

Andrzej Bielak

WHAT'S GOING ON IN GOLDSMITHING IN POLAND?

AUTHOR: SUSANNE HEUER

Andrzej Bielak emerged as a gallery owner from his production and design of jewelry. Together with his wife Barbara Kanska Bielak, he manages the Krakow-based Gallery Bielak. The couple is well known as active organizers of exhibitions, even beyond the borders of Poland.

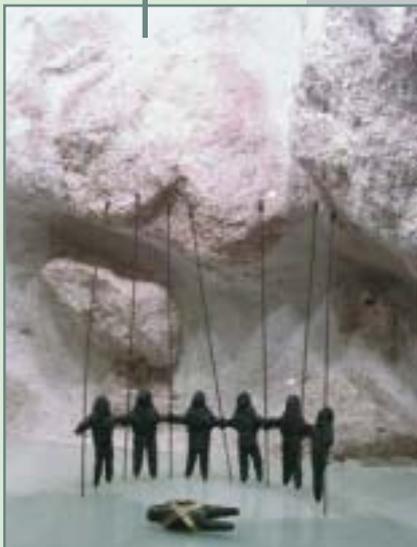


Esther Knobel's contribution to the Dialogue exhibition



Interior view of Gallery

Dialogue is the topic of the exhibition by Theo Mattar and Esther Knobel; here a piece by Theo Mattar



Ring, ceramics, Castello Hansen, exhibition of Swedish Jewelry



Object, Aud Charlotte Ho Sook Sinding, exhibition of Swedish Jewelry



Unusual necklace by Ida Forss, exhibition of Swedish Jewelry



Andrzej Bielak and Barbara Kanska Bielak promote their exhibition

time and again. Jewelry production is also the source of Bielak's livelihood, as he freely admits. He runs a small studio, where he works with friends on his collection, which is on sale throughout the world. In addition to trade fairs in Poland, Andrzej Bielak also attends the in-hor-genta europe in Munich, where visitors can marvel at his work at the Design Podium.

His participation in the competitions around the Silbertrienale by the German Society of Goldsmith Art plainly demonstrates his feel for the artistic side. He has been awarded the official status of artists thanks to a state commendation to mark his tireless efforts. Accordingly, after the political transformation in Poland in 1991, he joined with 14 friends in founding the Goldsmithing Artists' Association. As initiator and co-founder, Andrzej Bielak is now the president of the organization representing around 110 members; it is present on an international stage as an important industry association in Poland.

Polish jewelry artists and goldsmiths can use the organization to gain access to exhibitions and competitions or can use the Goldsmithing Artists' Association in order to network contacts.

The jewelry designer did not throw in his hat as a gallery owner until three years ago. A medieval cellar right in the center of the Krakow Old Town lends Gallery Bielak its unique ambience. A long staircase leads visitors down into the darkened rooms, where the exhibition pieces shine out at visitors from niches hewn into the walls. Each niche forms a separate room, which, depending on the topic of the exhibition or the participating artists, can be designed in the form of a miniature stage. The exhibition Swedish Jewelry, initiated by Mona Wallstrom and Marie-Jose van den Hout, was a big success last year in Gallery Bielak. The presentation is now making guest appearances in Europe's most important jewelry galleries. Based on the experience with this exhibition, the gallery owner Bielak developed the concept of a platform upon which contemporary goldsmiths and jewelry artists could network all around the world in order to inform others of their events and exhibitions. His concept, which he sent off by e-mail in April, went to all major European jewelry galleries. However, goldsmiths and jewelry artists can also register with this communications platform. Andrzej Bielak, talented organizer and action artist in one person, will also succeed in bringing together interested parties in this concept. <<<

www.bielak.krakow.pl
www.stfz.art.pl



Andrzej Bielak unites playfulness with jewelry



Pendant by Mila Kalunitskaya, exhibition "Not for sale"



Pendant "Little secret" by Micha Maslennikov



Theo Mattar, ship pendant



Jewelry by Marcin Tyminski



Photos: Barbara Kanska Bielak