

Andrzej Kuhn - born in 1929 in Lviv. In 1940, the eleven-year-old Andrzej, together with his mother and sister, was deported deep into Russia to Kazakhstan and his father was deported to a camp. The painter's mother tried to escape with her family, but was captured and died in a prisoner of war camp. The children were placed in an orphanage. After three years in Russia, together with their father, who had been released from the camp, the family found themselves in the Middle East. From there, after many crossings, via Iran, Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon, the painter made his way to Great Britain in 1947, where he enlisted in the merchant navy and visited half the world. After a few years, he quit sailing, settled permanently in England and devoted himself entirely to painting. After six years, he obtained a scholarship at the Chelsea School of Art. In 1962, Andrew Kuhn left London for Lincolnshire on the east coast, north of Boston. The painter created a studio in his - nearly 200-year-old house, calling it 'Atlantis'. The old house on the coast where he lived with his sculptor wife and its surroundings had a profound influence on the painter's artistic vision. The artist did not advocate any orientation, he did not take a stand on the artistic front, he was unique, consistently unchanging, free from the influence of ad hoc fashions or trends. He wanted to convey his thoughts to us in the most orderly, precise and sincere way possible, which is why he used symbols and the meanings they carry. In his paintings we see influences from Makowski, Chagall, Rousseau, Persian miniatures and Byzantine icons. His painting is highly decorative and decidedly Polish. It is a world contained between fairy tale and metaphor, a world born of the artist's life experiences, of what happened to him in his young life. Remaining close to his Polish heritage, Andrzej Kuhn regularly performed with the Association of Polish Artists in Britain (APA). In the early 1960s, the Polish gallerist Jan Wieliczko took a particular interest in his work and since then his paintings were regularly shown at the Wieliczko Centaur Gallery, first on Portobello Road in West London and then in Highgate. The painter also had many exhibitions at the Goldmark Gallery in Uppingham, the Drian Galleries in London and the Rowan Gallery in Helensburgh. He died in 2014 in Lincolnshire, UK.

The works on show are a gift from Jarosław Koźmiński and Halima Nałecz