

ZAK Jadwiga (1885-1943?), painter, gallery owner. She came from an assimilated Częstochowa Jewish family. She was born on 6th February 1885 in Nasielsk, the daughter of → Edward Kohn, a doctor, and Augusta née Prentka, the sister of Norbert, Leon Edward, Bolesław, → Wacław Maurycy Konar and → Stefan Kolin.

In the academic year 1904/1905, she attended the School of Fine Arts in Warsaw. She continued her artistic education in Paris, where she studied painting. In 1913, she took part in the Autumn Salon in Paris, exhibiting three paintings: *The Port of Cassis*, *A Provincial Landscape* and *A Still Life*.

From 1916 to 1921, together with her husband → Eugeniusz Zak, she lived in Częstochows. They lived in a tenement belonging to the Kohn family at II Aleja 31. Their “Częstochowa period” included portraits of her by her husband, e.g., *Woman with a Shawl*, *a Portrait of an Artist’s Wife*, *Jadwiga Zak* (in the National Museum in Warsaw). In 1922, both returned permanently to Paris.

Following the death of her husband, in 1926, in the year following year, Zak established a gallery at Rue de l’Abbaye 16, in the Saint-Germain-des-Prép district in Paris. The Zak Gallery Zak began operating from 1928, specialising in “young”, modern, South American and European art (mainly Polish and Russian). The salon quickly became an important meeting place and a place for interesting artistic initiatives of the inter-war period.

Leading artists, of that time, exhibited their works there. They included Marc Chagall, Andre Derain, Henri. Matisse and Wassily Kandinski. *Galerie Zak* malso had exhibitions of the works of South American artists, including J. Torres Garcia (1928), J. Del Prete, J. Cuneo Perinetti and Bernabé Michelena (1930). Ary Stillman and August Renoir also showed their works and, in 1928, there was a combined exhibition of the works of Amedeo Modigliani and P. Seuravol. In 1929, she showed an exhibition entitled *Flowers Painted by Women*.

The gallery was also a place for the works of Stanisław Grabowski (1929), Władysław Skoczylas (16th-30th November 1928), August Zamoyski (1930), Rajmund Kanelba (1933), Leopold Gottlieb (1934), Jerzy Merkel (1939), Henryk Hayden (1928, 1933) and Maja Berezowska (1935).

In 1929, the first Kapist exhibition was held there, with the participation of Józef Czapski, Jan Cybis, Zygmunt Waliszewski, Artur Nacht-Samborski and Piotr Potworowski.

There were also several exhibitions of works by Eugeniusz Zak including, in 1936, an exhibition marking the tenth anniversary of the artist's death. Zak's works were exhibited in the Gallery on a permanent basis, throughout the Gallery's period of operation.

During the German occupation, her valuable collection of works was scattered and, in part, stolen by officials of the Vichy government. In 1941, the gallery closed. It re-opened in 1946 and continued to remain open until the 1960s, run by Jadwiga's distant cousin, Volodimir Raykis.

During World War II, together with her son (who was a member of the resistance movement), Jadwiga Zak lived in the south of France. In 1943, they were arrested by the Gestapo in the Nice region and were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where they perished. (The exact date of their death is unknown.)

For her promotion of art, on 15th November 1938, Jadwiga Zak was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Legion of Honour.

She married twice. Her first husband was Stanisław Kempieński. On 8th May 1913, in Paris, she married Eugeniusz Zak. They had a son, Jan Andrzej (5th June 1914 – 1943? Auschwitz).

H. Bartnicka-Górska, J. Szczepińska-Tramer, *W poszukiwaniu światła, kształtu i barw. Artyści polscy wystawiający na Salonach paryskich w latach 1884–1960*, Warszawa 2005, p. 199; B. Brus-Malinowska, *Eugeniusz Zak. 1884–1926*, Warszawa 2004, pp. 18, 20–21, 26–28; J. Malinowski, B. Brus-Malinowska, *W kręgu École de Parip. Malarze żydowscy z Polski*, vol. 2, Warsaw 2007, pp. 15, 18, 51–52, 65, 83, 93, 148, 155, 171; M. Masurovsky, *La Galerie Zak, 1926–1945*, "Archives Juives" 2017/1, vol. 50, pp. 75–84; M. Ostrowska, *Eugeniusz Zak tworzył w Częstochowie*, "Życie Częstochowy", 1948, No. 66, p. 3; *Sprawozdanie z dotychczasowej działalności Warszawskiej Szkoły Sztuk Pięknych za czas od marca 1904 do czerwca 1907, Spis Uczniów i Uczennic*, p. 40; A. Tanikowski, *Eugeniusz Zak*, Sejny 2003; *Un diner Amica de Mme Zak*, "Beaux-arts" 1938, No. 305, p. 4; A. Wierzbicka, *Artyści polscy w Paryżu. Antologia tekstów 1900–1939*, Warszawa 2008, p. 15; A. Wierzbicka, *Świadectwa obecności. Polskie życie artystyczne we Francji w latach 1900–1939*, Warsaw 2012–2015, cz. I, *Lata 1900–1921*, pp. 299, 301; cz. II, *Lata 1922–1929*, pp. 9, 400, 405, 410, 444, 462, 467–468, 487; cz. III, *Lata 1930–1939*, p. 20, 377, 479. – APCz, Akta Towarzystwa Kredytowego Miasta Częstochowy 286, MagCz 1277, 1400, 1497, APCz, StGrCz, 246, p. 65; APCz, Rejestr osobowo-meldunkowy (to 1930), ref. 8879, p. 519; APCz, civil register index, ref. 8958, p. 332.

Katarzyna Sucharkiewicz