

**Halina Julia Korngold** was born on 22 January 1902 in Warsaw, to a Jewish family. Her father Julian was a representative of foreign leather goods companies. Her mother, who came from a petit bourgeois background, grew up in a small provincial town near Lyon in France. Halina Korn had three brothers and an older sister, Jadwiga.

After graduating from the private all-female Antonina Walicka Gymnasium in Warsaw, she began studying journalism at the Warsaw School of Political Science. At the same time, she studied singing with Adela Comte-Wilgocka and Stanisława Korwin-Szymanowska.

In 1938, she met the painter Marek Żuławski at the IPS café. In August 1939, they met on holiday in St. Malo, Brittany, and there they were caught up in the Second World War. Marek, who had an English visa, returned to London and Halina stayed in France, in Paris, trying to find work. In October, thanks to Marek's help, she got a position as a stenographer in the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Republic of Poland. In November, she moved with the Government from Paris to Angers. In May 1940, after the fall of France, she boarded a ship at Cape Grave which, after a few days, arrived on the coast of Cornwall at Falmouth, where she was placed in a refugee camp and from where she made contact with Marek. She worked at the Polish embassy in London until the end of the war.

Towards the end of the war, she learned that her entire large family had been murdered during the occupation by the Germans and that her sister had died in Auschwitz. This caused a nervous breakdown and triggered her bipolar disorder (alternating cycles of depression and euphoria), with which she struggled for the rest of her life.

Around 1941, she began painting and sculpting. In January 1948 she had her first solo exhibition at London's Mayor Gallery, and in February of the same year she married Marek Żuławski.

In the 1950s she collaborated with the BBC radio station writing exhibition reviews and texts on art ('Round the Galleries' programme).

Around 1957, she began to write her childhood memoirs, entitled *Holidays End in September* (they were published in Warsaw in 1983).

In the 1950s and 1960s she exhibited a lot, both in solo and group exhibitions.

In mid-1965, due to a worsening illness, she underwent neurological surgery, after which she stopped creating. In September 1974, after a serious heart attack, she was admitted to Mabledon Hospital (Kent).

Halina Korn died on 2 October 1978 and was buried on 6 October in London's Kensal Green cemetery.

She had several solo exhibitions: in London, Edinburgh and New York, including a series of exhibitions in Poland (Warsaw, Krakow, Gdynia, Katowice). In England, she has exhibited with the London Group, Royal Academy, Women's International Art Club, among others.

She was a member of the Artists International Association (AIA) and a founding member of the Arts Society of Paddington.

Halina Korn's works can be found in the National Museums in Warsaw and Poznan, London's Ben Uri Gallery and in many private collections, including The Anthony Petullo Collection of Self-Taught and Outsider Art.