

# ENRICO PRAMPOLINI

## FUTURISM, STAGE DESIGN AND THE POLISH AVANT-GARDE THEATRE

Opening of the exhibition

9 June 2017, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

free admission

ms<sup>2</sup>  
Ogrodowa 19

# SCENO TECHNIKA

09.06-08.10.2017

ANTON GIULIO BRAGAGLIA  
JAN BRZEKOWSKI  
WŁADYSŁAW DASZEWSKI  
EUGÈNE DESLAW  
TADEUSZ GRONOWSKI  
ANDRÉ KERTÉSZ  
FREDERICK KIESLER  
FELIKS KRASSOWSKI  
JALU KUREK  
BOHDAN LACHERT  
VIRGILIO MARCHI  
FILIPPO TOMMASO MARINETTI  
MARIA NICZ-BOROWIAKOWA  
IVO PANNAGGI  
ZDENKA PODHAJSKÁ  
KAZIMIERZ PODSADECKI  
ENRICO PRAMPOLINI

ANDRZEJ PRONASZKO  
ZBIGNIEW PRONASZKO  
LUIGI RUSSOLO  
HENRYK STAŻEWSKI  
HELENA SYRKUS  
SZYMON SYRKUS  
JÓZEF SZANAJCA  
RUGGERO VASARI  
STANISŁAW IGNACY  
WITKIEWICZ  
ROUGENA ZÁTKOVÁ

ENRICO PRAMPOLINI,  
FUTURYZM,  
SCENOTECHNIKA  
I TEATR  
POLSKIEJ AWANGARDY

ENRICO PRAMPOLINI,  
FUTURISM,  
STAGE DESIGN  
AND THE POLISH  
AVANT-GARDE THEATRE

100 LAT  
AWANGARDY  
W POLSCE

KURATOR | CURATOR:  
PRZEMYSŁAW STROŻEK

ms<sup>2</sup> ul. Ogrodowa 19, Łódź

**Enrico Prampolini is one of the most important artistic personages of the international avant-garde.** His work echoes almost all new movements and styles of art of the first half of the 20th century: from Futurism, which he co-founded together with Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's group, through Dadaism, Constructivism and Surrealism, to the club of Parisian abstractionists *Cercle et Carré*. He was a painter, sculptor, scenographer, choreographer, architect and graphic designer. Prampolini created advertisements, posters, montages, big murals and stage sets for a number of movies. He was an organiser of artistic life in Paris, Prague and Rome, as well as curator of the last *International Avant-garde Scenotechnique Exhibition* at the 6th Triennale in Milan (1936).

9 June 2017

8 October 2017



Enrico Prampolini, Stage project for *Tamburo di fuoco* by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, 1920, tempera, cardboard, 26 × 35 cm, Private collection, Rome

The exhibition at the Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź presents in chronological order Prampolini's extremely rich artistic legacy in all these areas. It coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Polish avant-garde movement and creates an excellent opportunity to look at the relations between the Italian Futurism and the Polish representatives of new art. These relationships were most vibrant in the area closest to Prampolini's heart - theatre. It was Prampolini who decided not to use the terms such as scenography or theatre decoration, and introduced that of scenotechnique which was closer to architecture rather than painting and treated the stage space in an innovative, modern way. Polish artists of the Zwrotnica, Blok and Praesens circles all sided with this architectural approach to the theatre set design, discarding the traditional, painted decoration. Their works testified to a radical change in understanding and creating theatrical scenery which, thanks to the vanguard movement, took place in theatre at the time.

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Enrico Prampolini, *Tarantella*, 1920,  
oil on canvas, 80 x 80 cm,  
Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz

The exhibition at the Muzeum Sztuki is the first one ever that will combine projects by representatives of the Italian Futurism and the Polish avant-garde. The contacts between artists of both formations also come under examination in quite a broad context. After all, it was thanks to Jan Brzekowski's instigation that Prampolini presented the Łódź group "a.r." with his *Tarantella*, enriching their collection with this painting in 1930.

Due to the specific exhibition praxis performed at the Muzeum Sztuki, which takes as its starting point the importance of the "a.r.'s" collection, Prampolini's *Tarantella* appears to be an important key to understanding the exhibition. This painting presents dynamic and mechanical dancing of geometrical figures and evokes three periods of the Italian Futurist's creative life: dynamism in the paintings of the 1910s, mechanical theatre of the 1920s and the later ideas of post-purism and abstractionism of the 1930s. The exhibition presents all the three periods in the context of relations between the Italian Futurism and the Polish avant-garde.

International Modern Art Collection of the  
"a. r." Group, Lodz 1931, Collection in the  
rooms of the first museum's premises,  
the J. and K. Bartoszewicz Art History City  
Museum at Wolności Squer,  
Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz



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Kazimierz Podsadecki,  
Sketch for *Winicja Claudel's Doves*,  
a drama by Jalu Kurek (1925-1926)  
pencil, watercolour, paper  
Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz



**left:** Enrico Prampolini, Architectonic  
project of Egg Theatre for *E-42*  
exhibition, 1940-1941, tempera,  
cardboard, 72 x 69 cm,  
Private collection, Rome  
**right:** Enrico Prampolini, Stage project  
for *Rose di Carta* by Luciano Folgore,  
1920, tempera, cardboard, 50 x 43 cm,  
Private collection, Rome, Futur-ism

Against the background of retrospective exhibitions of the Italian Futurism and monographic overview of Enrico Prampolini's works, the exhibition at the Muzeum Sztuki is the first so comprehensive a presentation of his artwork since 1992. It is also Europe's first monographic exhibition of a Futurist artist's oeuvre outside of Italy. It will be in Lodz that we will have a chance to see Prampolini's works that have never been shown before. The exhibition will include the reconstruction of the model of *Magnetic Theatre*, which has been prepared especially for this occasion. It should also be noted that this event will be the first one in history to problematize the chronicle of Polish avant-garde scenotechnique of the 1920s and 1930s, which did not grow in isolation, but was an integral part of international practices undertaken in the area of reorganisation of traditional theatre.

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**ENRICO PRAMPOLINI. FUTURISM, STAGE DESIGN AND THE POLISH AVANT-GARDE THEATRE**

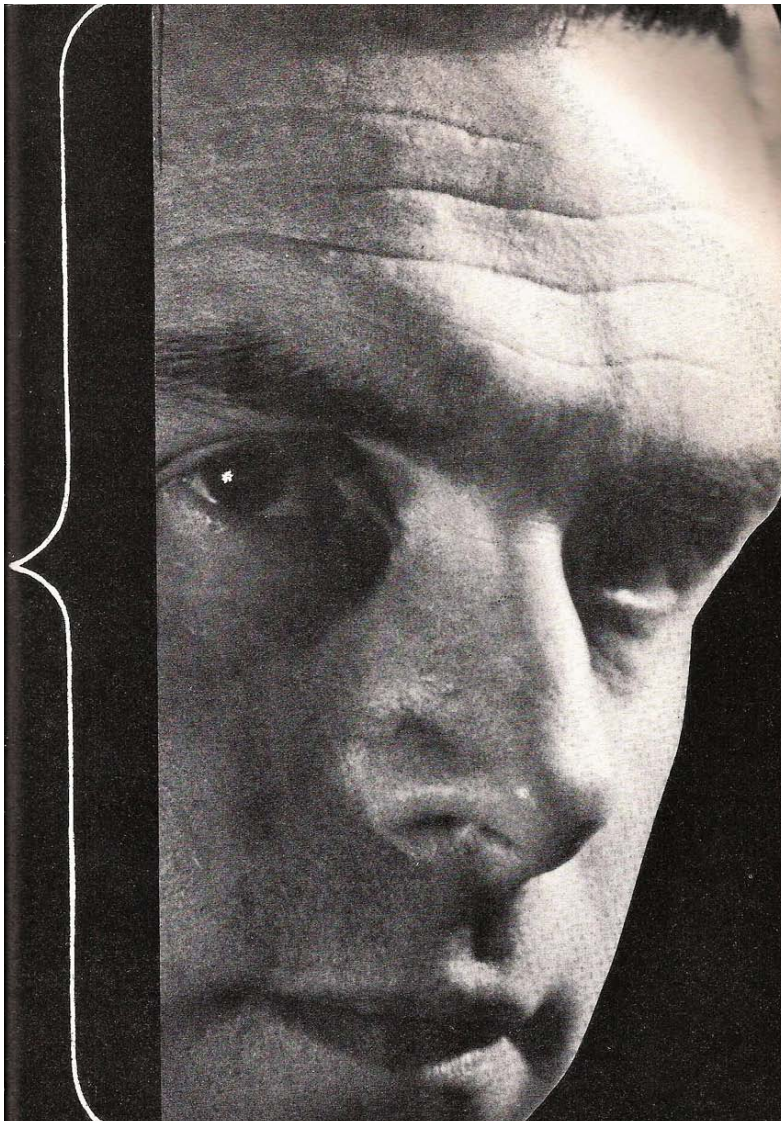
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**Artists:** Anton Giulio Bragaglia, Jan Brzękowski, Władysław Daszewski, Eugène Deslaw, Tadeusz Gronowski, André Kertész, Frederick Kiesler, Feliks Krassowski, Jalu Kurek, Bohdan Lachert, Virgilio Marchi, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Maria Nicz-Borowiakowa, Ivo Pannaggi, Zdenka Podhajská, Kazimierz Podsadecki, Enrico Prampolini, Andrzej Pronaszko, Zbigniew Pronaszko, Luigi Russolo, Henryk Stażewski, Helena Syrkus, Szymon Syrkus, Józef Szanajca, Ruggero Vasari, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, Rougena Zátková

**Authors of texts in the catalogue:** Andrea Baffoni, Gunter Berghaus, Maria Elena Versari, Przemysław Strożek, Monika Chudzikowska, David Rifkind, Giovanni Lista, Paulina Kurc Maj.

**curator:** Przemysław Strożek

**coordinator:** Przemysław Purtak



Enrico Prampolini, Author and date unknown,  
Private collection, Rome

**9 June 2017**



**8 October 2017**

**Contact details:**

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## 100 YEARS OF THE AVANT-GARDE IN POLAND

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The exhibition *Enrico Prampolini. Futurism, Stage Design and the Polish Avant-Garde Theatre* is part of the celebration of:

# 100 LAT AWAN GARDY W POLSCE

Honorary Patron: the President of the Republic  
of Poland Andrzej Duda

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Main partner of 100th anniversary of Polish  
avant-garde in Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz



Partner of the exhibition

