An Encounter with the Art of Rafał Malczewski

Dr. Jan Zaleski
Scientist & Collector

When: **Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 3 PM**

Where: **Associated Polish Home (Dom Polski), 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114**

Free admission

Join us for the lecture, with pączki and coffee!

About the Lecture

Before the outbreak of World War II, Rafał Malczewski, son of the great painter Jacek Malczewski, was one of the most important figures in the artistic world of Zakopane. He was not only a painter but also a writer fascinated by the beauty of the Tatra Mountains. In December 1939 he was guided across the Pieniny Mountains into Slovakia, from where he made his way through Hungary and Venice to Paris. At the end of 1942, Rafał Malczewski arrived in Canada, where he remained for the rest of a life full of longing for the Tatras and of financial hardship. He visited Poland only once, in 1959, at the invitation of the communist authorities. He was horrified by the scale of the war damage in Warsaw, could not find the Zakopane he had known before the war, and could not accept the political situation. He left Poland sooner than planned, and the authorities canceled the exhibition of his paintings at the National Museum. It did not take place until 2006, and that event restored Rafał Malczewski's magnificent painting to its rightful place in Polish art.

About the Lecturer

Dr. Zaleski is a graduate of the Faculty of Biology of the University of Warsaw, where after completing his studies he did research and teaching at the university's Institute of Biochemistry and earned his doctorate. From 1979 to 1997 he continued his research in the USA. He is the author of several dozen scientific papers on the regulation of cellular metabolism and the metabolism of carcinogenic compounds. His eclectic art collection, assembled in the time left over from his scientific work, includes Polish, American, and African art. The central place in this collection is held by a collection of prints comprising works made from the 16th century to the 21st. His collection of paintings is presented in Czesław Czapliński's well-known album of Polish paintings in the private collections of Poles living abroad. Paintings by Rafał Malczewski are the most important part of this collection.

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