

100 years of Polish design, 100 objects, 100 images, 100 stories , 25 illustrators

It's not easy to show 100 years of Polish design limiting oneself to just 100 objects. How to choose the most important ones? How to avoid the temptation to show icons only? How to capture the interest of more than just experts? How can we present the diversity of fields within design?

The exhibition combines past and present, showing the heritage of Polish design through the achievements of contemporary Polish graphic. We display 100 works of Polish designers that have been interpreted by 25 Polish illustrators. Among these visual artists there are people at different stages of their career, including experienced masters of the Polish school of illustration, artists from the young and medium generation who receive rewards all around the globe, as well as young, freshly graduated ones. Most of the visual artists whom we have invited illustrate children's books, at the same time working with broadly understood visual communication. They use different styles and techniques, but all of them have one thing in common: a huge talent.

Among the 100 designs, apart from furniture, glass or porcelain universally associated with design, we have included less obvious things such as: fonts, logos, kids' toys, a locomotive, a neon, a sailplane, a scooter and even the tastiest Polish treat: Ptasia Mleczko, as well as a rubber ring called Ringo – a Polish sports game. We present contemporary designs along with the ones that are already considered classical; unique objects, almost like singular works of art; prototypes that have never entered mass production; but also very popular things that have been used by Poles on a daily basis during the last 100 years.

The show consists not only of the 100 objects and their visual interpretations, but also of 100 stories: about designers, needs, dreams, possibilities and limitations. Not only does it speak of specific projects, but it also explains the designing process, the creation of ideas and the amazing concept of design in general, as the field of art that is the closest to people, because it surrounds us all every day and we couldn't live without it, although most of the time we are not aware of this fact.

The objects are presented in chronological order, which shows that certain materials, topics and forms keep reappearing throughout this 100-year long history of Polish design. The exhibition is addressed to a broad audience, including the youngest generation. The show was organised for the 100th anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty.

The exhibition has been organised by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute as part of its programme promoting Polish design internationally.

The event is held as part of an international cultural programme accompanying celebrations of the one hundredth anniversary of Poland regaining her independence.

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