

Krystyna Sadowska

(1912-19xxx)

Artist



POLISH SPIRIT

In all the media with which Krystyna has worked, she has sought to express universal love and unity. Her images are larger than life and incorporate signs and symbols shared by many cultures past and present.

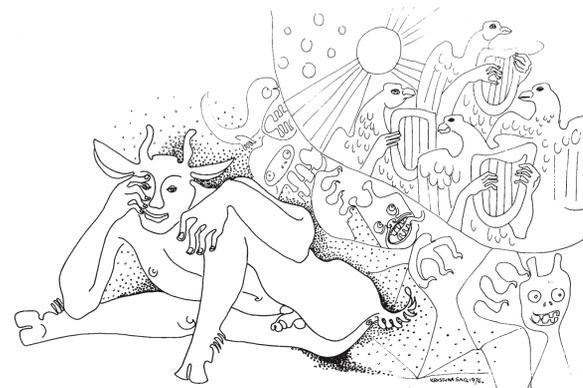
Ted Fraser, curator, The Art Gallery of Windsor

Krystyna Sadowska was one of the most versatile artists ever, celebrated for her excellence in tapestry, batik, ceramic, collage, painting, drawing and sculpting.

Born in Lublin, Poland, she studied painting, sculpting, graphic art and textile design in Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, graduating in 1934. Her further career spans several countries on four continents, Europe, Africa and both Americas. Already in 1937, she was sent on a government mission of setting up a self-supporting colony of weavers and potters among Polish immigrants in Brazil. The breakout of World War Two found her in Poland, and she and her husband, a ceramic artist with whom she was to collaborate later on many projects, were imprisoned in a camp by the Soviet invaders. Making a dramatic escape, they managed to reach France, where she studied painting at Grande Chaumière in Paris (1940), and then England, where she studied pottery at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London (1945-46). After a few years in Brazil, the Sadowskis immigrated to Canada in 1949, setting a pottery studio in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1953, they moved to Toronto where they taught all aspects of pottery and ceramic sculpture at the Ontario College of Art until Konrad Sadowski's death in 1960.

By that time Krystyna Sadowska was long known internationally as a tapestry artist, having won Gold Medal at World Exhibition of Tapestry in Paris as early as 1937, and then prestigious awards at exhibitions in Rio de Janeiro, Greensboro and London among others. Having also been granted numerous honours for her batiks, ceramics and paintings, the artist became most celebrated in her later years as the only sculptress working in metal. Her monumental sculptures in stainless, chromium, welded and painted steel, individual in style and expression, designed to fit their surroundings, are featured in many notable buildings in several cities of Canada.

Among Krystyna Sadowska's solo shows were those in London, England (1946), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1947), Curitiba, Brazil (1948), Montreal (1950), Halifax (1953), Toronto (1964) and Windsor (1977).



THIS SCULPTURE ENTITLED
"RHYTHM OF EXOTIC PLANTS"
WAS CREATED IN 1965 BY
KRYSTYNA SADOWSKA
AND HAS BEEN DONATED BY
RIO ALGOM LTD.
FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF
T.T.C. RIDERS.

Photos from top left clockwise:
• Krystyna Sadowska • K. Sadowska – sculpture, metal • K. Sadowska – drawings from a classical cycle • K. Sadowska – a section of the metal sculpture put on the wall of TTC subway Finch station in Toronto / Photo – Pierre Bacler
Other photos – private archives