



Friends of Polish Art
Founded 1937 Non-Profit Organization

*An Affiliate of the
American Council
for Polish Culture*



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**The FPA Newsletter
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*Submissions from FPA
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FPA FINE ARTS COMPETITION MAKES A STRONG COMEBACK AT THE GALERIA

One of Friends of Polish Art biggest achievements this year was bringing back the FPA Fine Arts Competition, formally known as “the Kubinski Fine Arts Competition”, after a ten-year-long break. It was possible thanks to a seamless and fruitful partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL) for which FPA is deeply grateful.



(L) Elijah Majeski and Ann Marie Curley, with her painting *Poletown: Song, Procession, Protest*;
(R) Terry Nagle, Halina Malinski, and his painting *Detroit River Plant #1*



(L) Nancy Kozlowski and her painting *Rzepak*. (R) Alex Clegg and his photo *Election Day*

Twenty-one talented Metropolitan Detroit artists representing different generations participated in the 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition, showing 74 striking and diverse art pieces, among them oil and acrylic paintings, drawings, watercolors, small sculptures and objects, digital photographs and prints, embroidery, head scarfs and costumes. The juror of the Competition, which took place at the OLS Galeria, was the designer/sculptor Martin Skalski. The post-competition exhibit ran for six weeks and was framed by a festive opening reception on October 5th, during which the awards were announced, and a more intimate closing reception on November 16th, with talks by the artists as its highlight. *(Continued on page 3)*

Please attend the next FPA General Membership Meeting and Elections,

on January 23, 2026, at 6:30 pm
at the American Polish Cultural
Center in Troy. Door opens at
6:00 pm. Program: officer
annual reports and elections of
the officers and directors.

*The FPA Polish Christmas
display at the ongoing
“Winter Traditions Around the World”
exhibition at the Port Huron
Museum Carnegie Center.
(L-R) Alina Klin, Brian Malski
and Patty Malski,
who arranged the display.*



**We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!
Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz szczęśliwego i zdrowego Nowego Roku!**



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NEWSLETTER

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Dear FPA Members,

Friends of Polish Art had a very productive autumn season. FPA was able to bring back **the Fine Arts Competition** (in collaboration with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research), conducted **the Literary Competitions** (for youth and adults) as well as partnered with the Polish Art Center in organizing **the Annual Szopka Competition**. (More about the Fine Arts and Literary Competitions in this newsletter.) Like the other competitions, the Annual Szopka Competition attracted an impressive number of entries. The awards ceremony for the best szopka took place at the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck on December 7th. Encouraged by high participation and positive feedback, FPA plans to organize and host these competitions again in 2026.

With the arrival of winter, we are pleased to host our Annual Wigilia. This event offers a festive holiday atmosphere and features many Polish Christmas traditions. Attendees will have the opportunity to share opłatek, enjoy a traditional meatless Christmas Eve dinner, view a Szopki display, and watch a 2025 FPA events photo presentation. The evening will also include a performance by the Wawel Song & Dance Ensemble, kolędy and English Christmas carol singing, and raffles. We hope you will join us for this special occasion.

Shortly after the new year commences, we will announce our scholarship and folk-dance grant programs and conduct our annual elections. Since 2005, we have been privileged to annually provide five Frank Filipek scholarships to students pursuing disciplines such as medicine, law, architecture, science, engineering, and the liberal arts. We are very grateful to the Filipek family for their generosity. Over the past two decades, approximately 100 students have benefited from awards ranging between \$1,500 and \$2,500 through the Filipek Scholarship program. Regrettably, these funds have been exhausted. To continue with the scholarship program, the FPA Board has approved the introduction of three scholarships of \$2,000 each from the Mitchell Scholarship fund, which will support studies in the fields previously covered by the Frank Filipek scholarship. This new initiative will be named the Mitchell Scholarship Program.

Our annual elections will take place at the end of January. We are currently accepting nominations for all officers and five director positions, as well as for the role of Nominating Committee Chair. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others to any position. Until we find a committee chair, please contact me if you can help the organization by serving as a member of the board.

It is also time to arrange payment of your annual dues for 2026. In addition to check payments, you may utilize the “payment button” on our website; please note that this method incurs a small service fee. If you choose to pay via PayPal or Venmo through the payment button, we kindly ask that you cover the additional service charge. If you pay your dues through electronic means, please contact Carol Surma, Financial Secretary, to update your contact information.

Since this is our last newsletter of the year, let me extend warm wishes to all members and their families for a blessed and safe holiday season and a healthy and very happy New Year: *Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!*

Warmest Regards, Brian Malski



FPA congratulates Mark Lewanski, a participant in last year's Polish section of the MM-O-DD Exhibition, on winning the Grand ArtPrize 2025 (\$100,000) for his glass sculpture “Arras” displayed at the Gerald R Ford Museum in Grand Rapids.

In the photo: two of Mark Lewanski's three woven glass pieces shown at the MM-O-DD exhibition last year. The exhibition was co-organized by FPA.

FPA FINE ARTS COMPETITION MAKES A STRONG COMEBACK AT THE GALERIA (Continued from Page 1)

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On display at the Galeria during the exhibit was a glass case filled with memorabilia from previous FPA competitions, including old programs and photos of the winners as well as small watercolors created by Richard Kubinski himself.

The FPA Kubinski Fine Arts Competition began in 1980. Over the years the competition, which was first intended only for artists of Polish descent, has evolved and now allows all artists in the community to participate. Many art pieces entered into the competition this year reflected broadly understood Polish themes and cultural values: strong evidence that the organizers achieved their goal of promoting Polish culture and heritage. Also carrying on the competition's legacy were two main awards, one given for the “Best Polish Theme” and one named after Richard Kubinski (“Best in Show - FPA Richard Kubiński Award”). In addition, other FPA awards commemorated a few deceased members of FPA, known for their dedicated work for the organization and for Polonia.

Big thanks to our partner, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake, to all the artists, and to juror Martin Skalski for making the competition, the opening and the closing so remarkable.

FPA congratulates all the artists whose works were in the show!

FPA LITERARY COMPETITIONS RETURN AND DAZZLE

FPA is very pleased that in 2025 many more entries than in the previous year were submitted to the FPA Literary Competitions, in both the youth and the adult categories.

A lot of credit for this success goes to **Pamela Saunders**, chair of the FPA Literary Competitions Committee, who supervised and promoted the competitions, which only a year ago were revived after a lengthy pause. Encouraged by this year's success, Friends of Polish Art is planning to continue the literary competitions.

The award ceremony, celebrating the writers and the art of storytelling took place on October 25th at the OLS Galeria. During the ceremony, the attendees thoroughly enjoyed six of the authors readings excerpts from their works.

This year the theme of the **Suzanne Marie Margaret Sloat - Youth Literary Competition** was “My adventures with a famous person of Polish descent or Polish legend or mythological creature”, while adult writers, submitting their entries to the **Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD Literary Competition** were asked to write historical fiction based on the life and accomplishments of one of the 2025 Patrons of Poland, chosen by the Polish Parliament.

The submissions to the competitions were judged on their creativity, treatment of a theme, style, also on how accurately they represented the historical contexts, as well as on grammatical correctness. The jurors - in alphabetical order – Alina Klin, Brian Malski, Mark Ozog, Jessica Saunders, and Pam Saunders very much enjoyed the creative storytelling and were impressed with the imaginative ways the works explored our rich Polish culture.

The first prize, and \$500 award in the adult competition went to **Sasha Gilders**, a Notre Dame student, for her cycle of poems *The Metronome of Warsaw*. The cycle traces the life of the poet, playwright and journalist, Antoni Słonimski, raised Catholic in an assimilated Jewish family from Warsaw, and captures his struggles with questions of identity, exile, censorship, and artistic freedom across a turbulent century. For her reading Sasha chose two poems from the beginning of the cycle, addressing the Polish-Jewish upbringing of the future poet and one from the end, describing life in Poland under Stalinism. You can read Sasha's amazing poems here: <https://polishweekly.com/the-metronome-of-warsaw-the-story-of-antoni-slonimski/>



(L) Brian Malski, Antoni Spiewak, Adam Kryczek, Ania Kryczek, Iliana Woloch, Sasha Gilders and Alina Klin



Lukasz Maciąg with his family

Ania Kryczek, a middle school student from Ann Arbor, won an award for her short story “Południca”. Written in Polish, it tells the story of a 13-year-old girl and her brother who went to a forbidden field and encountered the Południca, a demon that preys on those who are out in the field at high noon in the summer. During the reception that followed the ceremony, the very talented young author revealed that she has been working on a crime novel and has already written four chapters. Quite an achievement, indeed!

FPA whole-heartedly congratulates all 11 winners of the 2025 FPA Literary Competitions and encourages them to keep writing!



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*Stella & Rebecca Kinsey, winners of the third prize of the
2025 FPA Szopka Competition - Youth Division,
with jurors Iwona Jędrzejczak and Brian Malski*

Check out the FPA website:
<https://friendsofpolishart.org>

Like us on our Facebook page:
<https://facebook.com/friendsofpolishart/>

Winners of the 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition:

Nancy Kozlowski, for *Rzepak*, 2020, awarded the Best in Show - FPA Richard Kubiński Award (\$500.00), Ann Marie Curley, for *Poletown: Song, Procession, Protest*, 2025, awarded the Best Polish Theme - Polish Institute of Culture & Research Award (\$400.00), Terry Nagle, *Detroit River Plant #1*, 2024, awarded the First Place - FPA Marcia Lewandowski Award (\$400.00), Agnieszka Przyborowski, for *Poodle (Self-portrait)*, 2021, awarded the Second Place - FPA Raymond Okonski Award (\$300.00), Karolina Spiewak, for *Sacrifice*, 2023, awarded the Third Place - FPA B. John Surma Award (\$200.00), Grace Leonard, for *Polska 6105: Tożsamość w Ruchu*, 2025, awarded the FPA Honorable Mention in Memory of Jacqueline Kolowski (\$100.00), Alexander Clegg, for *Election Day*, 2024, awarded the FPA Honorable Mention in Memory of Mary Ellen Tyszka (\$100.00), Kathy Phillips, for *Kites*, 2022, awarded the FPA Honorable Mention in Memory of Wanda Gongola (\$100.00).

Winners of the 2025 Suzanne Marie Margaret Sloat - Youth Literary Competition:

- 1. Elementary School: Klara Wible (\$100.00)** for *A Mermaid's Tail*
- 2. Middle School: Ania Kryczek (\$125.00)** for *Południca* (the story was written in Polish)
- 3. High School: First Place (\$300.00): Antoni Spiewak** for *My Adventure with Skarbnik*, the Mine Guardian. (For this award, the original award of \$150 was matched by the American Council for Polish Culture); **(tie) Second Place (\$125.00): Adam Kryczek**, *Moje spotkanie z Bazyliuszkiem/ My Encounter with the Basilisk* (the story was written in Polish) and **Isabella Gilewski**, *Adventures of the Fern Flower*; **Three Honorable Mentions (\$50.00 each): Riley Courtney** for *Under Madame Curie's Glow*, **Elizabeth Miller** for *Nadzieja/ Hope* and **Ava Mortimore** for *The Syrenka of Warszawa*.

Winners of the 2025 Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD Literary Competition:

First Prize (\$500): Sasha Gilders for *The Metronome of Warsaw*, **Second Prize (\$300): Iliana Woloch** for *Portrait of a Girl*, **Third Prize (\$200): Lukasz C. Maciąg** for his short play *Mieszko II*.