

## Summary

**ANJA DITTRICH / „Die maritime Stadt. Hafenstädte an der Ostsee vom Mittelalter bis in die Gegenwart”.  
21. Tagung des Arbeitskreises deutscher und polnischer Kunsthistoriker und Denkmalpfleger – “The Sea-  
town. Harbour town on the Baltic Sea from the Middle Ages to Present. The 21st conference of the Working  
Group of German and Polish Art Historians and Conervators” (Danzig / Gdańsk, 18-21 September 2013)**

The common cultural heritage of Poland and Germany is for more than twenty years the central concern of the Working Group of German and Polish Art Historians and Conservators (Arbeitskreises deutscher und polnischer Kunsthistoriker und Denkmalpfleger / Grupa Robocza Niemieckich i Polskich Historyków Sztuki i Konserwatorów). At its annual meetings the working-group aims at the study of the artistic, cultural and economic interrelations between the two countries. From September 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 the twenty-first annual conference, organised by the Department of Art History at the University of Gdańsk in collaboration with the Department of Art History and Historical Urban Studies of the Technische Universität in Berlin and the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre (Nadbałtyckie Centrum Kultury) was held at the town hall of Gdańsk. The event was also supported by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation (Stiftung für Deutsch-Polnische Zusammenarbeit / Fundacja Współpracy Polsko-Niemieckiej), the German Federal Government Representative for Culture and Media (Bundesbeauftragte für Kultur und Medien) and Kopczyński adwokaci i radcowie prawni [Kopczyński Lawyers and Solicitors]. Within the framework of the conference, the participants analysed the importance of harbour cities for the exchange of artworks and architectural patterns in the Baltic Region. The conference program was divided into three thematic complexes. The first section explored the use and cultural importance of the brick in Gothic architecture of region. The second section offered different perspectives on the self-presentation of the cities and their citizens from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The third section was dedicated to the architecture of the harbour cities in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore the conference programme included excursions to Oliva abbey, the historical old town of Gdańsk and the Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork, which offered participants the opportunity to discuss crucial issues of the conference on site. In summary it can be stated that the specific of artistic development in harbour cities in the Baltic region offered a number of new research perspectives. During the discussions the attention was repeatedly drawn to the complex problems of the preservation of historically significant monuments, especially in the context of the reconstruction of the historic city centre of Gdańsk.