

Title: Polish Artists in Brittany

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Abstract:

Numerous talented Polish artists of the mixed Jewish, Ukrainian and Lithuanian ethnic backgrounds rediscovered their new inspirations while visiting or living in Brittany at the turn of the twentieth century. These artists included, among others, Anna Bilińska-Bohdanowiczowa, Olga Boznańska, Konstanty Brandel, Henryk Epstein, Henryk Hayden, Henryk Gotlib, Karolina Grabowska, Gustaw Gwozdecki, Mojżesz Kisling, Roman Kramsztyk, Tamara Lempicka, Maria Łunkiewicz-Rogoyska, Tadeusz Makowski, Ludwik Marcoussis (Markus) Karol Mondral, Szamaj Mondzain, Mela Muter, Józef Pankiewicz, Jan Rubczak, Władysław Ślewiński, Włodzimierz Terlikowski, Władysław Wankie, Joachim Weingart, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (Witkacy), and Eugeniusz Zak. Many of these remarkable painters left a lasting mark on the French artistic life, participating actively in the major international art movements, capturing in their canvases the nature, the landscapes, and the folks from the small villages and towns situated in Brittany on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. This paper will examine the works and achievements of these exceptional artists, their fascination with the immensity of the Atlantic that reminded them of the Baltic Sea, to which they had a limited access, and their preoccupation with the rustic life style of fishermen comparable to that of the mountaineers from the Tatra Mountains.