of the exhibition series "Everything is a Landscape. Sorbian painter Jan Buck", Director of the Sorbian Museum in Budyšin/Bautzen
- Prof. Radosław Czarkowski – curator of the exhibition "Hommage à Jan Buck (IV): EVERYWHERE – NOWHERE – HOME", Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra

5.45–6 pm Musical setting – performance by the MAMADA ensemble, Upper and Lower Sorbian songs (part II)

HOMMAGE À JAN BUCK, 2022–2025

Research and exhibition project of the Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra

The oeuvre of perhaps the most important Sorbian artist of the 20th century, Jan Buck/Buck (1922–2019), who radically broke the exclusive folk paradigm of local art and paved the way for European modernism, is still too little known east of the Polish-German border. This happened, while still preparing the publication *Everything is a Landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck* and a series of exhibitions with the same title to mark the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth, the starting point for the project *Hommage à Jan Buck* (2022–2025). It was initiated at the Institute of Visual Arts of the University of Zielona Góra and consists of a series of research symposia and academic forums, as well as contemporary art exhibitions, which take place concurrently with the Jan Buck retrospective in Germany – in Lusatia – and in Poland – in Wrocław and Zielona Góra. This is because he has maintained particularly close contact with the art scene in these two cities.

The *Hommage à Jan Buck* project is an important contribution to international research aimed at revising traditional hierarchical cultural geographies and decentralising the canon of art history. It also addresses – especially in its artistic part – cultures of memory related to processes of migration and displacement, as well as questions about the status of national minorities in local and global contexts. In terms of horizontal art history, the project is oriented towards a more in-depth examination and strengthening of the cultural exchange between the "periphery" on both sides of the German-Polish border and the understanding of the cross-border phenomenon of the Lusatian region.

So far, four scientific conferences have been organised as part of the project in Budyšin/Bautzen, Chóšebuz/Cottbus and Wrocław, focusing on the one hand on the life and work of Jan Buck/Buck as a symbol of Sorbian identity, and on the other on the dynamics of German-Polish and Sorbian-Polish cultural interaction.

In addition, five accompanying exhibitions with works by Polish, Sorbian and German artists have been realised so far – *Hommage à Jan Buck (I): We Lived Tomorrow* in the Museum – Energijowa fabrika Hórnikecy/Energiefabrik Knappenrode and *Hommage à Jan Buck (II): We have seen the place, and After coal... Faces and Landscapes of Lusatia* at the Old Sailing Canvas Factory in Chóšebuz/Cottbus, as well as *Hommage à Jan Buck (III): Tamed* at the City Arsenal and *Hommage à Jan Buck (III): Tomasz Mielech. Traces of Memory...* at the Office of the Free State of Saxony in Wrocław. The variety of techniques represented in these exhibitions alludes to the interdisciplinary nature of Jan Buck/Buck's work. In terms of content, they reflect his experiences – the places he travelled to, his creative exchanges with Poland, his appreciation of local identity and environment, and his experience of oppression and persecution by totalitarian systems. Some of the works on display relate directly to Jan Buck/Buck's statements about art and the themes he explored in his painting, such as his fascination with exploring the cosmos and the light of the places he discovered during his many artistic journeys. Another important point of reference is the landscape and material cultural heritage of the cross-border region of Lusatia, part of which today belongs to the Polish Voivodeships Lubuskie and Lower Silesia.

The monumental *Hommage à Jan Buck* project - a pioneering project in the field of German-Polish Sorbian contemporary art history – will be completed in January 2025 in Zły Komorow/Senftenberg and summarised in a series of publications and films.

PhD Lidia Głuchowska

Scientific director of the Hommage à Jan Buck project

Institute of Visual Arts, University of Zielona Góra