

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first of our themed issues. The aim of these issues, and of *Inferno* as a whole, is to provide a forum for the presentation of work currently being undertaken by postgraduate researchers across Europe. With this issue on the art of Poland and Eastern Europe we hope to draw attention to work being carried out in one of the less traditional fields of art historical research. The division implied between Eastern and Western Europe is, in many ways, artificial. The artists discussed in this volume can often be seen to be responding to the same intellectual currents as their more westerly, and often better known, artistic colleagues. However, the unique circumstances of life and politics behind the iron curtain obviously affected artistic production. It is these similarities and differences, the mixture of the strange and the familiar, that makes the art history of this area of Europe so fascinating.

The inspiration for this issue was the special relationship between Scotland and Poland, in particular the tie the School of Art History, University of St Andrews, has with its counterpart in the Jagiellonian University, Cracow. The two late mediaeval universities have been linked via the Gibson-Sikora Scholarship since 2000. *Inferno* would also like to thank the Sikorski Polish Club and the Scottish Polish Cultural Association for their support of this issue.

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Kim Hodge is currently preparing a Masters Thesis on *Tamara de Lempicka*. Her first degree in the History of Art began as a mature student at the University of Buckingham, and was completed at Oxford Brookes. She is currently pursuing a career in art journalism and working as an independent researcher.

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Reuben Fowkes received his Ph.D. from Essex University with a thesis on *Monumental Sculpture in Post-War Eastern Europe, 1945-60*. He is an independent scholar specialising in the visual arts and cultural history of Central and Eastern Europe. He has contributed to various publications in this field. More information on his current research projects can be found at <http://www.reubenfowkes.net/>.

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