

Wit Leszek Kaczanowski (Witold-K) - graphic artist, painter, sculptor, photographer, actor. Born in 1932 in Warsaw. Studied at the Faculty of Graphics of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw; he was a pupil of Wojciech Fangor and Henryk Tomaszewski. After his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts he designed posters, created graphics for the magazine "Świat" (World), illustrated stories by Stanisław Dygat, painted wall decorations, including the ceiling light in the theatre of the House of Culture in Oświęcim, and painted pictures. He participated in numerous group exhibitions, including the Young Visual Arts Exhibition in Warsaw (1956). He had his first individual exhibition in 1960 at the SPATiF Actors' Club in Warsaw. In these early paintings, he referred to Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore and Tadeusz Makowski. In 1964, he went to Paris on a scholarship. He studied and painted. He met Pablo Picasso, who painted a portrait of Witold-K. He received the Congress for Cultural Freedom award in Paris (1965) and had his first foreign exhibition at Galerie 3+2 in Paris in 1966. He showed 'figures', described by Jacques Prevert as 'people tormented by love in the fleeting silence and intrusive noise of everyday life.' A year later he took part in the 2nd Biennale Azurée in Cannes. In 1968 Kaczanowski travelled to New York. After his departure, he presented abstractions at an international exhibition of prints at La Boetie Gallery alongside such figures as Alexander Calder, Marc Chagall, Alberto Giacometti, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso. In the USA, he became friends with Roman Polanski, Wojciech Frykowski and Krzysztof Komeda. In 1969, he opened his own studio in Beverly Hills. He had his first retrospective at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles (1973). He lived and worked in Santa Fe (New Mexico) and Houston (Texas) before settling in Denver in 1980. He had an exhibition there at Gallery Arte (1988). His work includes easel and wall paintings, sculpture, printmaking and photography. He has designed sets and costumes for ballet and theatre. He also had an adventure in acting in the film Time to Die. Witold-K is also the author of the plafond in the theatre hall of the Oświęcim Cultural Centre (1961) and the plastic composition in front of the Museum of Modern Art in Houston (1975). Kaczanowski was the first Pole to have a retrospective at Sotheby's, the oldest auction house in Amsterdam (2007). The 60th anniversary exhibition of the artist's work included as many as 163 works. Typical of the composition of his paintings are small human figures suspended in an undefined space. These silhouettes remain anonymous and lost, becoming evidence of loneliness and alienation, perfectly reflecting the human condition in modernity.

The works on show are a gift from the artist