

The exhibition "The Hirszenberg Brothers – in Search of the Promised Land"  
(under the interdisciplinary two-year art project 2016-2017)

Organizer: Museum of the City of Lodz, 15 Ogrodowa St., 91-065 Lodz

Co-organizer: Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute,  
3/5 Tłomackie St., 00-090 Warsaw

First part of the exhibition: November 24, 2016 - March 5, 2017, Lodz, Museum of the City of Lodz

Second part of the exhibition: March 30, 2017 - June 4, 2017, Jewish Historical Institute



Museum of the City of Lodz is carrying out various tasks aimed at restoring the significance of local heritage for the residents of the city and Polish culture. On November 24, 2016, at 6 pm, the **first in over 80 years, globally unique monographic exhibition of the works by Samuel Hirszenberg** and his brothers: Leo (painter) and Henryk (architect) will be opened. The exhibition will feature about **100 outstanding works of art** representing various forms of activities of the artists and their artistic milieu, on loan from Polish and foreign institutions as well as from private collectors. It will **be another milestone in discovering the artistic heritage of the greatest Jewish artists of Polish origin**, and thus raising local awareness about the history of the city created by its multicultural community.

The exhibition was preceded by **restoration work** on four monumental paintings by Samuel Hirszenberg that are in collection of the Museum of the City of Lodz, and will be accompanied by: **educational program** to encourage active visits, **multimedia presentations** on the history of the prestigious rooms of the Palace, and a **two-languages publication** (2017).

Samuel Hirszenberg, considered **one of the precursors of Jewish art in Poland**, is strongly associated with the Museum of the City of Lodz, which holds the artist's legacy unique on a global scale. Poznański's Palace (on the list of historical monuments since in 2015), which houses the museum, was in fact the property of one of the most famous Jewish industrialist in Lodz – Izrael Kalmanowicz Poznański and his sons, who were patrons of the artist. Hirszenberg was the author of the monumental paintings that decorate two prestigious halls of the Palace (the only examples of their kind in the world), designed as part of the rooms' décor. Some of them, such as "Goodbye" / "Landscape with a Genre Scene," "Entry" / "Landscape with a Rider," "Muse" / "Woman with a Lyre," "Woman with Fruits" / "Girl with Fruits," are still part of the décor of the Dining Room in the Palace, while others, such as "Female Nude," "Shepherd Playing the Flute," or "Female Nude – Laura," preserved from wartime destruction, are now held by the Museum of the City of Lodz and the Museum of Art in Lodz.

The prelude to this year's exhibition was the international conference "The Hirszenberg Brothers – in Search of the Promised Land," organized in 2015 on the occasion of the exhibition "Legacy of Two Cultures. Collection of the Poznański Family from the Polish Museum in Rapperswil." Leading experts from Poland and Israel discussed the oeuvres of Samuel, Leon and Henryk Hirszenberg and their contribution to Polish, Jewish and European culture, and summarized the existing knowledge about their life and work. The cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, started on that occasion, will be continued. The planned activities include completing the joint research on the brothers' artistic output, organizing educational activities and bringing the exhibition to Warsaw, where, along with a scientific session, it will accompany the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Jewish Historical Institute.

---

**Organizer:** Museum of the City of Lodz

**Co-organizer:** The Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw

**Funding:** Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, City of Lodz, Trotec

**Honorary Patronage:** Embassy of France in Poland, Embassy of Israel in Poland, Institute of World Art, Museum of the History of Polish Jews POLIN, Mayor of the City of Lodz – Hanna Zdanowska

**Media partners:** ahice.net, artinfo.pl, e-kalejdoskop.pl, Herito, Kalejdoskop, Radio Łódź, Słowo Żydowskie, Spotkania z Zabytkami, TVP Kultura, TVP Łódź, TVP Polonia, Tygiel Kultury

**Partners:** Alliance Francaise Lodz, University of Lodz

