Press Release

Warsaw, 16 June 2020

**Refugees Welcome 2020 Art Auction**

**This Saturday, June 20th, is World Refugee Day. On this occasion, we invite you to take part in a unique event displaying solidarity between artists and refugees, the Refugees Welcome 2020 Charity Art Auction. The auction is organised by** [**Ocalenie Foundation**](https://ocalenie.org.pl/) **and the** [**Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw**](https://artmuseum.pl/pl)**.**

**The Refugees Welcome 2020 Charity Auction** is a demonstration of solidarity, organised by Ocalenie Foundation and the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. This year will mark the fourth edition of the auction. In 2019 we managed to raise over two hundred thousand zlotys to **support refugees living in Poland**. Throughout the years, our aim has remained the same, but the needs of immigrants have grown exponentially during the pandemic.

According to **Kalina Czwarnóg**, board member of Ocalenie Foundation: “During the pandemic, refugees in Poland have found themselves in particularly difficult circumstances. Many migrants have lost their jobs and livelihoods. Due to border closures they cannot leave, and many do not have family in Poland that they can rely on. **The needs are unlimited.** Before the pandemic, we were providing food for several people a month; now we have over five hundred in need. At the same time, **this difficult situation has provoked an outpouring of empathy and solidarity in our society.** We have been able to provide food aid thanks to dozens of donations from ‘ordinary people’ who were immediately mobilised by our appeal. We are so moved that many artists who have also been affected by the pandemic decided to share their work with us and participate in this special, Covid-19 edition of the Refugees Welcome Art Auction.”

**All proceeds will be donated towards supporting two of Ocalenie Foundation’s programmes.** [Refugees Welcome Poland](https://www.refugees-welcome.net/) connects people who live in Warsaw and have a spare room with refugees who need accommodation, thus supporting integration. The [Help Centre for Foreigners](https://ocalenie.org.pl/cpc) is a unique place in Warsaw. Its employees, who come from six different countries, help foreigners find employment and accommodation and offer legal and psychological aid. The centre helps around two thousand people a year. Furthermore, over a thousand foreigners attend the foundation’s free Polish lessons. During the pandemic, the centre is operating online. It also provides up-to-date epidemiological information in nine languages.

**Forty-five prominent Polish and international artists** have confirmed their participation in the fourth edition of the Refugees Welcome Art Auction. The organisers hope for considerable engagement from collectors, who can directly support refugees living in Poland by placing bids in the sale.

**The auction will take place on Sunday, September 13th, at 5 pm. All works will be exhibited prior to the auction at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw at ul. Pańska 3, between September 7th and 13th.** Due to the epidemiological situation, **the sale will be held online.** A catalogue will be published in August. The event’s main partner is [Friends of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw](http://wspieraj.artmuseum.pl/pl).

**Participating artists:**

Paweł Althamer, Babi Badalov, Basia Bańda, Bownik, Magda Buczek, Agnieszka Brzeżańska, Miriam Cahn, Ewa Ciepielewska, Martyna Czech, Rafał Dominik, Zuzanna Golińska, Zuzanna Hertzberg, Karolina Jabłońska, Magdalena Karpińska, Tomasz Kowalski, Dominika Kowynia, Robert Kuśmirowski, Diana Lelonek, Honorata Martin, Olga Micińska, Rafał Milach, Monika Misztal, Magdalena Moskwa, Marta Nadolle, Dominika Olszowy, Witek Orski, Sławomir Pawszak, Igor Pisuk, Joanna Piotrowska, Katarzyna Przezwańska, Wojciech Puś, Karol Radziszewski, Joanna Rajkowska, Tadeusz Rolke, Daniel Rycharski, Mateusz Sarzyński, Maciej Sieńczyk, Agata Słowak, Marek Sobczyk, Magdalena Starska, Radek Szlaga, Iza Tarasewicz, Artur Żmijewski, Konrad Żukowski

**For more details go to:** [**https://refugeeswelcome.pl/aukcja/**](https://refugeeswelcome.pl/aukcja/)

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