Mr. Cogito's Unruly Children: On New Polish Literature after the Breakthrough of 1989

Jarosław Anders
Writer, Translator, Literary Critic, Journalist & Political Analyst

When: **Sunday, December 4, 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

The change of political system in Poland in 1989 also had an enormous impact on Polish culture. This is clearly visible in the disputes of the 1990s over the place, role, and shape of literature, and especially of poetry. These discussions resulted in a radical departure by the younger generation of writers from the "Miłosz–Herbert" tradition of poetic reflection on "great" moral, cultural, historical, and metaphysical questions. The (then) young poets and prose writers called for "coming down to earth" and for seeking inspiration in everyday life, in the private sphere, and in Western models of postmodern culture. Why did such a radical change of perspective come about? Did it have to happen? What is the balance of gains and losses for Polish literature? What does new Polish literature have to offer readers in Poland and abroad? What does the Nobel Prize in Literature for Olga Tokarczuk, a representative of new Polish writing, signify?

About the Lecturer

Jarosław Anders was born in Warsaw in 1950. He has lived in the United States since 1981. He studied English philology at the University of Warsaw. Among other things, he worked on the editorial staff of the monthly *Literatura na Świecie* and translated English-language literature. In the United States he taught Polish language and literature at Columbia and Yale Universities and worked for many years in the Polish Section and later in the English-language section (Worldwide English). He has published reviews, essays, and scholarly articles in, among others, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*, *Polish Review*, and *Liberties*. From 2007 until his retirement in 2021 he worked at the U.S. Department of State, where he dealt with human rights and democracy in Eastern Europe. He lives in Washington, D.C.