

**Zdzisław Ruzkowski** - was born on 5 February 1907 in Tomaszów Mazowiecki. He grew up in a family of artists - his father Waclaw was a painter. He studied law at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków (1924-1929) under Wojciech Weiss, Józef Mehoffer, Stanisław Kamocki and Władysław Jarocki. After his studies, he did his military service and then moved to Warsaw, where he joined the painters grouped around Felicjan S. Kowarski. The artist's painting *Pejzaz z Żoliborza* (Landscape from Żoliborz) was exhibited at the first exhibition of the Pryzmat group (1933). Between 1935 and 1939, he stayed in Paris, from where he sent his works to the second exhibition of Pryzmat to the Warsaw Institute of Art Propaganda (1938). In Paris, he was fascinated by Cezanne, and Van Gogh and became friends with Waclaw Zawadowski. In his early work, Zdzisław Ruzkowski was influenced by French Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. He was inspired by the style of Van Gogh. He imitated Van Gogh's expressionist approach to colour, which he superimposed using the divisionist principle of breaking up a colour patch into primary colours. In England in the 1970s, the artist developed his own original style. He broke with Impressionism in favour of synthetic pictorial forms, but using an expressive colour palette. In the 1950s and 1960s, in the landscapes he painted in Italy and Spain, he created compositions based on strong colour contrasts. He applied the term haloism, which he invented, to his work, which consisted of building an image with light and depicting strongly lit objects around which a luminosity was produced in the form of a halo. In the early 1950s, he began to realise his own visions flowing from his individual perception of nature. He exhibited a great deal, both individually and collectively, including in Warsaw, London and Paris. He met Matthew Smith, Alberto Giacometti and many of the leading artists living in Paris during this period. When war broke out in 1939, he joined the Polish army and made his way from France via Spain to Gibraltar from where he sailed to Scotland, where he met and married Jennifer McCormack. He travelled extensively, and painted. During the war he joined the Polish army being formed in Scotland. After the war, he moved to London. In the 1950s/60s he spent time in Venice, Spain and Cyprus. Since the end of the Second World War he has created paintings reflecting his own visions of nature. In 1941 he exhibited his work at the Royal Scottish Academy of Art and in 1946 he took part in The London Group Exhibition. The artist's first successful solo exhibition was at Roland Browse and Delbanco Gallery (1948). In the 1960s he exhibited repeatedly at Leicester Gallery. His last exhibition of work was at Schwartz Sackin Fine Arts in London (December 1990). Ruzkowski was one of the few émigré painters to live up to his monograph, written by Josef Paul Hodin in the 1960s. Ruzkowski was financially successful and his art was highly regarded, exhibiting in the best London art galleries. Ruzkowski's oeuvre is a testament to his mastery of various artistic genres. He was a versatile artist, equally adept at portrait, landscape and still life painting. He died in 1991 in London.

The works on show are a gift from Jerzy Pietrkiewicz