

## FROM THE EDITOR

Volume 5 of the annual 'Art of the Orient', edited by Dr. Dorota Kaminska-Jones and Dr. Agnieszka Staszczyk, is devoted to the art of India. In the research and international activities of the Polish Institute of World Art Studies and its predecessor – the Polish Society of Oriental Art (2006–2011) – the art and theatre of India and South-East Asia have consistently been one of the key areas of interest. The Institute cooperates with some eminent scholars – indologists and historians of Indian art: Prof. Maria Krzysztof Byrski, professor emeritus at the University of Warsaw, former Polish ambassador to India is an honorary member. Full members include Prof. Piotr Balcerowicz, University of Warsaw, Prof. Marzennna Czerniak-Drożdżowicz from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Dr. Anna Ślęczka, curator of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and Prof. Monika Zin of the University of Leipzig. The Institute publishes books and studies on art and Indian culture, including the work of a younger generation of researchers – art historians of India such as Dr. Dorota Kaminska-Jones and Dr. Agnieszka Staszczyk. (cf. Polish Institute of World Art Studies. Report and bibliography 2000–2015 – [www.world-art.pl](http://www.world-art.pl)).

One of the first conferences was organised in 2008 in Warsaw – *Art and Visual Culture of India*. A volume of studies from this conference – *Sztuka i kultura wizualna Indii/ Art and Visual Culture of India* – edited by Piotr Balcerowicz and Jerzy Malinowski was published in Polish in 2010. Some of the papers from this conference, supplemented by studies made by researchers from other countries including India, were incorporated into the volume *Art, Myths and Visual Culture of South Asia*, published under the editorship of Piotr Balcerowicz in cooperation with Jerzy Malinowski by the well-known publishing house *Manohar Publishers* in New Delhi in 2011. This volume was promoted with the participation of its editors during the following year at the National Museum in New Delhi.

Thus began our collaboration with the Institute of Art History, Conservation and Museology under the auspices of the National Museum in New Delhi, with which our Institute signed a cooperation agreement in 2015.

This cooperation resulted in a second conference on Indian art – *Art and Culture of India and Polish-Indian Artistic Relation* – organised in connection with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and India, on 9–10 October 2014 in Torun. The organisers were Dr. Dorota Kaminska-Jones and Dr. Agnieszka Staszczyk. The Indian delegation was chaired by Prof. Anupa Pande, dean of the National Museum Institute of Art History, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi.

The result of this Polish-Indian cooperation is also this volume, consisting primarily of studies made by researchers from the National Museum Institute of Art History, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi and the Polish Institute of World Art Studies, as well as some academics invited from Germany.

The conferences and publications of the Polish Institute of World Art Studies also include publications on the influence of the religion (Buddhism, Hinduism), art and culture of India on South-East and Central Asia. In 2011, the Museum of Japanese Art and Technology in Krakow held one of the Institute's largest conferences – *South-East Asia: art, cultural heritage and artistic relation with Europe/ Poland*. The result was a large volume entitled *South-East Asia. Studies in Art, Cultural Heritage and Artistic Relations with Europe*, published under the editorship of Dr. Izabela Kopania in 2012. In October 2016 the same venue will host an international conference *Art and religions in pre-islamic Central Asia*.

The research programme of the Polish Institute of World Art Studies now includes new topics related to the art and culture of India.

Prof. Jerzy Malinowski

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