

Marian Bohusz-Szyszko - painter, draughtsman, writer and educator. Born in 1901 in Trokieninkai in the Vilnius region. In 1921, he began his studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius under Ferdynand Ruszczyc and Mieczysław Kotarbiński, to move three years later to the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, where he studied in the studios of Władysław Jaroński, Józef Mechoffer, Felicjan S. Kowarski and Xawery Dunikowski, graduating in 1927 with a degree in painting. Between 1930 and 1935, he studied as a free student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. In addition to his diploma in painting and drawing, he also passed examinations allowing him to teach in secondary schools. At the same time, he studied mathematics. By 1939 he was working as a drawing teacher in Polesie, and later in Wejherowo and Gdańsk. As a volunteer, he fought in the September campaign in Oksywie, and after the capitulation was sent to Oflag in Lübeck, Germany. In the camp he had lectures on art. After his release he joined the 2nd Corps and became head of the Art Section of the Department of Culture and the Arts. In Cecchignola near Rome, he set up a Painting School for soldier-artists, organising exhibitions for them and writing for the Polish press in Italy. In November 1946, the 'Italian Painting School', with all its students, was transferred to the United Kingdom, and after two years renamed the Study of easel painting and applied graphics, based in London. In 1950, the Studio came under the auspices of the Academic Community of the USB in London, and later under the curatorship of the Polish University Abroad as its faculty. He then became dean of the faculty. He trained over a hundred artists. He was one of the best-known painters among the Poles in London. He painted mainly portraits and religious paintings. After 1963, he produced a series of works for the chapel of St. Christopher's Hospice in London and churches in England. The abstract form characteristic of his work often served him to express metaphysical content. In semi-abstract religious compositions, the figures of Christ and the Apostles are stripped of their human corporeal forms, which have been replaced by the concept of luminous coloured patches, purely painterly.

He wrote articles (including for "Wiadomości", "Kultura", "Orzeł Biały", "Życie"), collected in the book *O sztuce* (1982). He was a senior member of the "Group of 49", one of the initiators of the Association of Polish Artists in Great Britain and its honorary president, and a member of the Association of Polish Writers Abroad. Between 1934 and 1939 he had about 20 solo exhibitions in Poland, and after the war more than 30 in Rome, Florence, London, Hamburg, Munich, Paris, Gdansk (1981) and Warsaw (*We are*, 1991). He died in 1995 in London.

The works on show are a gift from Cicely Saunders, Halina Milne and Halima Nałęcz