

**GAZETA WYBORCZA ŁÓDŹ, January 13th, 2005, Małgorzata Ludwisiak,
Translation from Polish to English by Maria Apanowicz.**

New Place on the culture map of Łódź. Quite clear art

The Patio Gallery has become richer in space for organizing exhibitions. The first exposition is at the same time a discovery of an artist almost unknown in Poland.

"This is our third room on the premises of WSHE (Arts and Economy College)", says Aurelia Mandziuk, the director of Patio Gallery, "This one is near the library. It is worth showing the best art in a place devoted to education".

With a chisel and axe Jan de Weryha-Wysoczański is the artist inaugurating the activity of this gallery branch. He comes from Gdańsk, but has lived in Hamburg for 24 years. He has taken part in many exhibitions all over the world. His best known sculpture is a monument at the Museum - Memory Place for the concentration camp in Neuengamme near Hamburg, commemorating Poles deported from the Warsaw uprising. And yet, until now there has been no exhibition of his works in Poland. "He is a modest artist, without the self-marketing mechanism", explains Leszek Golec from the Centre of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko, one of the exhibition organizers. "And people like his art, because it is quite clear". Weryha's Polish debut is a matter of chance. "We met last year at an exhibition in Schlezwig", says Henryk Gac from the Centre of Contemporary Art in Warsaw. "I decided to organise his exhibition immediately. We already have plans for the coming year".

Why the title 'Wood - Archive' ? "There are selected artist's works from his various periods. Some look like wooden library shelves. The way of his working is also very traditional: chisel and axe. And besides, wood is slowly becoming an archival material", Gac explains. Following ants' example. The artist himself finds the pieces of wood for his sculptures in nature. "I would never think of cutting down a tree", he says. "I've been working with this material for seven years. This is a material to delight in, to open up and present".

He looks for patterns for his sculptures in the works of nature: ant hills, bee nests or stacks of wood. He uses the rhythm known from architecture.

The new gallery under the common name of WSHE starts with a strong accent of good art and well known names of curators. Previously the Patio Gallery showed interesting 'Flags' of Tomasz Sikorski, and the plans include Edward Łazikowski's sculpture exhibition. The map of Łódź is gaining a new, ambitious place. Aurelia Mandziuk says "I'm trying to reach the best patterns".

Jan de Weryha-Wysoczański is showing his sculptures at the exhibition "Wood-Archive" in the new space of Patio Gallery working at the Arts and Economy College at 26 Sterling Street. The exhibition prepared together with the Centre of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko will be open until February 15th.