

POLART INC.

PolArt Inc. is the governing body of all PolArt festivals staged in any city of Australia and New Zealand. PolArt festival organising committees are a subsidiary of the incorporated entity.



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Introducing the Vice Secretary of the PolArt Inc Committee



Cześć my name is Elżbieta Rombel (Ela) and I am the Vice Secretary for PolArt Inc. Apart from supporting the secretary, my role on the executive of PolArt Inc includes editing the newsletter and representing Orleża and the Polish Folkloric groups in New Zealand. Involvement with folkloric dance began in childhood. My parents settled in New Zealand after the 2nd World War and inspired me to love music, dance and all things Polish. Early memories include singing along to Mazowsze records and performing in national costume at Dom Polski heralding the start of a lifelong dream to embrace my Polish culture and share it with my children and others.

In the 90's the chance to form and coordinate a children's folkloric dance group, as part of Polish School, became a reality. Orleża was born and immediately embraced by the multicultural communities in the greater Wellington area. The colourful costumes, lively music and dances became highlights of many local festivals and concerts. In 2003 Orleża made their international debut at Sydney's PolArt. Since then they have featured in Childrens' Days as well as main concerts of PolArts Hobart 2006, Adelaide 2009, Perth 2012, Melbourne 2015 and Brisbane 2018. In April 2018, Orleża also participated in the Inaugural Childrens Dance festival in Sydney. My children and grand children have danced with New Zealand folkloric Dance groups Lublin and Orleża. My daughter Juliet has attended teaching courses in Lublin and completed workshops with Zespół Pieśni i

Tańca Śląsk im, Stanisława Hadyny in Koszęcin Poland. Her skills in dance and choreography have been invaluable in building a unique repertoire of dances for both Lublin and Orleża. I continue to coordinate Orleża and manage the wardrobe. Recent highlights for me include attending "Mazowsze" concerts at their Polish headquarters in Otrębusy.

My vision for the future of PolArt is in creating an enduring platform from which future generations can run festivals, participate in and express and share the love of Polish visual and performing arts. It is also my dream to welcome a PolArt festival in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Inspired by the overarching theme of PolArt Sydney 2022 - A Polish Tapestry Through Time - the PolArt Sydney 2022 logo is reminiscent of a subtle artistic element found commonly around the Polish home - koronka (lace). This intricate creative detail found on traditional folk clothing, everyday home-wears, and festive decorations, ties together all aspects of Polish life, culture and a traditional item that has also traversed time into the contemporary Polish psyche. The design was developed by committee member Jonathan (Johnny) Chawa, who has attended the past six consecutive PolArt Festivals. Johnny's objective was to create a logo that was unique and that could be instantly recognisable and memorable. Johnny cites inspiration from the Polish multi-disciplinary street artist Nespoon, who paints, weaves, and adheres lace patterns in her larger-than-life installations. The colour palette chosen is representative of the Polish flag - with red symbolising energy, strength, passion and love.

"Why laces? Because in laces there is an aesthetic code, which is deeply embedded in every culture. In every lace we find symmetry, some kind of order and harmony... isn't that what we all seek instinctively?" - Nespoon



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A POLISH TAPESTRY THROUGH TIME

BY YVONNE KOWER | CREATIVE DIRECTOR



Spirited young dancers twist and turn like the beautiful intricate patterns of delicate lacework created by a master artisan's touch

Graceful swaying hands gently imitate the weaving of fishing nets by elderly port-town villagers in a time gone by

Spinning skirts burst into a lively and breathtaking kaleidoscope of colours

A Polish Tapestry Through Time is a unique visual and emotional experience that connects the expression of Polish culture in Australia and New Zealand across different artistic disciplines. It is the collaboration of a diverse generation of talented artists celebrating Polish heritage through dance, music, song, literature, theatre, film and visual arts.

Stemming from age-old traditions, the festival of PolArt embodies the evolution of Polish culture in Australia - from its humble origins 50 years ago in Sydney as a vision of the Polish Women's Auxiliary to its influence in modern Polish Australian communities today. The 'father' of Polish ethnography, Oskar Kolberg, catalogued traditional folklore for the benefit of future generations. PolArt Festivals too, chronicle the cultural diversity of Australian and New Zealand communities.

Drawing upon Polish textile traditions that developed through history, the festival entwines distinct artistic disciplines to tell a story - like threads of wool finely woven into an intricate tapestry. Unique patterns are created, taught, inherited, and handed down over generations - contributing to a distinctive and multi-layered identity. They incorporate shared ideas, and thus evolve over time. This can be seen in the vibrantly coloured costumes worn by the festival's dancers which, to this day, reflect the same patterns used in handmade kilims originating centuries ago from the central regions of Lowicz, Opoczno and Sieradz- each deriving influence from each other, but distinct in their appearance.

Even the master composer of classical music himself, Frederic Chopin, was exposed to traditional folk music early in his youth, which later manifested in a plethora of Romantic Music that we still hear performed today.

Whether you are reconnecting with your heritage or discovering the Polish arts for the first time, PolArt Sydney 2022 will be your opportunity to fully experience and enjoy the richness and remarkable diversity of Polish culture.

PolArt Sydney 2022 welcomes you, as this Polish tapestry continues to weave its journey through time.





PolArt Inc's Q's and A's

Is there any funding assistance for organisers of PolArt Festivals?

PolArt organising Committees are eligible to apply for a number of funds to ensure the high standard required of hosting the festival. One of the most significant of these is the Rospond Family Foundation.

The Rospond Family Foundation was established in Melbourne by Zofia Jaskewycz, nee Rospond, to sponsor and develop Polish culture and the arts created in Australia and promoted through PolArt.

Who was Zofia Jaskewycz?

Zofia, the second daughter of Maria and Maciej Rospond, was born in Liszki Poland on April 10th 1934. The Rosponds were a prominent family in their community. Her father a Magistrate judge in Wieliczka before the war, heralded from a deeply religious/academic family which included, among others, Bishop Stanislaw Rospond, Fr Kazimierz Rospond and Fr Kazimierz Ciuba. In 1938 he received the prestigious Cross of Merit for his Community Service.

Zofia's mother's family (Dziewolski) are reported to have run guest houses during the interwar period, German occupation and the time when Poland became a Communist People's Republic. The guest houses "Old Manor House", "New Manor House", "Luna", "Granit" and "Hanka" were places where Polish elite used to meet. This undeniably resulted in development of the region. During the Second World War the houses played a crucial role as an important support for people who needed help. At the times of Communist People's Republic the guest houses became meeting points for a big family and helped to integrate all the family members. The wedding of Maria and Maciej was held in Krakow on July, 1930 blessed by brother of the groom.

How did Zofia get to Melbourne?

On January 10, 1959, at the age of 25 Zofia married, 'by proxy', a talented Melbourne research chemist, Taras Jaskewycz. Taras was a Ukranian immigrant. Her marriage was reportedly troubled and they had no children. To raise her spirits she immersed herself in the arts and culture of her home country. Zofia had an 'artistic soul', she loved visual arts and was often found engrossed in Polish books, attending concerts, films and supporting events organised by the Polish community in Melbourne. But when Zofia was introduced to PolArt she found 'her vehicle to encourage Polish art in Australia.'

What is the origin of the Rospond Family Foundation?

Zofia believed that through PolArt generations could enjoy Poland's bountiful artistic and cultural heritage in her adopted country. Her faith in PolArt was so strong that when she realised that she was terminally ill she decided to bequeath her estate and establish the Rospond Family Foundation for the purpose of funding future PolArt festivals. The foundation is a lasting reminder of her love and passion for the arts, the memory of her beloved family and of her Polish community.

How does the Foundation assist PolArt?

The PolArt festival is recognised by the Polish Government as the largest cultural event outside of Poland. In keeping with this, and with the wishes of the Foundation's benefactor, the first funds provided immediately after the last festival are to be used solely for the purpose of booking and securing the most prestigious venues in the host city of the next festival for all the following arts: theatre, folkloric dance, film, art exhibitions including visual arts such as painters, sculptors, graphics, moving images other than mainstream film, fine arts, literature and music.



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How is the funding administered ?

The Rospond Family Foundation is administered by Equity Trustees Wealth Services Limited and Trustee Mr John Kraus. Funding guidelines, application forms and acquittal processes are clearly specified and enquiries are to be directed to charities@eqt.com.au. PolArt Inc has been entrusted to support the host organising committees to access the funding to the required specifications and oversee the acquittal process.

In other news, what has your PolArt Inc been up to ?

- Meeting regularly by ZOOM
- Designing accountability documentation and quarterly report to ROSPOND Foundation Clarifying
- acquittal processes for ROSPOND funding
- Providing representation at Rada Naczelna meetings
- Supporting PolArt Sydney 2022 Committee to carry out their business plan
- Drafting letters, newsletters and collating membership details
- Updating the PolArt Inc website
- Sharing strategies to keep members safe during COVID
- Making required changes to Rules and Regulations to cater for COVID delays

Where can I get more information about PolArt Inc.?

You can find out more about what we do through our website: www.polartinc.com.au. Here, you can also view our previous newsletters and stay up to date as we archive all of our data from past PolArt Festivals from 1975-2018.

We would love to know what your group has been up to. Your news may be featured on the PolArt Inc website, Facebook page or newsletter. Please send all photos, articles and information to polartincorporated@gmail.com.au

PolArt Sydney 2022 News

Contribute To PolArt Sydney 2022

Planning for the festival is in full swing, with Expressions of Interest submitted to various major venues around Sydney. Our intention is to extend this festival's reach beyond the greater Sydney metro, with the inclusion of up to 80 public programs and events.

It takes a whole community of volunteers and partners from all areas to deliver a successful event. We warmly invite you to get involved to donate and to be a part of this exciting community festival.

Details: <https://polartsydney.com.au/donate/>

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest to participate in PolArt Sydney 2022 will launch on the PolArt Sydney 2022 website in February 2021.



PolArt Sydney 2022 Committee at the Car Rally Fundraiser in November 2020.

L-R: Renata Donati, Dana Douglas, Zara Borysewicz, Ewelina Ellsmore, Stephanie Pawlowski, Tomek Kukiela, Nathalie Budniak, Karolina Barry, and Victor Jarmusz.