

Jakub Woynarowski
Sol Salutis: the language of numbers

Opening: Monday 6 December 2021, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

from 7 to 18 December 2021

Spazio Molini
Fondazione Pastificio Cerere
Via degli Ausoni 7 - Rome

What can numbers tell us? Is today's rational belief in mathematical systems and emotionless calculation the only way to describe the world? These are just some of the questions presented by ***Sol Salutis: the language of numbers***, the new installation by polish artist **Jakub Woynarowski**, which will open on **Monday 6 December** and takes place at Spazio Molini, a space obtained from the recovery of the ancient Pastificio Cerere mill.

The exhibition, organised by the **Adam Mickiewicz Institute** in collaboration with the **Polish Institute in Rome**, in partnership with the **Pastificio Cerere Foundation** and co-financed with funds from the **Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland**, will be open to the public until **Saturday 18 December 2021**.

It seems that Pythagorean attempts to maintain a balance between mathematics' practical and symbolic meanings are now taking shape in today's technological society. One example would be the structures of global financial markets: what keeps this mathematical structure together appears to be an extra-rational element. Whether it is functional may be determined by either blind trust in the power of algorithms, or mass loss of confidence among investors — a "crisis of faith" resulting in a stock market collapse.

The "History of the Future" by the Polish romantic poet **Adam Mickiewicz** (1798–1855) contains such a combination of metaphysics and mathematics. The manuscripts of subsequent versions of the book have been lost or destroyed, but some parts are preserved in the poet's notes and correspondence. The writer's vision includes plausible descriptions of future developments, surpassing the much later work of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells. Mickiewicz's vision includes plausible descriptions of future technical inventions, such as aeroplanes, spaceships, or devices for recording and transmitting sound and images. Among his designs there were also optical fibres, which were the inspiration for **Jakub Woynarowski's multimedia installation "Sol Salutis" (Latin: The Sun of Salvation)**, based on Archimedean mirrors that were supposed to reflect the "fiery signs" of solar writing.

The idea of transmitting "fiery signs" by means of a system of mirrors prompts a reflection on the form of future languages. In his book Mickiewicz hermetyczny (Woynarowski's reference point during the creation of the installation), Zdzisław Kępiński noted that in his work, Mickiewicz also replaced names with numbers.

Sol Salutis narrative is based on a gradual decoding of meanings hidden in text-number combinations slowly revealed to the viewers. It is a metaphorical “receiving apparatus” that would make it possible to read messages from the future.

The launch in December coincides with Mickiewicz’s birthday and winter solstice, celebrated in antiquity as Sol Invictus (Latin: The Invincible Sun). The choice of location is also of particular importance: the project is presented in five European cities related to Adam Mickiewicz’s life: Paris, Vilnius, Rome, Istanbul, and Kraków.

Jakub Woynarowski – an interdisciplinary artist, designer, and curator; graduate and lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków. Author of the artistic concept of the exhibition at the Polish Pavilion during the 14th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia..

L'Istituto Adam Mickiewicz is a state-funded cultural institution whose mission is to present Polish culture and image through activities in the field of global cultural exchange. The Institute has produced cultural events in 70 countries on six continents, including the UK, France, Russia, Israel, Germany, Turkey, USA, Canada, Australia, Morocco, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, as well as China, Japan, and Korea. So far, the Institute produced 38 strategic programmes, which were seen by 60 million viewers. The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is promoted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening day: Monday, 6 December 22, 2021, 18.00 - 21.00

Dates: 7 – 18 December 23, 2021

Venue: Spazio Molini, Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Via degli Ausoni 7 – Rome

Opening hours: from Tuesday to Saturday, 15.00-19.00

Admission with green pass

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