The Greatest Tapestry Event for the World
The 12th International Triennial of Tapestry, Łódź’07

Marcin Oko
Central Museum of Textiles
ul. Piotrkowska 282, 93 - 034, Łódź, Poland
E-mail: etmustex@muzeumwlokiennictwa.pl

Next year, 35 years after the 1st Triennial of Tapestry and Industrial Textiles held in 1972, at that time only a Polish presentation, on May 21st 2007 to be precise, we will open the 12th International Triennial of Tapestry (ITT), an exhibition and competition promoting world-wide fibre art. It is the oldest and the biggest of its kind, since the break-up of the International Biennial of Tapestry in Lausanne in 1995 and the International Textile Exhibition in Kyoto in 1998. The exhibition will be on until October 31st 2007.

Altogether 1000 artists from 70 countries have taken part in the past events. Polish artists form a considerable group, which has often been awarded with medals from the international jury (4 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals and 5 Bronze Medals). 148 artists from 50 countries have accepted the organisers’ invitation, which demonstrates the unfailing interest in the Łódź Triennial despite the passage of time and the changes in fashions.

Usually, we launch the organisational procedure two years before the next event. Six months after the dissolution of the previous Programming Board, the organisers have appointed a new one for the coming event, on December 14th 2005. It has become a useful habit to pass on our considerations and conclusions to members of the new Board who on the basis of their experience, as well as current artistic and economic conditions, introduced essential corrections into the regulations and the application form. The Programming Board appoints national consultants who select the invited artists of their countries, the jury members, and also selects the Polish artists who will participate in the Triennial. The Programming Board accomplished its tasks with the results presented below:

- The following 23 artists out of 68 will represent Poland: Ewa Andrzejczyk (Warszawa), Katarzyna Antoszczyk (Łódź), Andrzej Banachowicz (Poznań), Aleksandra Bibrowicz-Sikorska (Gdynia), Lidia Choczej (Łódź), Włodzimierz Cygan (Łódź), Krystyna Dyrdak-Kortyka (Wrocław), Marta Gąsienica-Szostak (Zakopane), Maria Gierczynska (Poznań), Aleksandra Herysz (Bielisko-Biała), Renata Jackowiak (Poznań), Olga Jagielinska (Babsk), Daniela Jałkiewicz (Łódź), Lilla Kulka (Kraków), Piotr Lazowski (Warszawa), Ewa Łukiewska (Gdańsk), Irena Palka (Kraków), Beata Piechowiak (Łódź), Małgorzata Ptak (Łódź), Wojciech Sadley (Warszawa), Jerzy Stępak (Poznań), Dorota Taranek (Łódź), Małgorzata Wyszogrodzka (Łódź).

- Additionally, as in previous years, the Programming Board has decided to invite as participants long-time national consultants, as well as other artists whose unquestioned achievements are recognised world-wide.

- Traditionally, members of the international jury represent countries and regions which are the leaders in fibre art, namely Poland, Japan, the USA, the countries of Europe, and South America and artist-winners from the last events. The following persons, who had previously applied and were unanimously selected by the Programming Board, kindly agreed to undertake the duties of analysing, evaluating and awarding medals for the 12th ITT: Hiroko Watanabe (retired professor of the Tama University and President of the Textile Design Association of Japan), Japan; Rebecca A.C. Stevens (curator, contemporary textiles consultant in the Textile Museum in Washington D.C.), USA; Bente Saetrang (Silver Medal at the 11th ITT, Łódź ’04), Norway; Alvaro Diego Gómez Campuzano (participant in the 7th ITT, Łódź ’92), Colombia; Norbert Zawiszka (Director of the Central Museum of Textiles, Chairman of the Programming Board), Poland; and Konrad Zych (Gold Medal at the 11th ITT, Łódź ’04), Poland.

The Triennial exhibition is traditionally associated with an entire cycle of presentations organised by museums, galleries and art communities all over Poland throughout the whole of the triennial year. In 2004 we had over 90 exhibitions, retreats, symposia and competitions from the Baltic Sea to the Tatra Mountains. Next year we can count on those exhibition which have always collaborated with us, namely the 10th National Polish Exhibition of Tapestry, the 9th National Exhibition of Miniature Textiles, the 7th International Baltic Triennial of Miniature Textiles in Gdynia, the Festival of Textile Art in Kraków, as well as many others (40 events have so far submitted, but the list is still open).

The 12th International Triennial of Tapestry, Łódź ’07 will be difficult for the organisers due to the refurbishing works which are ongoing in the last as yet un-restored wing of the ‘White Factory’, which is the museum’s seat, as well as the procedure of settling the skansen of Łódź’s wooden architecture in the museums grounds. This Triennial event will also be the last to be exhibited in the present exhibition halls. The organisers hope that in 2010 the artists-participants will show their works in new halls, which will expand the museum’s exhibition space.