**THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME OF THE POLISH PRESIDENCY**

**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ABROAD**

**Polish Presidency exhibitions in the buildings**

**of the Council of the European Union**

**and the European Parliament**

**14th January – 30th June 2025: A “Regeneration” – themed presentation of contemporary Polish art and design in the buildings of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament**

**Curator: Aleksandra Kędziorek**

Regeneration is a cohesive theme that brings together this presentation of contemporary Polish art and design in the buildings of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament in honour of Poland’s presidency of the Council of the European Union. Full of positive energy and geared toward the future, the presentation speaks to the need to care for our shared resources, to build resilience, practice interpersonal and inter-species solidarity, and foster a sense of security and comfort. It includes works by Polish artists, often of the youngest generation, boldly entering the international art and design scene.

Their works show Poland’s fresh and modern face, which in 2025 returns to the Presidency of the European Union as an essential player co-determining its future and security.

**● “We Are the Weather” installation by Alicja Patanowska (Justus Lipsius building, Brussels)**

Alicja Patanowska’s “We Are the Weather” installation will be presented in the atrium of the Justus Lipsius building. Its central motif is water, which is a symbolic life source and a metaphor for interspecies interdependence.

The installation consists of three complementary elements that create a narrative about the need for cooperation and solidarity in the face of global climate challenges. The fountains tell the story of climate change from the perspective of water: the cobalt’ water catchers’ remind us that water is a priceless resource that needs to be cherished, shared and protected collectively, while the composition of ceramic tiles forms a visual story about its limited availability. The work encourages reflection on our interdependence, solidarity and cooperation – critical values in pursuing a safe and sustainable future for Europe.

The installation’s title was borrowed from Jonathan Safran Foer’s book “We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast” (2019).

The exhibition design: Supergirls Do Design (Matylda Halkowicz, Marta Szostek)  
Partners: Dekoma, The Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław

Alicja Patanowska (b. 1983) is a potter, visual artist, designer and doctor of the arts. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław, Poland (PhD) and the Royal College of Art in London (MA). Her works are part of the art and design collections of the National Museum in Krakow and the Shanghai Museum of Glass, among others.

**● “Underneath the Hard Ground, Soft Ground” installation by Alicja Biała at the headquarters of the Council of the European Union (Europa Building, Brussels)**

Young Polish artist Alicja Biała boldly takes on the main forum of the Europa building with an installation created using one of the oldest graphic techniques, copper-plate engraving, in a modern and relevant setting. On twelve large brass panels, Biała shows Central European plants with regenerative properties, whose vegetation cycles follow the months of the year. Outlines of human figures appear in the garden they create. The composition becomes a metaphor for harmony and balance in the world, and its mirrored surfaces make each viewer and passer-by reflected in it feel like a part of this magical regenerative garden.

Alicja Biała (b. 1993) is a multidisciplinary and multimedia artist based between Poland, the Netherlands, and the UK, who creates everything from large-scale murals and sculptures through architectural and lighting installations to drawings and etchings.

Her work has been exhibited in galleries and institutions internationally, including The Roberts Institute of Art and Liverpool Biennial (UK), the Museum of Contemporary Art Krakow (PL), and the Galerie Hussenot (FR). She graduated from The Royal Drawing School and holds an MA from The Royal College of Art in London (UK).

**● A presentation of Polish art from the collection of the European Parliament and other Polish collections (European Parliament, Brussels)**

Works by renowned Polish artists will be on display at the European Parliament – “we sought to create a space to pause amidst the everyday hustle and bustle and an opportunity to reflect and marvel at nature’s magnificence,” says Aleksandra Kędziorek, the exhibition’s curator. She selected pieces from the European Parliament’s art collection, augmented by paintings on loan from Warsaw galleries and private collectors. The exhibitions will feature works by artists such as Roman Artymowski, Alicja Bielawska, Zbigniew Rogalski, Emilia Kina, Zofia Kulik and Tomasz Tatarczyk.

The presentation of artwork will be complemented by a space for relaxation and quiet work, designed by Katarzyna Baumiller and featuring the best contemporary Polish design.

**● A presentation of Polish design, graphic design and illustration in the headquarters of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament (the Justus Lipsius and Europa buildings, the European Parliament building, Brussels)**

**Interior design: Katarzyna Baumiller**

Polish architect Katarzyna Baumiller designed the space. She is an architect, a graduate of the Faculty of Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology, co-founder of the BaumillerKossowska studio, and currently the owner of Katarzyna Baumiller Studio. She has created and co-created countless interior design projects, always pinpointing a space’s distinctive character and creating unique concepts for each specific space, many of which have been presented in the press in Poland and abroad. In 2024, she was included in Architectural Digest Poland magazine’s AD100 list.

**Featured brands and designers:**

Agnieszka Bar, , Bluba Studio (Kajetan Luteracki), Comforty (Maja Ganszyniec), Dérive, The Good Living & Co., Hasik Design Studio, Malwina Konopacka, MOST (Alicja Bielawska, Barbara Janczak, Antonina Kiliś, Anna Libera, Ana Vostruchovaitė), Mozi Studio (Monika Gradzik), NODI Studio, NODI x Witka Studio, Noti (Tomasz Augustyniak, Nikodem Szpunar), NÓW. Nowe Rzemiosło (Anna Bera, Jakub Święcicki), Pani Jurek, Rafa Ceramic (Ewa Baraniewska), SALAK Studio, Mati Sipiora, Siup Studio, SPLOT (Edgar Bąk, Dominika Krogulska-Czekalska, Zofia Strumiłło-Sukiennik), Studio Szpunar (Kamila Szpunar), Magdalena Szmydtke, Arkadiusz Szwed, ULTRAlight, ULUM (Małgorzata Schulz), Vivid Colors Studio (Paweł Zajiczek), and VZÓR (Roman Modzelewski).

Artwork and posters (courtesy of wall-being) by:

Kaja Gadomska, Magdalena Komar, Alicja Patanowska, Małgorzata Szymankiewicz; Hekla Studio (Monika Proniewska, Paulina Ufnal), Marcelina Jarnuszkiewicz, Ada Jarzębowska, Olga Szczechowska, Ola Szpunar, and Zoe (Małgorzata Gurowska, Agata Szydłowska).

**13th January – 17th January 2025: The “Women Go Vote” exhibition (European Parliament, Brussels)**

From the 13th to the 17th of January 2025, the European Parliament will present the “Women Go Vote” exhibition, curated by Olga Adamkiewicz and Sylwia Chrabałowska of the Moc Kobiet Foundation (PL: Women’s Strength Foundation). The collection of posters on display was created as part of a nationwide apolitical pro-voter turnout campaign. The artists who took part in the event wanted to use their art to show their support for the idea of active participation in democratic processes. The campaign was carried out entirely pro bono and reached 50% of women participating in the 2023 parliamentary elections in Poland.

Each piece in the collection is a unique interpretation of civic engagement using the power of visual communication. The exhibition demonstrates how the language of art can effectively transcend communicative barriers and inspire action.

The exhibition design: Biuro Kreacja Dorota Terlecka