

POLISH ART AND SCIENCE MISSION IN JAPAN



Since 2012, the Polish Art and Science Mission in Japan has been successfully organising artistic events in Japan (mainly in Okayama Prefecture) and Poland, introducing the Japanese public to the richness of Polish culture and art, and the Polish public to the culture of Japan.

Flagship events realised during this period include participation in the "Festival without Borders" in Różanystok (2012), the Polish-Japanese painting exhibition "New Painting from Poland and Japan" at Tenjinyama Bunka Plaza in Okayama (2014), the Polish poster exhibition "Eye on Poland" with a curatorial lecture by prof. Frankowski at the Ushimado City Museum (2015), a concert by the group "Volosi" in Setouchishi (2016), a silk painting exhibition "Dimensions of Space- Landscapes on silk" by prof. Joanna Stasiak with a lecture by prof. Magdalena Durda-Dmitruk at the Ushimado City Museum (2017), an evening of Polish poetry "Some like poetry" at the Reness Hall Okayama (2017), participation in the "Jikihitsu" conference in Warsaw (2019), a preview screening of the film "Exodus" by the ensemble "Silesia" at the Oku City Library (2020), the realisation of the project "Sgraffito in Okayama, Polish Tradition-Japanese Inspirations" as part of the IAM competition "Cultural Bridges 2021".

This culminated in the 2023/24 project "Sgraffito in Setouchishi - Open Museum" in collaboration with the City of Setouchishi, Oku Prefectural High School and the Fukutake Foundation, as part of the civic budget, which aims to enhance the cultural potential and attractiveness of the High School.

As part of this two-year project, the high school students created wall realisations of 40 m² on the walls of the school, using the sgraffito technique, which has been used for centuries in Poland but is virtually unknown in Japan.

In a series of preparatory workshops (April-July), the students learned about the history of this lime technique and its examples in Poland (Krasieczyn Palace, the Old Town in Warsaw), made small sgraffito works and went through the stage of conceptual work, designing the planned murals and preliminary work (preparing the wall and the materials - lime and sand).

During these years, four sgraffito works of the 'Four Seasons'-'Spring' and 'Summer', 'Autumn' and 'Winter'-were produced.

In the design of the completed murals, motifs from the paintings of Takehisa Yumeji (1884-1934), the great romanticist of the Taisho era, who was born precisely in the village of Oku, were used.

We look forward to the future, believing that many new projects and events will be our contribution to bringing Japanese and Polish, and therefore European, cultures closer together.