

**The German-Sorbian/Wendish-Polish Festival Day—Encounter and Dialogue**  
**“Everything is a landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck”**  
**“Hommage à Jan Buck (II): We Have Seen the Place”**

**Nimsko-serbski-pólski swěžeń – zmakeńje a dialog**  
**„Wšykno jo krajina. Serbski mólař Jan Buk“**  
**„Hommage à Jan Buk (II): Wiželi smy městno“**

**Nimsko-serbski-pólski swjedźeń – zetkanje a dialog**  
**„Wšo je krajina. Serbski moler Jan Buk“**  
**„Hommage à Jan Buk (II): Widźeli smy městno“**

**Cottbus/Chóšebuz | Choćebuz | Chociebuż, 2.06.2023**

German-Sorbian/Wendish-Polish celebrations of the same magnitude as this one are far too infrequent, and unfortunately the awareness of the common links in the younger generation is low. The occasion for this event, which was organised with great panache and months of preparation, is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Sorbian painter Jan Buk/Buck. He is regarded as a reformer of Sorbian art, which was previously confined to provincial folklore. His studies in Breslau in the early years after World War II provided the impetus for him to bring it into the orbit of European modernism.

The ceremony in the capital of Lower Lusatia was at the same time the prestigious opening of the second instalments of the exhibitions in the series “Everything is a landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck” and “Hommage à Jan Buck”. The first was initiated by the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen (Serbski muzej, Budyšin, dir. Christina Bogusz/Boguszová) with a retrospective overview of the artist’s works. The second – realised by the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Zielona Góra under the scientific direction of Dr. Lidia Gluchowska – aims to emphasise the importance of international relations in the cross-border area of the region, symbolised by the life and work of Jan Buk/Buck, and to undertake a related discourse on ecology, post-industrial culture, the political conditions of artistic life and the processes of crystallising individual and collective identity on both sides of the Polish-German border.

[https://www.rbb-online.de/radio/sorbisches\\_programm/startseite/topteaser\\_startseite/nimsko-serbsko-polski-swezen-deutsch-sorbisch-polnisches-fest.html](https://www.rbb-online.de/radio/sorbisches_programm/startseite/topteaser_startseite/nimsko-serbsko-polski-swezen-deutsch-sorbisch-polnisches-fest.html)

Gregor Kliem’s report for the Lusatian radio/tv RBB in Lower and Upper Lusatian, German and Polish gives an idea of the atmosphere at the ceremony. It also features music by the Šwicamica folk duo (Gerald Schön and Gerhard Paucker, who also ensured that the audience sang the Sorbian national anthem together), as well as a jazz quartet from the Institute of Music at the University of Zielona Góra (Michał Nienadowski, Maja Kaczyńska, Hubert Łachacz and Zuzanna Rynio).

The ceremony was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of the INTERREG V A Brandenburg—Poland 2014–2020 cooperation programme, the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and the Small Projects Fund of the Spree-Neisse-Bober Euroregion.

The patrons of the research and exhibition projects “Everything is a Landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck” and “Hommage à Jan Buck” were assumed by Michael Kretschmer – Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony, Dr. Dietmar Woidke – Prime Minister of the State of Brandenburg, Cezary Przybylski – Marshall of the Lower Silesian Voivodship, and – from the

side of Zielona Góra: Elżbieta Anna Polak – Marshall of the Lubuskie Voivodeship, and H.M. Rector of the University of Zielona Góra – Prof. Wojciech Strzyżewski.

In addition to partners from Lusatia, Anna Kossatz-Kosel/Kosacojc-Koselová, the Sorbian Affairs Officer of the City Council, and Christina Kliem/Kliemová (curator) and Steffen Krestin (director) of the Wendisches Museum/Sebo-Lusatian Museum in Cottbus/Chóšebuz, Dr. Lidia Głuchowska of the University of Zielona Góra's Institute of Visual Arts prepared a very extensive programme for the event.

At the entrance to the Sorbian Museum, a large delegation from Zielona Góra, including representatives of academia and cultural life as well as lecturers and students of the University of Zielona Góra) were welcomed by Ms Anna Kossatz-Kosel/Kosacojc-Koselowa, who moderated the opening ceremony of the event.

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The project's patrons were represented by Ursula Nonnenmacher – Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal State of Brandenburg, Dr. Markus Niggemann – Plenipotentiary for Financial Management, Economic Development and Social Affairs of the City of Cottbus on behalf of the Mayor of Cottbus/Chóšebuz Tobias Schick, Radosław Brodzik – Director of the Office for Foreign Cooperation and European Territorial Cooperation of the Marshal's Office of the Lubuskie Voivodeship, and Prof. Dr. Paulina Komorowska-Birger, Director of the Institute of Visual Arts of the University of Zielona Góra. Guests of honour were Peter Buck/Pětr Buk - son of Jan Buck/Buk with his granddaughter Christiane Bukec. The ceremony was supervised by Dr. Justyna Michniuk – representative of the Spree-Neisse-Bober Euroregion.

After the official speeches and the tasting of regional dishes, Christina Kliem/Kliemowa, gave the guests a guided tour of the retrospective exhibition of Jan Buck's works, and Dr Lidia Głuchowska presented the film made with Anna Mazurkiewicz on the first part of the project "Hommage a Jan Buck (I): Living Tomorrow" – including exhibition at the museum of the former Energiefabrik Knappenrode/energy factory Hórnikey and a symposium in Bautzen.

From the Wendisches Museum/Sorbian Museum, the participants went on a tour of the monuments, mosaics and sacred objects in the centre of Chociebus that are important to the Sorbian people, together with its curator emeritus, Werner Meschanek. Peter Buck/Pětr Buk talked about the triptych dedicated to Sorbian customs, which he installed together with his father.

Another highlight was the opening of an exhibition of works by artists from the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Zielona Góra, "Hommage à Jan Buck (II): We Have Seen the Place" at the Alte Segeltuchfabrik/ Old Sail Canvas Factory, curated by Dr Lidia Głuchowska and Prof. Radosław Czarkowski.

In the immediate vicinity of the Alte Segeltuchfabrik – at the Kunsthalle Lausitz – the second part of the retrospective exhibition of works by Jan Buck/Buck was presented. Guests were welcomed by the curator of this institution, Heiko Straehler-Pohl. This was followed by a scientific forum against the backdrop of the paintings, attended by the curators of both exhibitions and the artists from Cottbus – Hella Stoletzki/Stoleckojc and Jo Achermann – Professor of Sculpture at the Brandenburg Technical University Cottbus-Senftenberg. The Polish scientific community was represented by Dr Małgorzata Mieczkowska – historian and political scientist from the University of Szczecin, as well as Prof. Tomasz Jaworski from the Institute of History and Dr Lidia Głuchowska from the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Zielona Góra. The entire event was chaired by Anna Kossatz-Kosel/Kosacojc-Koselowa and moderated by Herbert Schirmer.

In Chociebusz/Cottbus, further events in the series “Hommage à Jan Buck” were a German-Polish-Sorbian/Wendish symposium at the City Museum and the opening of the exhibition “After coal ... – Landscapes and Faces of Lusatia” at the Alte Segeltuchfabrik on June 15–16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**We will report on them soon.**

The next – different from the previous – presentations of the exhibitions from the series “Everything is a Landscape. The Sorbian painter Jan Buck” and “Hommage à Jan Buck” will be held at the City Museum in Wrocław (Sept, 15<sup>th</sup>.– Dez. 31<sup>th</sup>. 2023), the Museum of the Lubuskie Region in Zielona Góra (Febr. 2<sup>nd</sup>– May 5<sup>th</sup>.2024) and the Senftenberg Castle and Fortress Museum/Złoty Komorow (Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. 2024–Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.,2025). These too are to be accompanied by research symposia.

**Excerpts from films on the stages to date of the  
of the research and exhibition project “Hommage à Jan Buck” will be published soon!!!**