

Summary

KAZIMIERZ OŻÓG/ Good “statues” – bad “statues” or figures from Piotrkowska Street

The text refers to the activity of an artistic tandem (an actor, Marcel Szytenchelm and a sculptor, Robert Sobociński), who in the recent years set themselves a goal of decorating Piotrkowska Street in Łódź with cast in bronze figures which create *The Gallery of Great People of Łódź*. The process started already in 1999, when the set of sculptures was begun with *Tuwim's Bench*, performed by Wojciech Gryniewicz. Its artistic level is much higher than the level of the other statues created by another artist. It opened a sort of Pandora's Box to which the activity of the mentioned above duo is being compared to many different circles. Nearly every year a new statue was unveiled: *Rubinstein's Piano* (2000), *Reymont's Trunk* (2001), *Originators of Industrial Łódź* (2002), *Jaracz's Armchair* (2006), *Lamplighter / Anonymous Electrician* (2007). In the following process an irritating problem of appropriating public space as well as artistic production long-term resistant to any control attempts or stoppage. The text, except for a short recall of history and shapes of individual casts, discusses controversy and comments (in majority written down by the local newspapers) that arouse around Sobociński's works invented by Szytenchelm. The issue of “monument” artistic activity that does not meet even the lowest artistic standards, and repeatedly infiltrate the space of Polish cities is unfortunately still up-to-date and the authors of more or less caricatural collections of memorial stones (Koszalin, Lublin) or bronze casts (Kraków, Opole, Kielce) seem to be inspired by this inglorious example from Łódź.