

Exhibition curator: Anda Rottenberg

Curatorial collaboration: Iwona Wojnarowicz

Miroław Bała “Arbeit” at the Common Arts Foundation

Starting on September 19, the Common Arts Foundation in Warsaw will host “Arbeit”, an exhibition by Miroław Bała. This monographic presentation, marking the 40th anniversary of the artist’s practice, is curated by Anda Rottenberg, with curatorial collaboration by Iwona Wojnarowicz. The opening will take place during the 15th edition of Warsaw Gallery Weekend. “Arbeit” is the first monographic exhibition of Bała’s work in Warsaw since 2014.

Anda Rottenberg writes about the exhibition:

The exhibition of Miroław Bała’s works at the Common Arts Foundation takes the form of a mini-retrospective, organized to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his artistic practice. Due to the limited exhibition space, the show features only seven sculptural works, carefully curated to reflect different stages of the artist’s creative journey, while showcasing the variety of materials and techniques employed from the late 1980s to the early 2010s.

The selection begins with one of his last figures, sewn from jute sacks (Jan 15,6 1988/89). It is followed by an early example of combining diverse materials (steel, sponge, felt) and constructing works from multiple elements (190 × 25 × 30, 190 × 25 × 2.5, 1991). Next comes a piece embodying a particular, hidden anthropomorphism (50 × 86 × 13, 1996), characteristic of the 1990s. A special place is occupied by a work from 1997 that highlights the artist’s sensitivity to materials, referencing his practice of reclaiming discarded remnants—in this case, old walls—combined with a personal intervention that questions the semantic content of the piece (33 × 27 × 23). Bała’s lesser-known experiments with glassblowing and his unconventional approach to this technique are represented by a work from 2006 (40 × 28 × 33). The dialogue with earlier works continues in two subsequent sculptures: one made from used wooden elements (268 × 142 × 54, 84 × 40 × 22, 2008), and another combining several materials to achieve an anthropomorphic effect (133 × 34 × 190, 2011).

The exhibition is complemented by three previously unseen works on paper (Konstrukcja nieba, F16, T34B). These are large-scale charcoal drawings: one depicting the silhouetted form of a tank engine, another of a jet aircraft—both carrying tragic historical connotations. The third is a collage of a dismantled hygienic product package. All three works testify to the artist’s distinctive approach to drawing as a mode of recording and encoding meaning. The exhibition will be on view at the Common Arts Foundation until February 27, 2026.

The Common Arts Foundation is pleased to announce an exhibition organized in collaboration with Galerie Nordenhake. Founded in 1976, Galerie Nordenhake maintains spaces in Stockholm, Berlin, and Mexico City, and has long been recognized as the principal gallery representing the work of Miroław Bała. The Warsaw exhibition not only continues this longstanding collaboration but also marks Galerie Nordenhake's first active presence on the Polish art scene. This important step has been made possible through the invitation of the Common Arts Foundation.

Exhibition dates: September 19, 2025 – February 27, 2026

OPENING HOURS DURING Warsaw Gallery Weekend (19–21.09.2025)

Friday-Sunday 12.00–19.00

REGULAR OPENING HOURS

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 10:00–16:00

Wednesday: 10:00–16:00

Thursday: 10:00–18:00

Friday/Saturday: by appointment

Common Arts Foundation, ul. Sienna 83/802, 00-815 Warsaw

Common Arts Foundation

The Common Arts Foundation was established in 2021 by collector Jakub Mrówka as the result of a long-standing desire to create a space for collectors, while engaging in activities that go far beyond building a private collection. The Foundation's main objective is to create comprehensive online catalogues raisonn  of Polish artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. These catalogues are free and continuously expanding. To date, the Foundation has published the catalogue of Jerzy T  rzewski's paintings (www.jerzytchorzewski.com) and is developing catalogues of works by Witkacy (www.witkacykatalog.com) and Tadeusz Brzozowski (www.tadeuszbrzozowski.com). Another key aspect of the Foundation's mission is organizing contemporary art exhibitions at its headquarters. These shows are based on the Founder's private collection, other Polish collections of modern and contemporary art, or present solo exhibitions of artists who are considered significant for the development of contemporary art. The Foundation focuses on the most compelling currents and themes in contemporary artistic practice. In 2024, the Foundation presented the exhibition of Edward Krasi ski "I Lost the End" (in partnership with the Foksal Gallery Foundation) and Iza Tarasewicz "It is stable? Yes. It is unstable? Yes, again. Unstable? Yes, again" (in collaboration with Gunia Nowik Gallery). In 2025, the Foundation hosted "Witkacy (Un)known", which attracted more than 3,000 visitors, as well as "24.20" by Monika Dro y ska, part of her ongoing project Embroidery on Transit.

List of works:

1. *Jan 15,6, 1988/ 89*

Wood, steel, jute, emulsion paint, 177 x 50 x 25 cm

From the collection of Jakub Mrówka

2. *190 x 25 x 30, 190 x 25 x 2,5, 1991*

Steel, sponge, felt, 190 x 25 x 30, 190 x 25 x 2,5 cm

3. *268 x 142 x 54, 84 x 40 x 22, 2008*

Wood, glass, 268 x 142 x 54, 84 x 40 x 22 cm

4. *133 x 34 x 190, 2011*

Steel, concrete, leather, plastic, 133 x 34 x 190 cm

5. *50 x 86 x 13, 1996*

Steel, 50 x 86 x 13 cm

6. *33 x 27 x 23, 1997*

Brick, concrete, porcelain, 33 x 27 x 23 cm

7. *40 x 28 x 33, 2006*

Blown glass, metal mesh, 40 x 28 x 33 cm

8. *Konstrukcja nieba, 2010/25*

Collage, 29,5 x 42 cm

9. *F16, 2013*

Charcoal on cardboard, 100 x 70 cm

10. *T34B, 2013*

Charcoal on cardboard, 100 x 70 cm

11. *Cień, 1988*

Acrylic, pencil, paper, 100 x 70 cm