

EDITOR'S NOTE

On May 12, 1919, at 9:00 a.m., the Reverend Dr. Szczęsny Dettloff, the founder of academic art history in Poznań, gave his first university lecture entitled "Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael" [Lionardo, Michał Anioł, Rafael]. That date can be considered a symbolic inauguration of the study of art history at the University of Poznań, which means that in 2019 we celebrated our centennial. Such an opportunity made us not only celebrate, but also reflect on our discipline – its turning points, achievements, institutions, and scholars who contributed to its condition today. These and other questions we have been examining in our Institute, where the faculty are always eager to debate and discuss, almost incessantly, but we also make attempts to invite to our debate and discussions other scholars. Ten years ago, in 2009, on the thirtieth anniversary of the journal *Artium Quaestiones*, published by the Institute of Art History of Adam Mickiewicz University, its twentieth issue was out, including a number of programmatic papers by art historians, both women and men, from various Polish academic institutions, all intended to "provoke the readers to reflect on the condition of art history and on our scholarly and professional competence." After ten years, we decided to invite authors not only from Poland, but also from abroad to debate which dates and events were of crucial significance for art history, its self-consciousness, and its functioning and influence, as well as which historical circumstances had a decisive impact on the development of our discipline in various European countries. Doing so, we were inspired by the year 1919 – significant not only because the first university, with an art history department, was founded in Poznań at that time, but because that particular year brought historic changes in Poland and other countries. Our intention was, on the one hand, to realize which turning points in the twentieth-century history of our country and society had the greatest influence on art history, initiating its radical transformations, opening up new perspectives, and identifying previously unknown problems, and on the other, possibly symmetrically address similar issues in the neighboring as well as more distant countries. The turning points considered in the texts included in the present volume are not always defined literally as such – not always were they momentary or profound. In some cases, those were rather

long processes whose causes and consequences took a long time. While some papers focus on specific dates and historic events, such as the year 1945 in Germany, 1948 in Poland, 1968 in Czechoslovakia, others address periods when art history in different countries developed its locally important paradigms and identified major problems, as between the world wars in Romania, the period of late socialism in Estonia or the turn of the 1970s in Poland. As a result, these texts are case studies of various time and problem span, presenting a number of conditions and narratives that shaped the histories of art history in Poland and elsewhere in Europe.

Since this volume commemorates our anniversary, we decided to include in its two texts that are slightly different from all the others. One is an essay by our outstanding graduate Professor Piotr Skubiszewski – a recollection intended to shed some personal light on our jubilee. The other is a special lecture by Professor Horst Bredekamp from the Humboldt University of Berlin, to which we have been connected by various, also personal, ties.

Piotr Korduba