

## PANEVĖŽYS CIVIC ART GALLERY

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The Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery was founded in 1990. It is within the jurisdiction of the local government of Panevėžys, and its founder is the Panevėžys City Council. It is the largest art center in North Lithuania. The main directions of the gallery's activities are exhibitions, enlargement of its art collection, education, concerts and art publications. Nearly 30 solo, group and conceptual exhibitions, representing various genres of art, are arranged every year, combining the representation of the artists from Panevėžys, North of Lithuania, all around the Lithuania and foreign countries. The Gallery is part of joint Lithuanian and international art projects and is engaged in bringing the artwork by artists from Panevėžys back to Lithuania. Art Gallery collects various fields of art collections: fine arts, professional ceramic art and photography. Most of the collections consists from the works donated from the Art Gallery international projects implemented: ceramic symposiums and photography biennials. The goal of the gallery is not only to present the collections formed by it, but also to initiate new projects and take part in joint art projects together with local and foreign partners.

The gallery organizes international ceramic symposiums, which are known not only in Lithuania but also worldwide. The collection made up of 631 ceramic works has been accumulated in the depositories of the gallery and is shown in expositions. The authors of the works are 163 artists from 35 countries. Besides the unique collection, which is replenished with new pieces every second year, the gallery has collected over 3000 books, publications and visual material on the ceramics of the world.

The Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery comprises three large divisions: Art Gallery, Ceramic Art Pavilion and Photography Gallery. The Artistic Glass Gallery and Education Center are under establishment. Gallery has a closed courtyard, where ceramic art pieces are displayed. This cozy and quiet place is favorite for city residents and Gallery's visitors.

In 2010 a new division of the Gallery – the Photography Gallery – was established, and it is engaged in promotion of photography art, creative, educational and publishing activities. The Gallery is closely co-operating with the Panevėžys – based photography artists. Since 2005 the gallery organizes the Panevėžys International Photography Biennial "The Man and the City" - a large professional event of photography, engaging and involving the entire city - a creative laboratory, lectures, educational programs and concluding exhibition of photographs.



Panevėžys Photography Gallery

In 2015 the extension of the Gallery - the Ceramic Art Pavilion dedicated to the works generated during Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposiums – was opened. The aim of the Pavilion – the development of Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposiums and promotion of ceramic art in various forms.



Ceramic Art Pavilion



Ceramic Collection exposition at the Ceramic Pavilion. 2017

The gallery makes attempts to constantly form and preserve the field of cultural tension and gravitation both in accumulating art works and presenting its collections to wider audiences. The gallery strives not only to show collections but also to initiate or join projects with other exhibition centers in Lithuania and abroad.

Besides, the educational activities of the gallery include work with spectators during the exhibitions, lectures and discussions conducted on the themes of cultural retrospection, art history and international theoretical conferences on topics dictated by the urgent problems of art world. Also, people attending our educational-creative programs may try their hand in ceramics or in newly emerging techniques. Also, the gallery organizes chamber music concerts.



Educational program at the Art Gallery. 2016

Since autumn 2016 Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery has a new director – Egidijus Žukauskas, who identifies ceramic art development as the main priority of the Art Gallery. In 2016, the global website “Culture Trip” included the gallery into the list of Top Ten Best Art Galleries in the Baltic states.

In summer of 2018 the XXII Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposium is planning. This year Lithuania will celebrate century of its independence restoration. Invited artists from different countries will be offered to reflect Lithuanian history in their ceramic art pieces.

All used photographs are from the Art Gallery archive