



“BORDERLAND” FOUNDATION

REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021–DECEMBER 2022

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Wojciech Szroeder – Member of the Board

Małgorzata Sporek-Czyżewska – Member of the Board

Most programmes operated by the International Centre for Dialogue in Krasnogruda are delivered in partnership with the “Borderland – of Arts, Cultures and Nations” Centre in Sejny.



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Thanks to the support of the Pinchuk Foundation, in the period between September 2021 and December 2022, the Borderland Foundation developed educational and artistic programs implemented by the International Center for Dialogue addressed to both the local community and dedicated to international cooperation, with the special focus on Ukraine due to the War which confronted us with needs of new forms of cooperation and support.



KRASNOGRUDA STUDIOS

Thanks to the support of the Pinchuk Foundation, The Borderland Foundation was able to continue and develop further the activities of Krasnogruda Studios – a constellation of artistic and educational workshops active year round which refer in their activities to the local matter, memory of the place and the creative inventiveness of local residents: Poles, Lithuanians and Russian Old Believers (children, teens, and adults). The program includes the following workshops: Word and Tale Studio, Nature Studio, Weaving Studio, Art Studio, Music of the Place Studio, Krasnogruda Pantry Studio, The Enchanted Gucio – children art studio and Children’s Robotics Lab. The workshops are conducted by animators from Borderland who also invite for cooperation outstanding artists, culture animators and educators all with many years of experience of conducting long-term artistic work in multicultural environments. Krasnogruda Studios are developing theatrical performances, concerts, films, exhibitions, books, and innovative educational programs with particular attention to artistic quality of this work.

Additional programs realized by Krasnogruda Studios:

SEJNY LEKTORIUM PROGRAM

Sejny Lektorium program is an educational program dedicated to young people from Sejny, which combines education with elements of artistic activities and active exploration of the world. The aim of the project is to deepen the knowledge and broaden the horizons of young people in the fields of the humanities that interest them, and to shape the creative attitude and ambitions of young people to prepare them to take on the challenges of gaining further education and choosing a professional career. Three groups of participants take part in the project: students of schools from the Sejny region; a group of students – tutors, selected from the group of graduates of the “Borderland” projects, who today are





our volunteers in other projects and study in Warsaw, Białystok and Krakow; and professors, specialists and artists who, invited by us, conduct guest lectures and classes. Study trips constitute an important element of the project. This year, these were trips to: Wrocław, Gdańsk, Warsaw and Lublin, which gave young people from Sejny and the surrounding villages an opportunity to get to know important places of cultural heritage in Poland and take advantage of their cultural offer: museums, architectural monuments, theaters, concerts.

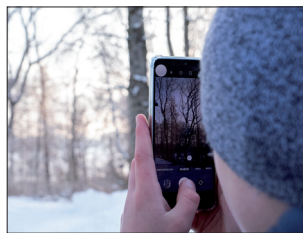
THE ENCHANTED GUCIO STUDIO

Throughout the year, the workshop for small children in Krasnogruda conducted regular weekly classes for children from Sejny and the surrounding villages, as well as for all those who wanted to come from more distant areas – for Polish, Lithuanian and Ukrainian children who found themselves in our territories after the outbreak of the war. Classes are held according to a set rule: they last two and a half hours, and, weather permitting, they are also conducted outdoors. In periods without school – winter holidays, holidays – classes are held more often. They are a combination of art activities, plays and games with elements of natural and artistic education. Over the past year, children from The Enchanted Gucio studio have made, among others, illustrations for two books in the Ukrainian and Polish versions: “Grandma is knitting” by Uria Orleva and “Lost Mruczusia” by Olha Kupriyan. From October 2022, the instructors also carry out classes for a group of 3-4 year olds from the kindergarten in Sejny as part of the Kindergarten in the Borderland program. Meetings lasting up to two hours are held once every two weeks in the “Zustricz” common space in Sejny.



A FAIRY TALE ABOUT A DYING ASH

A fairy tale about a dying ash is a two-year multidisciplinary project, scheduled for March 2022 – December 2023. It involves a group of youngsters from the primary school in Krasnów. The project is implemented in the form of educational and artistic workshops; music, sound, theatre, art, scenography and nature. As a result of the project, a performance in nature will be created, related to the role of trees in culture, rituals and human life, as well as an illustrated catalog about trees written by children in two versions: classic and in Braille. Activities implemented in 2022: In the first year of the project, during nature workshops, we got to know the Krasnogruda Park with its biodiversity, trying to get to know the entire natural context in which trees live. We created texts about the trees that our publication will consist of. There were also illustrations for the catalog



about trees in the techniques of linocut, gel graphics, watercolor, plasticine. Art classes were conducted by artists with many years of experience working with children (Wiesław Szumiński, Julia Brovarna, Hanna Osadko).

AN ARTISTIC NATURE TRAIL IN THE KRASNOGRUDA PARK

The path consists of 6 “stations”, sculptures by Aleksandra Wasilkowska placed on pedestals hidden in greenery, which refer poetically and abstractly to 6 natural themes: 1) Trees, 2) Mosses, Lichens, Mushrooms, 3) Birds, 4) Insects, 5) Lake, 6) Stone. Krasnogrudzi Park has gained a contemplative space for guests visiting the Miłosz Court, as well as a place for educational and artistic activities.



THE MUSICIANS’ RAFT, NEW YORK TO SEJNY

A creative meeting, joint music-making, a cycle of concerts and recordings of outstanding figures and musicians from United States, Poland, Izrael, Denmark, Ukraine, Belarus and Turkey (among others: Frank London, Mikołaj Trzaska, Raphael Rogiński) representing new directions in the development of jazz, Klezmer and improvised music and their cooperation with the musicians of the Klezmer Orchestra of the Sejny Theatre.

The essence of the meetings was the creation of new, contemporary and modern Jewish music, but also the involvement of the Sejny community as well as and tourists who flock to the Sejny region in the summer season. Each presentation gathered a wide audience, also online – each concert was broadcast live on the project’s website and on Borderland’s social networking sites.





TAŃCE SEJNEŃSKIE – SPECIAL COMPOSING COMMISSION FOR THE SEJNY KLEZMER ORCHESTRA

Michał Fetler’s composition for the Klezmer Orchestra of the Sejny Theater is a collection of dynamically complementary pieces referring to the contemporary situation of a border town. Fetler refers to tradition in a creative and innovative way, and most importantly – he expresses his music in a form that is attractive to the young generation. The resulting composition is deeply rooted in multi-cultural tradition, and at the same time based on completely innovative and thoroughly modern sounds. The performance team is a multi-generational group, from primary school students to high school students, students and well-formed musicians who treat Sejny as their home. At every stage of the work, young participants of the Orchestra were creatively present, the recipients was the whole community of the inhabitants of Sejny.



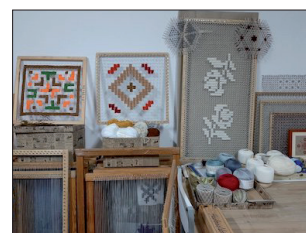
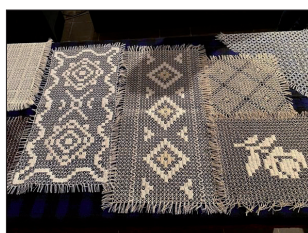
WEAVING STUDIO – LITHUANIAN SELVEDGE WORKSHOPS

The Weaving Studio this year realised workshops entitled „Fabrics tied on a frame – unique handicraft of the Sejny region”.

Participants learned the secrets of an archaic, folk technique that used to be very popular, and its main creators were Lithuanians living in this region. It was mainly used to make tablecloths, tapestries and covers that decorated elements of rural houses. The rich history, design and various ways of making such fabrics were taught by the master Anna Budzejko from Puńsk. The host introduced the old and modern traditions related to the use of this beautiful technique of composing and filling the pattern on the frame.

Participants of the workshops drew art projects, prepared special frames and natural linen and woolen threads to finally make their own, decorative tablecloths and tapestries.

The exhibition of completed works and the presentation of photographic and film documentation gathered many guests from the region.





BORDERLAND SCHOOL

BORDERLAND/UKRAINE PROGRAM

Over the years, the Borderland Foundation has been committed to programs integrating Ukrainians and Ukrainian culture into broader world conversations: through guest fellowships, workshops, an annual summer school, art, and music. During this war we have expanded our role to invite and host Ukrainians, not only in our own region, but with the help of partners, throughout Poland.



RESIDENCY PROGRAM

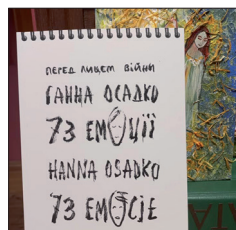
This year, since the breakout of the war in Ukraine, we offered accommodation, work space and a scholarship in the amount of 1000 euro to 53 writers, artists and their families in a framework of the residency program. Additionally we provided accommodation and support for other refugees in the framework of our support program.





EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

As the result of our residency program there were four exhibitions of art works of our residents combined with auctions for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. We initiated also a publishing program called „Facing the War. The Library of Ukrainian Poetry”. It is the initiative co-organized by the Jesava Publishing House from Lviv and the Borderland Foundation. The benefit from the sale supports the Ukraine. Each book is translated by a Polish poet. So far we published two collections, 10 books each. Volumes of poetry that make up the first series were created in a dialogue between poets and translators: Wołodymyr Bynio / Janusz Radwański, Oleksandr Irwaneć / Jerzy Czech, Halyna Kruk / Aneta Kamińska, Kateryna Michalicyna / Jakub Pszoniak, Iryna Mularczuk / Katarzyna Szweda, Julia Musakowska / Aneta Kamińska, Walerij Puzik / Leszek Szaruga, Ostap Sływynsky / Bohdan Zadura, Julia Szeket / Bohdan Zadura, Natalia Trochym / Krzysztof Czyżewski. In the second one: Olga Bragina / Julia Fiedorczyk, Ala Gulijewa / Joanna Lewandowska, Kateryna Kałytko / Aneta Kamińska, Ija Kiwa / Alicja Rosé, Wasyl Machno / Bohdan Zadura, Anna Maligon / Jakub Kornhauser, Hanna Osadko / Agnieszka Wolny-Hamkało, Daria Suzdalowa / Krzysztof Czyżewski, Iryna Szuwałowa / Aneta Kamińska, Serhij Żadan / Aleksandra Zińczuk.



ZUSTRICH

One of the Borderland's initiatives dedicated to Ukraine is Zustrich, the meeting place and a club in Sejny in the building of the old yeshiva, which is a space dedicated to Ukrainian guests staying with us engaging them with artistic workshops and common activities with local community. The program of Zustrich is dedicated both to children and adults. Thanks to the work of the team of US volunteers who contacted the Borderland, during summer 2022 Zustrich welcomed children and adults to English language summer camp.





MERIDIAN CAFÉ

The aim of the program was to establish direct partnership cooperation between Borderland Foundation and 5 small bookstores in five cities in Poland – Sztuka Wyboru in Gdańsk, De Revolutionibus. Books and Cafe in Krakow, Zmiana Klimatu in Białystok, Workshops of Culture in Lublin, Local. Cultural melting pot in Katowice. This cooperation resulted in cultural events, which partly took the form of traditional meetings with authors, and partly also took place online. Reports from the meetings were published on the websites of all project partners. Thanks to the cooperation, the formula of meetings under the name “Meridian café” was created, it was reaching out to authors from the literary circle of the Meridian publishing series (Central Europe, Balkans, Georgia). Meetings with authors Arczil Kikodze, Georgia; Patrik Ouředník, Czech Republic; Lejla Kalamujic, Bosnia; Kristian Novak, Croatia; Alhierd Bacharewicz, Belarus, were available in the cultural offer of 5 bookstores in Poland. The talks were conducted by experts and promoters of this literature in Poland, eg Andrzej Jagodziński, Anna Maślanka, Jakub Kornhauser, Aleksandra Zińczuk, Krzysztof Czyżewski, Inga Iwasiów, Jacek Kołtan, Andrej Chadanowicz. Interpreters also took part in the meetings. Publishing materials on-line on an ongoing basis has significantly expanded the circle of recipients of the entire project. The Flying Literary Café “Meridian Café” was characterized by diversity both in the case of authors, each of whom belongs to a different generation, writing in their own language, and the action of stories and novels is set in countries from which the authors come from. The selected books make up a rich picture of Central European literature, addressing the issues of the borderland, broadly understood as the borderline of history and the present, the traumatic heritage of the past, wars and conflicts, as well as the borderline of generations and various, often borderline personal and social experiences.

An important element of the program was cooperation with the university community and the search for partners for discussion among the young generation of recipients of this literature, among students of humanities, philology and Slavic studies. Two meetings with different writers (10 meetings) were held in each of the 5 bookstores. The most important thing was to create a new environment of readers based on small institutions, local bookstores, which act as small cultural centers working for a small local community. We also managed to establish cooperation with local literary magazines (e.g. Kultura Enter, Lublin; Epea, Białystok). These magazines thus join the circle of bookseller-publisher cooperation. Cooperation consists in posting book reviews, information about meetings, publishing materials from debates, interviews with authors, and talks about books.





„REMEMBERING HAVEL” – DEBATE AND EXHIBITION

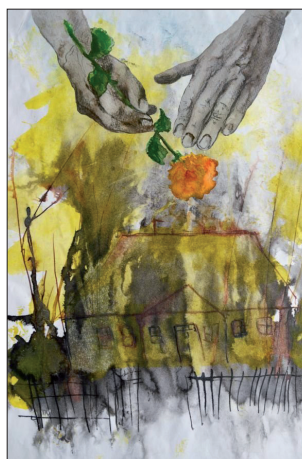
On the tenth anniversary of the death of President Vaclav Havel, a debate entitled “Europe after Havel” was held with the participation of: Marta Simeckowa, Adam Michnik, Martin Milan Simecky, Michał Zantowski, Sławomir Sierakowski and Andrzej Jagodziński. An outdoor exhibition was also opened in the spaces of Krasnogruda Park entitled “Vaclav Havel: Politics and Conscience”.



THE SEJNY BOOK OF FAIRY TALES – WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

In the framework of this program, young people from Sejny, under the care of outstanding writers, delved into the fairy-tale world of childhood. The book that was created is not only a record of heard stories, but consists of original, literary texts that were created as part of this project. Five writers – five workshop teams – ten fairy tales from Sejny. Young people, under the care of Bożena Szroeder, collaborated with masters of words: Agata Tuszyńska (writer, poet, biographer and reporter, author of, among others, the best-selling book Family History of Fear and the biography of Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer), Janina Osewska (poet, teacher and traveler), Birutė Jonuškaitė (one of the most famous contemporary Lithuanian writers), Małgorzata Sporek-Czyżewska (director, author of theater and film scripts, cultural animator) and Krzysztof Czyżewski (writer, poet and essayist).

As part of meetings and workshops with young people, they discussed what a fairy tale is, about fairy tale motifs in cultural memory, what fairy tales and legends are recalled in their homes, about the first fairy tales in the world and when they began to be written down, as well as about what is the difference





between the workshop of a fabulist and the workshop of a writer and poet. Young people also took part in journalism workshops conducted by Bożena Szroeder, which concerned the practice of conducting interviews and documenting them. After these preparations, it was time to meet at the homes of the program participants, talk to their parents and grandparents about the fairy tales of their childhood. Małgorzata Sporek-Czyżewska took her team twice to Grabowe Grądy, a village inhabited by Russian Old Believers, where interviews were conducted on traditions and stories related to the world of their beliefs and customs.

As part of creative writing workshops, led by each of the involved writers, fairy tale scenarios were created. Each of them worked differently. Together with Janina Osewska, the young people created mind maps and characterizations of the characters, together they discovered the world of nature and drew inspiration from it. Working with Krzysztof Czyżewski was based on traditional correspondence – work on individual threads of the fairy tale took place through letters sent to each other, as well as meetings and consultations, and finally visits to the Krasnogruda Manorhouse and joint walks along the alleys of Krasnogruda Park; the first of the fairy tales, referring to the biography of Czesław Miłosz, focuses on youthful dreams and faithfulness to them in adult life; the other is immersed in the Gypsy tradition, which the young people explored during meetings, watching movies and reading Gypsy fairy tales. With Agata Tuszyńska, the young people looked at the lost, now absent Jewish world; they met for daily online consultations, explored the details of the story together, refined the literary descriptions of objects, and the language used by the characters. Małgorzata Sporek-Czyżewska, during trips to Gabowe Grądy and individual meetings, introduced young people to the world of Russian Old Believers, looking for inspiration in the stories heard by their interlocutors in childhood: fairy tales, but also taken from life. Birute Januskaite worked with her team during Zoom meetings, introducing young people to the world of Lithuanian traditions, especially those preserved in the Sejny region, in her hometown of Puńsk and Lake Sereje.

The Sejny Book of Fairy Tales also has an original graphic design, created by project participants under the supervision of Wiesław Szumiński. The visual story is complementing a diverse world of fairy tales.

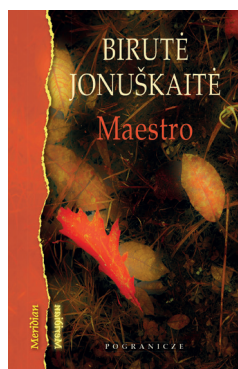
What are these new Sejny fairy tales like? They include a time travel machine, the power of nature and herbs, a magic staff, youthful dreams, a tree cake and a beautiful girl named Krasnogruda. Immersed in the multicultural tradition of the Polish-Lithuanian borderland, they embrace the neighborhood world in which the motifs of Lithuanian, Old Believer, Jewish, Polish and Gypsy culture coexist. These are fairy tales from the borderland, not only the cultural one, but also the borderland between the world of nature and civilization, the world of children and adulthood, history and the present. They draw inspiration from the rich heritage of the region, but above all they are the voice of young Sejny storytellers who talk about what is important to them: the need for acceptance, the challenges of entering adulthood, the search for one's own identity, the power of continuity and faithfulness.





BORDERLAND PUBLISHING HOUSE

BIRUTE JONUSKAITE „MAESTRO”



The title *Maestro* was already known to the readers of Marant's novel published a few years earlier, in which this character was an important element of the story of three extraordinary women, representing three generations of a family full of secrets. This time *Maestro* has a chance for his own story, thanks to which he appears to us in a slightly different light. Ailing, nearing the end of his life, Wiktor, an outstanding painter, but also a hardened cynic and a repulsive misanthrope, gradually – and reluctantly – reveals himself to Rasa, his late-found granddaughter, trying to take advantage of the last chance to create a close relationship with someone. We get to know the details of a boy's childhood from a “good home”, expeditions to forbidden areas of pre-war Warsaw, holidays spent at a summer resort on Lake Gaładus and traumatic experiences during the war. *Maestro* is a story about wounds that do not heal, about learning to love and about the fact that each of us carries a dark twin inside.

Joanna Tabor

JOANNA UGNIEWSKA „ZAMIESZKIWANIE PAMIĘCI”



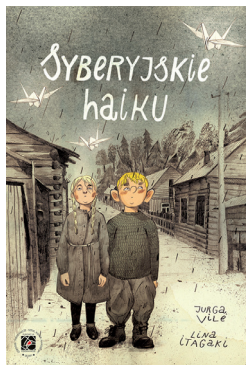
The art of reading is best learned from translators, because they are right at the beginning, right behind the author. They read passionately, with their whole being. But only exceptional translators, such as Joanna Ugniewska, are able to show around the library of texts that have become close to them, draw private constellations, talk about places, authors, ideas so that what is difficult, intricate, sometimes tangled, becomes for us readers, bright and appealing. Joanna Ugniewska talks about what contributed to her reading memory. Inhabiting memory is not an easy art. For memory, you need to find a home and arrange it well, so that you want to visit it, want to live in it. Joanna Ugniewska talks about the



writers she translated, such as Eco, Magris or Tabucchi, commented many times, such as Chiaromonte or Malaparte, and writes about places she knows well, most often under the Italian sky and by the Italian sea. But also about those who come from far away and speak different languages, like this wonderful group of gentlemen on the “m”: Mariás, Márai, Manea, Matvejević.

Marek Zagańczyk

JURGA VILE, LINA ITAGAKI, „SYBERYJSKIE HAIKU”

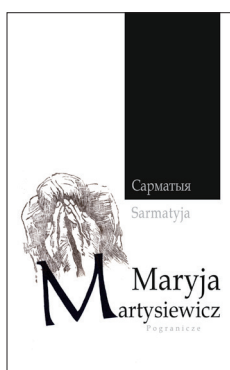


Excerpt from the review:

Telling a young reader in the language of literature about the hell of war wandering, Siberian exile and the madness of World War II is not easy... However, from time to time there are books that manage to do it. The graphic novel “Syberyjskie haiku”, which was published in our country thanks to the Borderland Publishing House is one of them. (...) This story is beautiful in every way – starting with comic illustrations showing a child’s view of the hell of Siberian exile, through the extraordinary drama and emotional meaning of this relationship, with tears and smiles constantly intertwined on our face, and finally ending with the wisdom of leading this story, so that it has its own truth, but also to be accessible to the young recipient. It is a beautiful book that cannot be ignored. (...) Moreover, it is a story based largely on the real life of the author’s family members, who in this way shares with us these moving relationships, but also pays homage to all these Lithuanians, Swedes, Tatars and Poles who met this tragic war fate.

sztukater.pl

MARYJA MARTYSIEWICZ „SARMATYJA”



A volume of poetry by a contemporary Belarusian author, which was published in the series „Inicjał”.



KRZYSZTOF CZYŻEWSKI, „ŁZA KLAUNA”



Clown’s Tear is an art-book based on the title poem by Krzysztof Czyżewski, etchings created especially for it by Hałyna Dudar and Wiesław Szumiński, and graphic design by Nadija Welyczko. The book contains translations of the poem into seventeen languages of the world. It is the result of cooperation within the Pogranicze/

Ukraine program and artistic residencies at the International Center for Dialogue in Krasnogruda.

„W OBLICZU WOJNY. BIBLIOTEKA POEZJI UKRAINY”, TEN BILINGUAL VOLUMES OF POETS FROM UKRAINE – SERIES I, SERIES II

„Facing the war. The Library of Ukrainian Poetry” series was created in the face of war and has its source in the belief that literature is not an autonomous zone, but deeply resonates with the reality bearing the stamp of war tragedy. This is not about the “subject of war” as one of the possible themes of poems, but about Ukrainian poetry – a word in action in a borderline situation. The idea of publishing Ukrainian poetry written in the face of the Russian aggression that has been going on since 2014 and translated by poets from Poland was born at the International Center for Dialogue. Czesław Miłosz in Krasnogruda as part of the Pogranicze/Ukraine program. It is a joint initiative of the publishing houses “Dżezwa” from Lviv and “Pogranicze” from Sejny/Krasnogruda. It refers to the



Library of Sarajevo Writers, initiated by Borderland Foundation and independent publishing houses from Sarajevo, Belgrade and Ljubljana during the ongoing war in former Yugoslavia. The funds from the sale of volumes are intended to support authors from Ukraine. The work, which started in March 2022, resulted in the publication of 20 Polish-Ukrainian volumes of poetry illustrated by artists from Ukraine.



BORDERLAND/BELARUS. RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Borderland/Belarus is a support program for Belarusian writers, journalists and artists, whose freedom and security are threatened by the current political situation in Belarus. This program consists of two different areas of support: a month long residency stays at the International Center for Dialogue in Krasnogruda, and debates and interviews with the participation of program beneficiaries, made available and promoted online. The hospitality of the Czesław Miłosz Manor, where Belarusian writers and journalists are able to come to the residence, gives them a chance to regenerate, work on their creative projects and enable contact with the media and publishers. The additional scholarship provides financial support upon their return.

In September 2021 we hosted Olga Archipowa – Belarusian art critic and cultural studies scholar who in the framework of the residency worked on creating an online archive and database of contemporary Belarusian art.

In 2022 the Borderland Foundation continued cooperation and support for Belarus in the framework for the residency program „In conversation with Belarusian writers – Polish-German-Belarusian residency program”, which we implement together with the Genshagen Foundation and the Belarusian PEN Club. In August 2022, two Belarusian writers: Polina Stepanenko (Kachatkova) and Andrej Januszkiewicz came to the residency. They stayed at the creative residency at the Genshagen Palace in Germany for ten days, and then the rest of the residency at the International Center for Dialogue in Krasnogruda.

This program is a platform for the exchange of thoughts and experiences, a source of information on the current situation in Belarus and an opportunity to establish dialogue and long-term tripartite cooperation. It also contributes to sensitizing public opinion in Germany and Poland to the situation in Belarus, and especially to the situation of writers.





SEARCHING FOR A HOMETLAND MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION

„Searching for a Homeland” is a permanent educational and artistic exhibition in a space of Manor House in Krasnogruda, which is constantly growing in search for innovative forms of conveying the knowledge and experience of the ethos of Borderland thru Miłosz’s writings and biography. The important part of this exhibition is *Silva Rerum* – a space dedicated to the local history told by residents of villages surrounding Krasnogruda which was developed further this year and got a new shape.

This part of exhibition is showing the history of families living in the villages of the Polish-Lithuanian borderland in various historical periods, as long as memory and family history go back. It is a story about the fate of exiles and repatriates, about the traditions of domestic and religious holidays, about customs, about people, places and events important for the memory of the entire community. We present some of the resources from our archive of oral history collected over the years, presented in the form of films, written stories, photographs from albums, documents, family souvenirs.

The exhibition refers to the tradition of *Silva Rerum*, the creation of house books, the so-called Home bibles, where families recorded the history of their homes and their inhabitants for generations.

In the central place of the exhibition there is an Open Book – a sculpture. Entering its interior, we move around a map of roads, lakes, and a space in which there are replicas of houses with the names of inhabitants of four villages: Dusz-nica, Krasnogrudy, Ogrodnik and Żegar.

All subtitles and texts are displayed in two languages: Polish and Lithuanian, because Lithuanians and Poles are neighbors here. On a wooden pedestal there is a tactile graphic designed for the visually impaired, a mock-up of the exhibition that allows you to experience the objects placed in its space by touch.

