

2: Art Déco

At the beginning of the exhibition, we present Art Déco, an art style of the 1920s and 1930s interwar period. We show everyday household objects made in this particular geometric style which also alluded to the interwar avant-garde. The Art Déco style drew from modern artistic trends, it loved colour, dynamics, speed – and we can see all that in those objects. In the exhibition, we can see objects of various nature: furniture, ceramics, glass, fabrics as well as paintings that could also be executed in that style. We can see items made of precious materials, like jewellery, and items made of materials only imitating the precious ones, like bakelite, very fashionable at the time, or galalith. There are two particularly notable objects here which embody the Art Déco style, and tell us something about the reality of the 1920s and 1930s. We must remember that it was the time of the rebirth of Poland. The Polish state put considerable hopes in new art. In the Art Déco style, as well as the national art. The two styles merged to create the image of the young Polish state. Let me draw your attention to two diadems in the cabinet, designed by Grunwald. This famous metalworker at the time created them for Jadwiga Beck, wife of the former minister Józef Beck. Mrs Beck wore them when visiting the English court, thus promoting Polish art and Polish artists. Also noteworthy are the pitchers exhibited on the opposite side. They were designed by Wendorff for a very famous pottery factory in Ćmielów. These pitchers show us how the Art Déco style became more widespread in society, also among less affluent people. We can see a very pretty, geometric form, however, these pitchers could be painted in many different ways. From a very typical Art Déco style paintwork, to ordinary wildflowers which seem not to fit the form of these dishes. But that is how the less affluent became familiar with the Art Déco style and started to include it in their home décor.