

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: **Izabela Gabrielson**

E-mail : izag@mac.com Tel : 917. 771.2798 www.polishstudiesuw.org

Curator of the Exhibit: **Izabela Gabrielson**

Organizer: **UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee**

Guest Speaker: **Rafal Olbinski**

Lecture: **Jazz on the Cover**

Date: **January 17, 2013**

Time: **7:30pm**

Place: **Walker Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW Campus, 4069 Spokane Lane NE, Seattle, WA 98195**

Free and open to the public; reception after the lecture

Official opening of the exhibit by Rafal Olbinski

Date: **January 17, 2013**

Time: **6:30PM**

Place: **Allen Library North Lobby, UW Campus, 1900 NE Grant Lane, Seattle, WA 98195**

Exhibit "Jazz on the Cover"

Date: **January 8-29, 2013**

Place: **Allen Library North Lobby, UW Campus, 1900 NE Grant Lane, Seattle, WA 98195**

Free and open to the public during library hours

Rafal Olbinski is a renowned painter and illustrator. Born in Kielce, Poland, 1945, he studied architecture before dedicating himself to painting and design. In the fall of 1981, he traveled from Poland to New York for an exhibit of his posters. On December 13, 1981, martial law was declared in Poland and Olbinski decided to stay in New York, where he soon established himself as a prominent illustrator and painter. In March of 1982, "Psychology Today" published his first American cover. Soon after this publication, covers for other magazines followed, among them "Time", "Newsweek", "Business Week", and "Playboy". For many years, his painterly illustrations appeared regularly in the "The New York Times", where he worked with the legendary art directors Jerelle Kraus and Steven Heller. In the 1990s, he created a series of critically acclaimed posters for the New York City Opera. Although best known for his illustrations and posters, he also continues working as a painter, creating beautiful works in his signature style of poetic surrealism.

Jazz on the Cover Exhibit and Lecture Before his international career in New York began, Rafal Olbinski spent 10 years in Warsaw working as an art director for the Polish jazz magazine "Jazz Forum", designing its covers and layouts. During this time, he created cover illustrations using various techniques, which gave the unique look to the magazine. Working with "Jazz Forum" helped prepare Olbinski for the world of graphic design and illustration in New York and served as a solid foundation upon which he mastered his amazing technique. The exhibit contains selected "Jazz Forum" covers created between 1970 - 1981, which not only represent Olbinski's remarkable illustrations, but also capture a part of history of jazz behind the Iron Curtain.



OUR MISSION: *Bridging Cultures through Education about Poland by sharing Polish intellectual, scientific, and artistic accomplishments*

ABOUT UW PSEC: UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee was formed in 2004 by a group of the UW alumni, faculty, staff, students, and members of Seattle's Polish-American community. The vision of the UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee is to create a leading West Coast Polish studies center at the University of Washington. In pursuit of this goal, we have established an Endowment Fund; we sponsor a Distinguished Polish Speakers Series, provide student scholarships, attract visiting scholars to the UW, and build partnerships with community organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

DISTINGUISHED POLISH SPEAKERS SERIES was made possible by a generous donation from Andrzej and Izabella Turski and financial support from other private donors. Each year, we bring a number of experts on a variety of topics related to Polish culture, art, literature, economy, and politics to the UW campus.