

May 2021

# NEWSLETTER

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF POLAND IN HONG KONG



Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Hong Kong

Kościelniak Władysław, „Kalisz - Dorotka Tower”, parish church and fragment of walls from the park side, 1954, Kalisz, Poland

# Kalisz

Kalisz is one of the cities which made a substantial impact in the history of Poland. Kalisz is called the oldest Polish city, as the settlement Calisia was mentioned by Ptolemy in 2nd century AD in his work "Geography". According to Ptolemy, Calisia was an important staging post of the famous Amber Road linking Roman Empire and the Baltic Sea region.

In the Middle Ages Kalisz played an important role in creating early Polish state.

It was probably there that the first Polish



rulers – the Piast dynasty – originated from. Those times are still visible in contemporary Kalisz in the form of reconstruction of medieval settlement of the Piast dynasty in the Archeological Reserve. Today's city centre is also a testimony to its rich history: the Main Square with the City Hall, beautiful tenement houses, numerous churches full of cultural treasures and historical buildings representing various architectural styles – those are the relics which testify to the many centuries of the rich history of Kalisz.



The pride of Kalisz is its 200 year old theatre, established by Wojciech Bogusławski – "the Father of the Polish Theatre". It is considered to be among the best theatres in Poland and for the last 50 years has been the scene for the oldest theatre festival in Poland: Kalisz Theatre Meetings.



Kalisz is famous for a number of excellent festivals. Apart from the theatre festival, you can find in here the festivals of street art, contemporary dance, jazz, rock and traditional music.

Kalisz is connected with a lot of well-known Polish brands, such as an excellent mayonnaise "Winiary", "Grzeński" chocolate bars, sweets of "Jutrzenka" and "Big Star" clothes. The city is also an aviation industry hub. It is also in Kalisz that the famous piano factory "Calisia" was established in 1878.

Kalisz is full of hidden cultural treasures, good art and many fascinating architectural features, such as Baszta Dorotka. The city is truly a place where the past meets modernity creating a unique cultural, social and economic environment.

<https://www.kalisz.pl/en>



## „Calisia” Piano

On May 24 a donation ceremony of the “Calisia” Baby Grand Piano to the community of The Chinese Foundation Secondary School took place in Siu Sai Wan, with Consul General Aleksander Dańda co-officiating. The donor of the piano for the school was Jimmy Zeng – the Chairman of the Vershold Group and the current owner of “Calisia” brand. During the ceremony at the school, Chopin compositions and traditional Chinese music have been played by two performers: a school student and a professional Hong Kong pianist.

# SPORT

The last days of May brought many positive experiences to sports fans. Iga Świątek won the tennis tournament in Rome in great style. In the Bundesliga, Robert Lewandowski again turned out to be the best.

One could say that history has come full circle once again. Iga Świątek won the WTA 1000 tournament in Rome – played on a clay court – in beautiful style. Tormentous play in the third round, two games in one day and finally an unusual, extremely short final with Karolína Plíšková, (6-0, 6-0). Iga Świątek is becoming bolder on the court, which is very promising since the most important things are yet to come. We are now waiting with anticipation for the Olympics in Tokyo and the tournament in Paris, where Iga will be defending her last year's title.

The end of the season is the time when Robert Lewandowski usually accumulates new successes. The latest achievement of the Polish striker is yet another statuette in his career for the best Bundesliga scorer. This time, however, he reached for it while breaking Gerd Mueller's record from the 1971/1972 season! By scoring a goal in Saturday's game of the 34th Bundesliga round, between Bayern Munich and FC Augsburg (5: 2), the Pole ended the season with 41 league goals. This historical achievement was attained by Robert Lewandowski only in the 90th minute of the match!





## CARMEN

On May 16, on Sunday afternoon, the first performance after an 18-month break, forced by the Covid-19 epidemic, took place at the Hong Kong Opera. It was with great pleasure that we participated in the staging of Georges Bizet's „Carmen“, starring Gosha Kowalinska - a mezzo-soprano from Poznań, currently living in France.

This wonderful performance was a feast for the eye, ear and soul - so we were all the more happy to hear the famous Habanera from „Carmen“ - a work that is one of the everlasting masterpieces in the history of opera - performed by the Polish singer.

<https://www.operahongkong.org/>





Grazyna, The Modernist, 2021, Oil on canvas, 160 x 100 cm

## Paulina Ołowska: „30 Minutes Before Midnight”

Till 19th of May at Simon Lee Gallery in Hong Kong we can enjoy the exhibition of renowned Polish Artist - Paulina Ołowska. Painter, photographer and filmmaker. As an artist, she is known for projects that combine artistic means of expressions with elements of functional art

Born on January 27, 1976, in Gdańsk Paulina Ołowska studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) from 1995-1996. Between 1997-2000 she studied painting and graphic arts in the painting department of the Fine Arts Academy in Gdańsk. She has received scholarships from prestigious art institutions in The Hague, Lisbon, Kitakyushu and Amsterdam.

For her second solo exhibition in Hong Kong, Ołowska has created

a body of works depicting muses and heroines in various scenarios at different times of the day and night. The title of the show alludes to John Berendt's novel "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" and the subsequent film adaptation. Drawing on the magical notion of midnight, the passage of time in the book and film defines the period for good magic – the thirty minutes prior to midnight – and the period for bad magic – the thirty minutes after midnight. Ołowska extends this notion of time and the passing of day to night as both a visual and narrative device to contextualise the subjects of her portraits. Colours – and the time of day they indicate – fortify the viewer's initial engagement with Ołowska's protagonists. Shifting from soft to vibrant tones, the works in the exhibition fluctuate in mood throughout the exhibition as day turns to night.

more info:

<https://www.simonleegallery.com/exhibitions/219/>



Loupe

Live Webinar 網絡研討會

## ENTWINED: Amber & Jade Talk 《絲·連》琥珀和玉石講座

Date 日期: 2021.05.26 (Wed)  
Time 時間: 6:00PM HKT / 11:00AM CET

Speakers 講師:

- Mr Michal Kosior  
Founder of Amber Experts 創始人  
Co-organizer of 'Entwined' 《絲·連》協辦人
- Mr Law Chi Kwong 羅志光先生  
President of Hong Kong Jade Association  
香港玉器商會會長

Translation 翻譯:

- Mr Eric Yim 嚴煦之先生  
Promotion Chief of Hong Kong Jade Association  
香港玉器商會推廣主任

Zoom Meeting Information:  
<https://zoom.us/j/95626812083>  
 會議ID Meeting: 956 2681 2083  
 密碼 Password: 210526

CHOW TAI FOOK JEWELLERY GROUP  
周大福珠寶集團

AMBER EXPERTS

HONG KONG JADE ASSOCIATION



## Live webinar. Entwined. Amber and Jade Talk

An extremely interesting bilateral cooperation between Poland and Hong Kong jewellery industries was started on 26 of May in Gdańsk and Hong Kong with a webinar dedicated to two signature jewellery-making materials: amber and jade. The „Entwined” project brings together young, promising jewellery designers from Poland’s Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk and Hong Kong’s Loupe who share their skills and experience in amber and jade craftsmanship. Thank you Alicia Kelly of ARTISAMBER LIMITED, Amber Experts, Chow Tai Fook Jewellery and Hong Kong Jade Association-HKJA for this wonderful initiative!

# The 230th anniversary of the adoption of the Third of May Constitution Celebration



Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Hong Kong organised a celebration of the 230th anniversary of adopting the Constitution of May 3. Poland - as one of the heirs to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth - on the 3rd of May celebrated the 230th anniversary of the enactment of the Governance Act: the very first modern, written, national constitution in Europe and only the second constitution in the world, after the Constitution of the United States. On this occasion the celebration was held at KochamPolskeHK Gallery - on a smaller scale, due to the pandemic situation - and it was streamed online at the same time.

The recording of the event is available on Consulate FB profile: <https://www.facebook.com/PLinHongkong/live/>



During the event, Consul General Aleksander Dańda presented the circumstances of the adoption of the Constitution and its provisions. The celebration was also accompanied by: Screening of the joint message of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Poland and Lithuania, a screening of a film about Jan Matejko's painting „The Constitution of May 3, 1791” as well as a presentation of historical exhibition „The Constitution of May 3” prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

On the occasion of the anniversary, Polish Television - TVP prepared a documentary movie directed by Cyprian Demianiuk, which was filmed in Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Germany. The Constitution of May 3 led us to Europe in which we live today. In this documentary film, experts from Poland, Lithuania and Germany deliver their answers to the question – why did the events from 1791 lead to what is considered as the first European written Constitution? The idea is to focus on the context which allowed this major historical event to take place.

Watch the movie [here](#).





## Invest Hong Kong

As we are preparing for reopening the borders and renewing business relations between Poland and Hong Kong - Consul General and the Polish Chamber of Commerce PolCham HK visited Invest HK headquarters . Together with Director Chiang and the team of Invest HK we had an open and engaging discussion concerning various aspects of bilateral and multilateral possibilities concerning business presence of Polish enterprises and entrepreneurs in Hong Kong and Greater Bay Area.

<https://www.investhk.gov.hk>



## NAWA

On May 15, the first of the planned series of information seminars „Study in Poland” was held in Hong Kong. Information about the higher education system in Poland, about the requirements for applying for admission to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies, about the possibility of obtaining a scholarship - these were the issues that were presented and discussed by Consul General Aleksander Dańda with future students from Hong Kong, based on promotional materials obtained from the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)

<https://nawa.gov.pl/en/>



## Europe Day in Hong Kong!

On May 8 2021, the culinary skills of Consuls General of the EU countries: Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Poland and of the Head of EU Delegation were tested at the International Culinary Institute, ICI in Hong Kong. In fierce, but fun-filled, competition, with a „little” help from ICI students (for which we give our sincere thanks!), the winners were the Consul General of Poland - the best Quiche Lorraine - and the Consul General of Spain - the best Apple strudel.

<http://www.ici.edu.hk/html/en/>

# THE POLISH TABLE

Magdalena Tomaszewska-Bolalek



(2 large servings)

## Ingredients:

2 cucumbers  
3 medium fermented cucumbers  
330 ml of kefir  
200 ml of sour cream  
a bunch of dill

## Spices:

salt, ground pepper, cumin

# Recipe: Cold cucumber soup

## Preparations:

Grate the cucumbers on a grater with coarse eyes. Chop the dill. Put cucumbers into a bowl, add kefir, cream, dill, and spices. We mix thoroughly. Put the cold soup in the fridge for 2-3 hours.

Magdalena Tomaszewska-Bolalek, is a culture expert, culinary culture scholar and head of Food Studies at the SWPS University. She is the author of many publications and the recipient of various prizes, such as the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, Prix de la Littérature Gastronomique, Diamond Cuisine Award and Magellan Awards.

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/kuchniokracja>

More information on Polish food culture you may find in the free ebook **„The Polish Table”**.

**Text and photo:** Magdalena Tomaszewska-Bolalek

**Link do książki:** <https://bunkatura.pl/the-polish-table/>

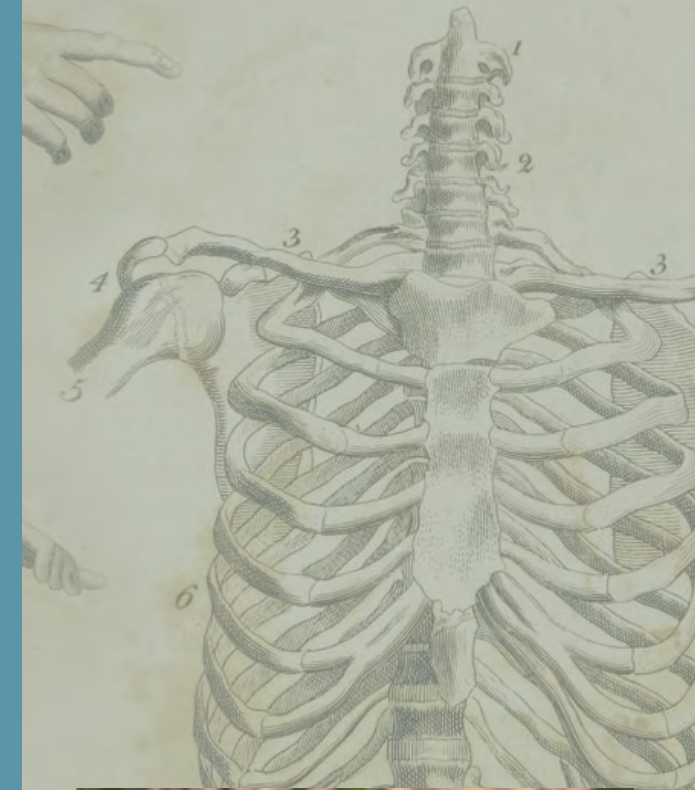


\*The book is co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland in the competition 'Public Diplomacy 2020 - A New Dimension' and the partners of the publication are the Polish Vodka Association, the Polish Vodka Museum, the Museum of Toruń Gingerbread, branch of the District Museum in Toruń and Hanami.



## Poles in Hong Kong

Tomasz Cecot was born in a small town in the Kashubia Region - Bytow. His first contact with the „big world” was a school trip to nearby Gdansk. He loved the city so much that he completed his master’s degree in biology and earned a PhD in Neuroscience, but also, he was an active tourist guide there for six years. Since he always liked challenges in his professional career, he began to specialise in teaching one of the most challenging subjects for medical students – human anatomy. As an anatomist, he began working at the University of Southampton (UK), where he learned how to teach in the British tertiary education system. During this time, he became a deputy director of one of the largest Polish schools in the United Kingdom, which he managed for three years. His experience enabled him to start working at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in 2018 at the Faculty of Medicine and The Faculty of Dentistry. He is an author and co-author of dozens of scientific publications in the field of human anatomy and medical education. Hong Kong proved to be a great starting point for the exploration of China and Southeast Asia. He loves Hong Kong, the local cuisine, and above all, the people living here.





## This year, the Visegrad Group (V4), a cultural and political alliance in Central Europe, is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its creation.

On this occasion, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Hong Kong together with the Consulate General of Hungary, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic and the Honorary Consulate of the Slovak Republic cordially invites you to listen to the classical concert, where the masterpieces of composers from

these four V4 member countries will be presented. The concert, prepared together with the Hong Kong foundation Haw Par Music, will be available to watch live online on the Facebook profile of the Consulate of the Republic of Poland, on June 29 at 7 pm.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/PLinHongkong/live/>

We also invite you to visit the Haw Par Mansion, where an exhibition of posters dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad Group (V4) will be on view.

more info soon on [fb](#) and [Haw Par Music](#)



Festival Organisers  
InvestHK start meup.hk

STARTMEUPHK  
FESTIVAL  
24-28 MAY 2021



# The Polish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

## (PolChamHK)

presented five companies from Poland as part of the Start Me Up 2021 Festival - the largest conference for start-ups and scale-ups in Hong Kong. Travatar, Qurczak, Omnilogy, VoiceLab and Genomtec took part in the Scale Up Impact Summit on May 25 & 26.

The main goal of PolChamHK in 2021 is to help create the image of Poland as a Country with a rich culture, leading in new technologies, design and production of healthy food. The Scale Up Impact Summit was an opportunity to showcase the dynamic and

modern Polish Companies. Participants had an opportunity to establish contacts with local business representatives and take part in lectures and business workshops.

The presentation of the companies was based on the initiative of PolChambers Hub and PolChamHK, where Hong Kong, next to Argentina, Spain and the USA, is one of the four pilot centers. This initiative acts as an accelerator for SME, an information exchange and B&D center and an educational center. The media patron of the May initiative on the Polish side is Brief.pl. In the near future, PolChamHK is planning further initiatives to promote Polish entrepreneurs and strengthen the positive image of Poland.

We invite everyone interested in the activities of PolChamHK and the PolChambers HUB initiative to join our memberships and to visit the website [www.polcham.hk](http://www.polcham.hk).



# Thank you!

Next Newsletter in June



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