

Acknowledgements

At the risk of labouring a point I need to provide a context to express my gratitude to so many. Therefore, I should like to note that the contributions which are included within this inaugural volume were originally conference papers presented at Witkacy 2009 in London and Witkacy 2010 in Washington DC. There are a number of exceptions to this and in these cases it is made explicit in the body of the text itself. It must be stressed that neither the conferences nor indeed this collection of essays would have been possible without the active support of a considerable number of people and organizations. In all fairness I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them all.

Due to the fact that Witkacy 2009 was part of the Polska! Year our greatest thanks must be expressed for the support of the ultimate patrons of the Polska! Year who were; Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth the Second and His Excellency the then President of Poland Lech Kaczyński, who, along with so many others, was tragically lost to the world in the Smolensk Air Disaster of 2010.

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It should be made known that to a considerable extent Witkacy 2009 was made possible through the active involvement of a group of American Interns who were on placement with the project for a ten week period. They all had different talents and also endeavoured and indeed suc-

ceeded in making a positive input in different ways and I know that they derived a great deal from the experience and all of these received a fine certificate bearing the Witkacy 2009 design as well as a letter of commendation. The Interns were as follows; Heidi Gosen, Monique Guz, Lauren Jansen, Yelena Kart, Gina Nigrella, Samantha Smink, Agata Szymańska, Yun Chu Su 'Sue', Joey Weizenecker and Ryan Zeman. I am really very grateful to Andrea Hulme the Internships Coordinator of the Business Experience and Internships Unit for her support and assistance in this respect. The Interns were eventually succeeded by quite a number of largely Polish volunteers who worked on different aspects of the project and indeed worked without pay in a really genuine and committed way and collectively enabled the whole project come to a momentous conclusion. Some of these in particular should be singled out for a special mention because of their exceptional dedication; Sylwia Krason, in particular, Sylwia who is a really talented Arts' Administrator and Curator, worked on the project from start to finish. Further I should like to thank: Małgorzata Krzynowek, Anna Mednik, Anna Perszewska, Agnieszka Szara, Agata Szymańska, Urszula Wilk, Sylwia Włodarczyk and Andrew Wiza. All of this in turn was made possible by the staff of the Community Volunteering Unit Managed by Richard Pitts and his Administrative Assistant, San Kwan Phung. Thanks are also due to the staff & students of the Quintin Kynaston School in the London Borough of Westminster for enriching the London event by providing us with a fine 'Witkacy' Style Portrait Exhibition.

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Finally, I should like to state that every effort has been made to ensure that all of the information presented here is both accurate and complete. Clearly, with so many individuals and organizations involved over such a long period of time the risk of inaccuracy or omission may have arisen. Therefore, I should like to express my apologies to anyone concerned should this have taken place in any particular cases.

Kevin Anthony Hayes