



MUZEUM
PAMIĘCI
SYBIRU

EMYA2025

Annual Conference & Awards Ceremony

Remembrance and Solidarity for Collective Action

21-25 May 2025
Białystok, Poland



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This program is preliminary and subject to change.

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, May 21, 2025 |

The Sybir Memorial Museum's Day

Venue: The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

10.00 – 19.00 Registration and information desk

11.00 – 15.30 The permanent exhibition tour with the participation of Sybiraks

Number of participants in a group: 25 people

Number of groups: 8 (guided tours start every half hour)

Language: Polish, English

Individual tours of the exhibition with audioguide are available during the same time.

No registration required, open to interested participants.

Workshops:

Meetings topics:

- 13.00 – 14.00 – conservation of collections
- 13.30 – 14.30 – relationships with the local community
- 14.00 – 15.00 – accessibility
- 14.00 – 15.00 – international cooperation
- 15.00 – 16.00 – events and education
- 16.00 – 17.00 – scientific activity
- 16.00 – 17.00 – communication and marketing

No registration required, open to interested participants.

Guided walking tours of Białystok (optional, pre-registration required)

Meeting point:

Białystok Cathedral, Kościelna 2, Białystok

Number of participants in a group: 28 people per group

Duration:

11.00–14.00 (the first group)

13.00–16.00 (the second group)

15.00–18.00 (the third group)

19.00 – 21.00 Reception and concert

Venue: TBA

Welcome: Wojciech Śleszyński, Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum

Welcome: Michał Wiśniewski, EMF Trustee

Concert of the “Czeremszyzna” local folk music band.

Its music refers to the place of residence of the musicians.

They perform traditional songs from Podlasie region and the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland.

DAY 2 THURSDAY, May 22, 2025 | **EMYA2025 Conference**

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic
– European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

08.30 – 18.00 Registration and information desk

09.00 – 09.50 Opening of EMYA2025

09:50 – 10.30 Keynote address: Kaja Širok, historian and museologist

Title: Museums as Spaces of Remembrance and Empowerment

The true potential of museums lies in their capacity to act as agents of change, forging connections and fostering unity, rather than serving as passive entities associated with the past. The museum of the future will be a dynamic space of shared memories where stories about our collective past are living narratives that connect generations and communities. This forward-looking museum will be a vibrant hub that actively engages visitors, encouraging participation and fostering a sense of continuity and shared understanding to create a bridge between the past, present and future.

10.30 – 10.45 Presentation of EMYA nominees and thematic panels

Introduction: Amina Krvavac, Chair, EMYA Jury and Trustee, European Museum Forum

10.45 – 11.45 Art for All: Transformative Engagement Practice in Museums

Chair: Friedrich von Bose, EMYA Judge

Museums foster inclusive environments and transformative practices through accessibility and community participation. We will explore recent engagement strategies that champion traditional museum models, aiming to create meaningful connections between art and diverse audiences for positive social change.

- Foundation Museum Ovaraci, Aarhus, Denmark
- Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal
- Korsak's Museum of Ukrainian Modern Art, Lutsk, Ukraine
- Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul, Türkiye

11.45 – 12.15 Coffee break

12.15 – 13.15 Time Travels: Museums on Science and Technologies

Chair: Zandra Yeaman, EMYA Judge

Museums utilize science and technology to bridge the past, make sense of the present, and envision the future. We will examine how science-infused storytelling shapes new understandings and attitudes towards innovation in science and technology, as well as solidarity across disciplines and generations.

- Enter Technikwelt Solothurn, Solothurn, Switzerland
- Museum of Photography in Kraków, Kraków, Poland
- "Under the Swan" Pharmacy, Department of the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum in Bydgoszcz, Bydgoszcz, Poland
- Medical History Museum, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Coastal Express Museum, Stokmarknes, Norway

13.15 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.00 Sámi Museum Siida, Inari, Finland, winner of EMYA2024

Introduction: Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, EMF Trustee

15.00 – 16.00 Bridging the Gap: The Role of Museums in Uniting Communities

Chair: Joan Seguí, EMYA Judge

People see museums as keepers of local identities and collective memories. In times of social and political upheaval and increasing economic disparities in society, what impact do identity tensions have on museums' ability to bridge inequalities and promote understanding among diverse audiences and populations?

- National Navy Museum, Paris, France
- Museum of Amber, Department of Museum of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland
- Museum of Iberian Art El Cigarralejo, Mula, Spain
- UMU – University Museum Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands
- Ensérune, Oppidum and Archaeological Museum,

Nissan-lez-Ensérune, France

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 – 17.30 Changing Urbanities: Expanding Democratic Spaces

Chair: Hans Looijen, EMF Chair a.i.

Museums have the potential to strengthen urban democracy. They develop new practices to stay in touch with what life is like in the city—including the issues communities face and their hopes for the future. We will discuss how museums today continue their mission to serve as tools for civic engagement, enabling people to have more than just consultative power but also exercise and develop agency.

- Wien Museum, Vienna, Austria
- Krzysztofory Palace, Museum of Kraków, Kraków, Poland
- Manchester Museum, Manchester, United Kingdom
- The House of Architecture, Madrid, Spain
- Central Museum of Textiles in Łódź, Łódź, Poland

17.30 – 18.00 Museum of Home, London, United Kingdom, winner of the Meyvaert Museum Prize 2024

Introduction: Daniëlle Kuijten, EMYA Judge

19.30 – 21.30 Welcome reception

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic — European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

Reception host: Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, EMF Trustee

DAY 3 FRIDAY, May 23, 2025 | EMYA2025 Conference

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic
– European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

09.00 – 17.00 Registration and information desk

09.30 – 10.30 Living Heritage: Museums and Communities Shaping the Present

Chair: Agnes Aljas, EMYA Judge

Heritage is not static—it lives through the people who carry its traditions. Heritage also changes meaning depending on socio-political contexts. We will examine how museums actively engage with and support communities in safeguarding and (re)interpreting heritage to make it dynamic and relevant to addressing contemporary challenges and (re)shaping the future.

- Alvor Lifeboat Interpretation Center, Portimão, Portugal
- Open Air Museum Het Hoogeland, Warffum, The Netherlands
- Collective Memory Point, Vad, Romania
- House of the Basque Language. The Basque Language Interpretation Centre, Bilbao, Spain

10.30 – 10.50 Coffee break

10.50 – 11.30 **Keynote address: Basil Kerski**, director, European Solidarity Centre / Europäisches Solidarność-Zentrum

Title: The role of European museums in defending universal human rights and democracy

What role do museums in Europe have in defending human rights and democracy? Basil Kerski will explore the current political context of the work of museums Europe. In the face of the instrumentalisation of memory to legitimise authoritarian politics, he will make a case for the defence of a democratic culture of remembrance and for museums as peaceful actors in the cultural and political conflicts over the future shape of Europe.

11.30 – 12.30 **Innovating for a Sustainable Future**

Chair: Michał Wiśniewski, EMF Trustee

Museums have increasingly explored new educational and learning models related to environmental issues, including climate change. Here we explore recent socio-ecological approaches and perspectives and how museums are paying increased attention to topics such as the interplay between nature and technology, the connections between humans and non-humans, and new forms of collections and collection-making in light of emerging eco-decolonial perspectives.

- House of the Volcanoes, Lanzarote, Spain
- Muzoo, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
- Glacier Garden Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
- Natural History Museum, Oslo, Norway

12.30 – 14:00 Lunch

14.00 – 14.20 **Kalamaja Museum, Tallinn, Estonia, winner of Silletto Prize 2024**

Introduction: Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak, EMYA Judge

14.20 – 15.20 **Enhancing Immersive Museum Experiences**

Chair: Beat Hächler, EMYA Judge

Immersive. Interactive. Experience-driven. We will dive into recent developments in immersive museum productions: What constitutes quality in an immersive design? What can other

museums learn from such designs and experiences? What and where are the limits of a museum immersive project? What makes a museum a museum?

- Maria Callas Museum, Athens, Greece
- House of Music, Budapest, Hungary
- Salon Stolz, Graz, Austria
- Carl Nielsen Museum, Odense, Denmark
- Miffy Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands

15.20 – 15.50 Coffee break

15.50 – 16.10 Salt Museum, Messolonghi, Greece, winner of Portimão Museum Prize 2024

Introduction: Pedro Branco, EMF

16.10 – 17.10 Revisiting Legacies of Collectors and Collections

Amina Krvavac, EMYA Judge and Chair of Jury

Museums have been increasingly concerned with placing the history of their collections at the forefront of their institutional mission, enabling new conversations about the legacies of collecting, challenges in historical and contemporary collecting practices, and innovative forms of curatorship and collection management. We will examine recent efforts by museums to diversify the mission of collections and foster renewed dialogue around identity and inclusion.

- Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, United Kingdom
- Gallerie d'Italia, Naples, Italy
- Isbank Museum of Painting-Sculpture, Istanbul, Türkiye
- Gallerie d'Italia, Turin, Italy

17.10 – 18.10 Historical Narratives and Innovative Museum Techniques

Chair: Adriana Muñoz, EMYA Judge

Museums preserve and shape memory—they shape our understanding of and evolving attitudes toward the past. Museums have also been increasingly committed to raising the public's awareness that there is not one history but many. We will explore museums' recent strategies and techniques for exhibiting interwoven histories that enable visitors to question, engage with, and understand the world from different perspectives.

- Het Loo Palace, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands
- Savoisien Museum, Chambéry, France
- International Museum on the Reformation, Geneve, Switzerland
- Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum, Bodrum, Türkiye
- Deutschlandmuseum, Berlin, Germany

19.00 – 21.00 Reception

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic – European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

Reception host: Sharon Heal, EMF Trustee

DAY 4 SATURDAY, May 24, 2025 |
EMYA2025 Conference
and Awards Ceremony

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic
– European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

08.30 – 14.00 Registration and information desk

09.00 – 09.30 Ihor Poshyvailo, Ukraine, winner Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and Professional Integrity 2024

Introduction: Hans Looijen, EMF Chair ad interim

09.30 – 10.30 Panel discussion: Solidarity - Museums Standing with their Communities

Convenor: Sharon Heal

Many museums actively engage their communities and invite them into their spaces. But what happens when museums stand in solidarity with their communities and prioritize their needs? We will explore cutting-edge museum work that shifts the emphasis from buildings and collections to people and activism.

Facilitator: Sharon Heal, director Museums Association UK

Speakers:

Matt and Jess Turtle, co-founders Museum of Homelessness UK

Bernadette Lynch, Museum writer/researcher, founder of the international network and former EMYA judge

Salma Jreige, Solidarity in Action Network

10.30 – 10.50 Coffee break

10.50 – 11.10 Identity in architecture. The Museum of Blessed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko in Okopy

Introduction: Wojciech Śleszyński, Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum

11.10 – 11.30 Presentation of EMYA2026

11.30 – 12.15 Certificates ceremony

The European Museum Forum will formally present certificates to all nominated museums

Presented by Dominika Mroczkowska-Rusiniak, EMYA Judge and Andrzej Zugaj, EMYA National Correspondent, Poland

Group photograph of all nominated museums

12.15 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.15 Participants can choose between workshops by 2024 award winners

Free afternoon for participants

18.00 – 20.00 EMYA2025 AWARD CEREMONY

Welcome drinks

Performance

Welcome: Hans Looijen, Chair a.i., European Museum Forum

Master of Ceremony: Daniëlle Kuijten and Mathieu Viau-Courville

The Meaning of the Council of Europe Museum Prize

Presented by Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, Council of Europe

Introduction to the awards

Presented by Amina Krvavac, Chair, EMYA Jury

Special commendation certificates

The Meyvaert Museum Prize for Environmental Sustainability

The Silletto Prize for Community Participation and Engagement

Presented by Carol Jackson, Silletto Trust

The Portimão Museum Prize for Welcoming, Inclusion and Belonging

The Kenneth Hudson Award for Institutional Courage and

Professional Integrity

Hans Looijen, Chair a.i., European Museum Forum

European Museum of the Year Award

Presented by Amina Krvavac, Chair, EMYA Jury

Group photograph of awards winners

21.00 – 23.00 EMYA GALA DINNER

Venue: TBA

DAY 5 **SUNDAY, May 25, 2025 |** **The Sybir Memorial Museum's** **local tours**

Optional tours in the Podlaskie region

Pre-registration required

Białystok – guided walking tours of Białystok

Number of participants in a group:

28 people per group

Duration:

9.00–12.00 (the first group)

9.30–12.30 (the second group)

12.30–15.30 (the third group)

Meeting point:

Białystok Cathedral, Kościelna 2, Białystok

Visit to the Białowieża Forest UNESCO Site

Białowieża – the heart of the Białowieża Forest – one of the oldest and best-preserved primeval forests in Europe

Number of participants in a group:

47

Duration:

8:00–17:00

Meeting point:

The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

Tykocin – a charming town where history, culture, and nature come together in perfect harmony

Number of participants in a group:

47

Duration:

9:00–14:00

Meeting point:

The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

Supraśl – a picturesque town located in the a region of Knyszyńska Forest wit still functioning Orthodox monastery from the late 15th century

Number of participants in a group:

47

Duration:

9:00–14:00

Meeting point:

The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

Supraśl, kayaking trip – a trip down the Supraśl River close to nature through the picturesque region of the Knyszyńska Forest

Number of participants in a group:

18

Duration:

9:00–14:00

Length:

7.5 km

Meeting point:

The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok



Internal EMF/EMYA meetings during the Conference:

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Venue: The Sybir Memorial Museum, Węglowa 1, Białystok

- 14.00 EMYA jury and EMF board of trustees meeting
- 16.00 EMF board of trustees meeting

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Venue: The Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic – European Art Center, Odeska 1, Białystok

- 13.00 EMF national correspondents, EMYA jury and EMF board of trustees meeting
- 14.30 EMYA jury and EMF board of trustees meeting
- 15.00 EMYA jury meeting