

Tłumaczenie: Marcin Kubas
/Student I roku Filologii Angielskiej, PWSZ w Oświęcimiu/

Shoemakers' mosaic. A new reveal.

An exceptional event of the year 2022 is the revealing of Chełmek's mosaic. Over the decades, it has decorated the hardly available staircase connecting the halls of no longer operational shoe factory. Thanks to MOKSIR workers' effort and generosity of the heads of Zakład Usług Technicznych "Promech" S.C plant, the extraordinary work of art is going to remain as part of our town's cultural legacy. When the disassembly and renovation works are going to be complete, it will be presented in the Hala Widowiskowo - Sportowa during the upcoming weeks.

Mosaic art technique was known in ancient times. The oldest preserved mosaics are dated to be five thousand years old. Although classically made out of glass, stone or ceramic, the progress in the development of materials and technologies allowed us to admire, nowadays, pieces of art so different from the classical concept.

Chełmek's mosaic is an undoubtedly exceptional example. It distinguishes itself from the others thanks to its artistic value and material it is made of. The mosaic measuring over twenty square meters is a composition made out of large amounts of colorful rags and pieces of leather. It is upheld in a toned range of ocher, bronzes, yellows and whites. It presents Earth's grid system with twenty-four shoes embedded in it. They realistically represent the shoe models produced at the end of 1980s by PZPS Chełmek. During those years the leather diptych was created. Józef Put, visual artist, was the originator and the creator of the project. At that time he was the head of the plant's art section. The section was a part of Zakładowy Ośrodek Kształcenia i Informacji(ZOKI) PZPS Chełmek structure. Along with him, the mosaic was built by the other visual artists - Elżbieta Sworzeniowska, Eugenia Remsak, Józefa Preinl. The technicalities and assembly was realized by Stanisław Słowiński and Jan Sworzeń. Having conducted interviews with: Elżbieta Sworzeniowska, Józef Put and Ryszard Fudała, the editors of 'Echo Chełmka' were not able to pinpoint exact date when the shoe apotheosis was first unveiled. Our interlocutors still remember some interesting facts and trivia. The team is also responsible for two other, similar, works of art. It is unknown what has happened to them.

An impulse towards their creation was not a directive of the authorities, but the visual arts team's own creative thinking. The team itself was only responsible for painting the commemorative paintings covering factory and town walls. The unveiling of the first mosaic, Put remembers, has excited the factory board so much, they decided to give bonuses.

Elżbieta Sworzeniowska remembered the fact that the Canadian trading partners were willing to buy the work of art no matter the price. As of now, the internet article regarding the renovation efforts raised the interest of residents, art lovers, internet users and the media. The artistic and historical values have touched many people.

The journalists of Radio Kraków, Gazeta Polska, Dziennik Polski, Polish Press Agency, Dzieje.pl, Portal Samorządowy and Radio Bielsko are emphasizing the uniqueness of the artwork. There is no other like it in the world. The opinion is shared by professor Andrzej Tobis, a renowned artist, lecturer of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Katowice. Painter, educator and photographer has entered the documentation of the leather piece of art into his own artistic project - 'A-Z (Gabloty edukacyjne)'. The fact that the unveiling occurred during the ninetieth anniversary of the first Polish shoe factory in Chełmek, gives it the symbolic meaning. The works including: disassembly, renovation and assembly in the Hala Widowiskowo - Sportowa have been performed by the MOKSIR workers and co-workers: Piotr Iwo Cebrat, Jacek Stokłosa, Łukasz Ciejek

Media coverage on the mosaic:

https://gazetakrakowska.pl/pracownicy-moksiru-w-chelmku-uratowali-niezwykle-dzielo-unikatowa-mozaika-ze-skory-obuwniczej-ma-20-m-kwadratowych-zdjecia/ar/c15-16036423?fbclid=IwAR3xW_Co5eV-bINPGT_KA8ykL77IKmZZA9Rwjmo1EefaAnorSHwZuk4Wc38

Portal Samorządowy

https://www.portalsamorzadowy.pl/polityka-i-spoleczenstwo/mozaike-ze-skory-obuwniczej-ratuja-dzialacze-kultury-z-chelmka,349873.html?fbclid=IwAR37gQQz_wQg78HzJkfIrXWzwwP4rTInbPPvc4WcIopOO8d7Bt09g3sfGbo

Dziennik Polski

https://dziennikpolski24.pl/pracownicy-moksiru-w-chelmku-uratowali-niezwykle-dzielo-unikatowa-mozaika-ze-skory-obuwniczej-ma-20-m-kwadratowych-zdjecia/ar/c15-16036423?fbclid=IwAR3kft8bWkaTdJpVhNoIK9m5FtIcLJ0oJhqBs_cjh8v0Y5VGPXixatjW44

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Dzieje.pl

https://www.radiobielsko.pl/wiadomosci/czegos-takiego-nie-ma-w-polsce-ani-europie-oni-odkryli-to-na-nowo/50923?fbclid=IwAR2Q9qB4KWfp81eNG-f5fBIfNQAYt4Z4B__0p5fqSJbi4aoTbgShzt-7WP0

Radio Kraków

https://www.radiokrakow.pl/aktualnosci/malopolskazachodnia/pracownicy-osrodka-kultury-z-chelmka-chca-uratowac-mozaike-z-dawnych-zakladow-obuwnicznych-zdjecia?fbclid=IwAR3xW_Co5eV-bINPGT_KA8ykL77IKmZZA9Rwjmo1EefaAnorSHwZuk4Wc38

Radio Kraków- autor artykułu Marek Mędela

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XM6mNxuLVtU>

Radio Bielsko

https://www.radiobielsko.pl/wiadomosci/czegos-takiego-nie-ma-w-polsce-ani-europie-oni-odkryli-to-na-nowo/50923?fbclid=IwAR2Q9qB4KWfp81eNG-f5fBIfNQAYt4Z4B__0p5fqSJbi4aoTbgShzt-7WP0