

## Henryk Siemiradzki (Rome, 7–9 Nov 18)

The Polish Academy of Science, Rome, Vicolo Doria, 2, Nov 7–09, 2018

Deadline: Jun 15, 2018

Maria Nitka

HENRYK SIEMIRADZKI  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL ARTISTIC MILIEU IN ROME.

Conference to mark the 175th anniversary of Henryk Siemiradzki's birth.  
at THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER IN ROME

Henryk Siemiradzki (1843-1902), a Pole, born near Kharkiv, Ukraine, a graduate of the Imperial Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg, buried in the Polish National Pantheon at the Pauline Church in Krakow, was an artist of international renown. He was closely associated with Polish and Russian artistic circles, but spent most of his artistic life in Rome. On his initiative, in 1879, the National Museum in Krakow was founded, to which he presented his most outstanding painting 'Nero's Torches', while the painting 'Phryne on Poseidon's celebration in Eleusis', purchased by the Russian Emperor Alexander III, began the collection of what is today's Russian State Museum in St. Petersburg. Like Frederic Leighton, Lawrence Alma-Tadema or Jean-Léon Gérôme, he belonged to the cosmopolitan generation of artists of late academism at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The conference 'Henryk Siemiradzki and the international artistic milieu in Rome' will present the international dimension of Siemiradzki's work, to mark it on the map of artistic innovations of the era.

We aim to address the following issues in particular.

- The artist's attitude to ancient tradition, realism, oriental art or contemporary intellectual trends, first and foremost to the considerations of Ernest Renan, spiritualism, the rationalistic ideas of Hippolyte Taine, as well as the belles lettres, especially historical novels.
- Siemiradzki's place within the Roman artistic milieu, the role he played in creating a platform of exchange between artists representing various fields and various cultural circles. In this context, it seems particularly significant that the Roman tradition of running an open workshop was followed (on via Margutta 5, then at his own villa on via Gaeta 1), as a meeting place for artists, patrons and representatives of the intellectual elite from all over Europe.
- The presence of the artist in the international cultural circle, participation in exhibitions, including universal exhibitions, his position in the art market, the role of patrons in the promotion of his work in the local and global context.
- The reception of Siemiradzki's oeuvre in Europe and worldwide viewed next to the history of how the works of the greatest representatives of European academism were received.

An in-depth analysis of Siemiradzki's output, presented against the background of contemporary artistic trends, will allow an outline to emerge of the figure of this outstanding creator of academism in a transnational perspective, as an example of global cultural transfer.

The National Museum in Krakow, the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg and the National Museum in Warsaw have joined the celebration of the 175th anniversary of Siemiradzki's birth inaugurated in December 2017 by the exhibition 'Henryk Siemiradzki and the Russian artistic milieu in Rome' at the Russian State Museum in St. Petersburg. In April 2018, the conference 'The Henryk Siemiradzki that we do not know' was held at the National Museum in Krakow, attended by Polish, Russian and Ukrainian art historians as well as art conservators.

The organization of the conference is related to work on the 'Catalogue raisonné of the Henryk Siemiradzki's paintings', conducted by the Polish Institute of World Art Studies in cooperation with the National Museum in Krakow, the State Institute of History of Art and the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the National Museum in Warsaw – financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland.

All paper proposals must be emailed to Dr. Maria Nitka [m.nitka@world-art.pl](mailto:m.nitka@world-art.pl) as a .doc or .docx attachment and include the following required elements: name, affiliation, paper title, abstract max 1500 characters, a short biography (max 100 word), deadline 15 June 2018.

Organizers: the Polish Institute of Studies on the Art of the World in Warsaw, the Polish Academy of Sciences, Library and Research Center in Rome.

Co-organizers: the National Museum in Krakow, National Museum in Warsaw, National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad.

Reference:

CFP: Henryk Siemiradzki (Rome, 7-9 Nov 18). In: ArtHist.net, May 9, 2018 (accessed Aug 25, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/18076>>.