

1: Introduction

„Julia Keilowa. Designer” at the Museum of Warsaw is an exhibition that offers a closer look at the figure of a remarkable Warsaw artist. Keilowa was a sculptor and artistic metalworker active in Warsaw in the 1930s. She collaborated with Warsaw metalwork factories to create fashionable Art Déco household items. Today, her work is listed among the masterpieces of Polish design. The work of Julia Keilowa was influenced by the processes occurring at the time in the artistic, social and economic life. It was a moment when women could benefit from the achievements of emancipation. It was also a time when designer as a profession gained respectability, and design was becoming increasingly democratic. The career of Julia Keilowa brings to mind the way in which careers of other European women designers, her contemporaries, unfolded. At the exhibition, we recall the figures of two pioneer generations of design creators: Sonia Delaunay, Jutta Sika, Christa Ehrlich and Sylvia Stave. The scenario of these women’s artistic careers seems to be similar. Education, success, war, oblivion, then restoration of their memory, is a sequence that fits life stories of all these artists.