

Gdańsk, 08.03.2018

## **AMBERIF 2018**

### **25<sup>th</sup> International Fair of Amber, Jewellery and Gemstones**

21-24 March 2018, Gdańsk, Poland, AMBEREXPO

## **AMBERIF CELEBRATES ITS 25 YEARS!**

**On 21 March, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of AMBERIF, the International Fair of Amber, Jewellery and Gemstones, will begin at the AMBEREXPO Exhibition & Convention Centre Gdańsk. It is the most important amber exhibition and the largest jewellery event in Central and Eastern Europe. Here business meets art and science, creative ideas are born, the latest trends and technologies in jewellery design are presented. The event will reach its highlight with the anniversary AMBER LOOK trends & styles 2018 Amber and Fashion Silver Gala.**

What will the 25th edition be like? Exceptional! Not only due to the silver jubilee or the remarkable amber aura, but mainly because of the inspiring product offer from the exhibitors, an appealing agenda and side events.

**AMBERIF 2018** will bring together more than 470 exhibitors from 15 countries: Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, the UK, the USA and Poland. Products will be showcased by both small jewellery studios and large companies: manufacturers of gold and silver jewellery with amber, with coloured gemstones and diamonds, importers of watches, gold and silver jewellery, manufacturers and importers of machines, tools and jewellery technologies.

Organised under the auspices of the STFZ Goldsmithing Artists' Association, the **Designers' Gallery** will feature the original collections from artists who experiment with materials and amaze with bold associations. In a time-honoured tradition, the latest edition of a publication by Prof. Sławomir Fijałkowski, *Trend BOOK 2018+*, which systematises the current trends and motifs in jewellery and design, will premiere at AMBERIF.

**As always, AMBERIF will be accompanied by many prestigious competitions.** The *Amberif Design Award* International Amber Jewellery Design Competition will have its verdict officially announced for the 22<sup>nd</sup> time. ADA is one of the most important Polish design competitions, well known in the European community of artists with an unconventional approach to jewellery. This year, ADA's curator Barbara Schmidt of the Academy of Art and Design Munich has set the theme of *Serendipity* to encourage a reflection on how the interplay between nature, technique and intuition can take us far beyond our reason, while accidental observation may occasionally lead to surprising discoveries. The Jury was chaired by Prof. Stephen Bottomley, a renowned jewellery designer, Head of the School of Jewellery

at Birmingham City University. A total of 127 entries were assessed, submitted by 100 artists from 20 countries.

**The Amberif Design Award Main Prize**, sponsored by the Mayor of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz (PLN 10,000), went to Silvia Bellia, Germany. The Amber Prize, sponsored by the International Amber Association (1 kg of amber), was given to Kairi Sirendi, Estonia. The Silver Prize, sponsored by KGHM Polska Miedź SA (1 kg of silver), was presented to Miron Kutarba, Poland.

AMBERIF will reveal the winners of the other awards, presented in the following competitions:

- **The Bogdan Mirowski Mercurius Gedanensis Award** in the Design and Workmanship Excellence categories;
- **Amber Handicraft**—a competition addressed to jewellers and young jewellery craft trainees, organised by the Pomeranian Skilled Craft Chamber of SMEs;
- **Amber Personality of the Year 2017**—a title awarded by the International Amber Association to individuals who work with amber, promote, research and collect it in a way which goes beyond the scope of their business;
- **The Amber Sphere**—The Łódź Academy of Fine Arts, Jewellery Department Students Award for the Best Jewellery Design at Amberif.

**The Amber. Science and Art Symposium** is the high point of the series of seminars which have accompanied Amberif since its first edition. It will be attended by more than 70 researchers, including such science luminaries as Prof. Joseph B. Lambert of Trinity University, San Antonio, who specialises in using chemical methods to study archaeological materials and NMR spectroscopy to study amber, and Faya Causey of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, expert on ancient art, with special emphasis on the role of amber in Italian, Greek and Etruscan art and archaeology. They will present the current state of research in four main areas: “Traces of life in amber,” “Styles and technologies in amber crafting in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE: a local and interregional perspective,” “Research on amber properties and current aspects of amber extraction,” and “Amber mythologies, collections and restoration.”

The latest research on emeralds will be the main subject of the **Gemmology Seminar** organised by the SRJ Association of Jewellery Experts and HRD Antwerp. The Gemmology Laboratory will have SRJ experts providing free-of-charge gemstone evaluation and interpretation for exhibitors and their customers. As always, evaluation and testing of amber gemstones and products will be performed by Polish and international experts at Amberif’s Amber Laboratory.

Amber inspires not only designers of jewellery or functional items. Fashion designers also remain under its irresistible influence. **The AMBER LOOK trends & styles Amber and Fashion Gala** is AMBERIF’s cr me de la cr me, with beautiful ensembles, spectacular jewellery and the specially designed stage set. The Gala will be held on Friday, 23 March, at the Gdańsk

Shakespeare Theatre.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AMBERIF has inspired many cross-cutting exhibitions, including:

- *25 Years of Amberif*, a temporary exhibition at the Gdańsk Amber Museum, 22 March–2 September
- exhibition of all the ADA Amber Prize-winning designs, at the head office of the International Amber Association, Gdańsk
- *Baltic Amber, an Inspiration for International Artists*, an exhibition at the new head office of the KIGB Polish Chamber of Amber Commerce in Mariacka St., Gdańsk
- *Leonardo da Vinci & Amber*, an exhibition of works by Polish and international artists, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's designs, at St John's Centre, Gdańsk

AMBERIF is a trade-only event; it is addressed exclusively to individuals and businesses who work in jewellery, jewellery art, functional art, marketing and related services.

### **AMBERIF 2018 | [www.amberif.pl](http://www.amberif.pl)**

Dates: **21-23** March, 10:00-18:00 | **24** March, 10:00-16:00

Venue: AMBEREXPO Exhibition & Convention Centre, Żagłowa 11, Gdańsk, Poland

Organised by: MTG SA Gdańsk International Fair Co.

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### **HONORARY AUSPICES**

Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, Pomorskie Voivod, Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodship, Mayor of Gdańsk

### **PARTNERS**

SRJ Association of Jewellery Experts, IAA International Amber Association, Pomeranian Skilled Craft Chamber of SMEs, STFZ Goldsmithing Artists' Association, KIGB Polish Chamber of Amber Commerce, PTG Polish Electroplating Society, PTGEM Polish Gemmological Society, KGHM Polska Miedź SA