

Tadeusz Kacalak is widely recognized as a prominent folk artist. He has won many artistic awards throughout Europe. He's been carving since 1972. He carves colorful figures depicting Christian biblical themes and saints as well as local village people in regional Polish costumes. Tadeusz attempts to represent both joy and suffering in his art. Tadeusz prefers to use linden wood. He utilizes only the simplest of tools for his work, and paints with muted pastel shades, using water-based paints and sealing emulsions.

He works exclusively with Folk Arts of Poland, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Folk Arts of Poland has been hosting him here in the United States for the past 24 summers to demonstrate his carving abilities.

His carvings are in 14 Polish museum collections, as well as in private and museum collections in Italy (including the Vatican), Germany, Holland, Belgium, Australia, Switzerland, South Africa, France, Sweden, Czech Republic, Russia, Japan and the United States. He is a subject of frequent media coverage in Poland and Germany including 7 TV documentaries, 15 radio programs and 20 newspaper/magazine articles.

In 1987 he was presented the highest medal of recognition, the Stanislaw Wysprainski Award by the Ministry of Polish Culture and Art. In 1997, he received an award from the Chairman of the Senate

for outstanding artistic achievements and for representing Polish folk art abroad. In 1998, he received the Silver Cross from the President of Poland. His work is depicted in 14 different professional books on folk art.

He's won awards in competitions throughout Poland, having taken part in over 40 competitions in 19 years. In 1985 and 1986 he received high acclaim with exhibits of a number of his Nativity Scenes in Bochum, Germany. Tadeusz has mounted ten one-man exhibitions; three in Poland, five in Germany, one in Holland and one in the USA.

Tadeusz Kacalak was born the second of five sons to a working class family in 1952. He graduated from barber school and pursued that trade until 1985, when he dedicated himself solely to sculpting in his private studio. Tadeusz's interest in carving actually began in 1973. A journalist recognized his talent and presented some of the young artist's work to the Leczyca Museum. Tadeusz was encouraged by this unexpected success and by his first award in 1975. Subsequently, he began to devote more time to his art. He became affiliated with the Polish Folk Art Association in 1978 and became a member in 1983 of the Union of Folk Artists.

A willing teacher, Tadeusz offers classes in carving to children and teenage students at

the Ethnographic Museum of Warsaw. He also has encouraged several people to become wood carvers.

Sculptures in the collections of the following museums:

Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Lodz

Museum of Ethnology in Poznan

Museum of Ethnography in Torun

Museum of Oscar Kolberg in Przysusze

Museum of Mazowieckie in Plack

Regional Museum in Kutno

Museum in Leczycy

Museum of Mazowie in Sierppce

Museum in Radon

Panstwowe Museum of Ethnology in Warsaw

State Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Exhibitions:

1985 - Bochum, Germany

1988 - Regional Museum of Kutno, Poland, Munster, Germany

1990 - Bad Salzuflen, Germany

1991 - Bad Salzuflen, Germany

1993 - Bad Salzuflen, Germany, Reusel Holland

1994 - Museum of Mazowieckie, Plock, Poland

1999-2005 - Folk Arts of Poland, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

2004-2011 - New Mexico International Folk Arts
Museum Market

Additional multi-artist exhibitions in :
Poland, Lithuania, Germany, France, Belgium, Holand,
Canada

Diploma Awards:

1982 - Honorary Diploma from Folk Culture Association
in Plocke

1983 - Person of Merit Award for activity in Culture

1984 - Award from the President of Kutno

1985 - Diploma of Thanks from the Deputy Chief
Headquarters of the Board of Culture

1987 - S. Wyspianskiego Award of Achievement

1988 - Diploma from the Minister of Culture for Peasant
Culture

1994 - Diploma from the President of Kutno

1997 - Diploma from the Senate for the Promotion of
Polish Culture Abroad

1998 - Badge of Distinction from Kutno

1998 - Silver Cross from the President of Poland

1998 - Diploma from the Folk Artist Association of
Poland

2000 - Diploma from the Minister of Culture for the
Promotion of Peasant Culture

2004 - Oscar Kolberg Award from the Minister of Culture

2007 - European Union "Gloria Artis" Bronze Award

Awards from Poland Museums artist competitions:

1975 - Leczyca Museum (2)
1976 - Torun Museum, Plock Museum, H. Sienkiewicz
Museum in Siedlce
1977 - Leczyca Museum
1978 - Leczyca Museum, Plock Museum, Kracow
Museum
1979 - Leczyca Museum, Kwidzyn Museum
1980 - Leczyca Museum, Torun Museum
1981 - Plock Museum, Kutno Museum
1982 - Leczyca Museum
1983 - Sierpc Museum, Poznan Museum, Lodz
Museum, Kutno Museum
1984 - Oscar Kolberg competition at the Radom
Museum, Lublin Museum
1985 - Plock Museum, Warsaw Museum, Poznan
Museum
1986 - Warsaw Museum, Leczyca Museum, Poznan
Museum
1987 - Leczyca Museum, Sierpc Museum, Poznan
Museum (2)
1989 - Leczyca Museum, Lodz Museum
1991 - Lublin/Chiechanowiec Museum
1994 - Lublin Museum, Torun Museum
1995 - Kracow Museum
1998 - Kutno Museum
2002 - Lodz Museum

Books that depict his work:

Dank an Jurgen Wolf. "Lippische Neueste Nachrichten"
1990

Engel und Heilige aus Holz, "Westfalen-Blatt" 1993

Jablonska A., "Aniol z trwala Nowa Weis" 1987

Jakobczak-Zakrzewska H. Wyobraznia mnie kocha,
"Tygodnik Plocki" 1986

Kawenczynski e. Laureaci Nagrody im S.
Wyspianskiego "Inspiracje" 1988

Kunst aus Polen, "Lippische Landes-Zeitung" 1993

Lewinska T. Prace Laureatow Nagrody Artystycznej
Mlodych im. S Wyspianskiego w 1986 i 1987 roku,
Warsaw 1987

Liberska-Marinow M., Zafascynowani rzezba, Kutno
1994

Od brzytwy do dluta. Rzezby Tadeusza Kacalaka
"Trybuna Ludu" 1984

Orzel-Nawrot D., Mazowieccy tworczy ludowi, Leczyca
1980

Sobezak A., Lezyccy tworczy ludowi, Leczyca 1980

Sobczak A. Wspolczesna Leczycka sztuka ludowa,
Leczyca 1989

Szymanski L., Mlodzi tworczy w Muzeum of
Ethnograficznym, "Gromada-Folnik Polski" 1987

Swiatki pana Tadeusza, "Ziemia Leczycka" 1974