

Communiqué for immediate release

International Conference : Bruno Schulz (1892-1942) New readings, new meanings/Nouvelles lectures, nouvelles significations
**Presented at McGill University, Leacock Building, room 232,
853 Sherbrooke st. West,**

Montreal, March 10th, 2007- The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada is organizing an International Conference dedicated to **Bruno Schulz**, an exceptional Polish writer, illustrator and graphic artist of Jewish descent, born in Drohobycz in 1892 and shot to death by a Gestapo officer in 1942 on the street of his home town. The Conference will take place in Montreal on May 4-5, 2007. Bruno Schulz' output as a writer is modest in terms of quantity but extremely rich in quality and subject matter. His life's work consists of two volumes of short stories: *THE STREET OF CROCODILES* and *THE SANATORIUM UNDER THE SIGN OF THE HOURGLASS*, as well as letters and "critical sketches" that have been published recently in a separate volume. A worldwide fascination with Schulz' literary works, full of contradictions, is confirmed by growing numbers of translations, commentaries and critical studies that have appeared and show him as an exceptional artist of the first half of the XX century. To express his vision of the world and his imagination, the author consciously enlivened his narrations and descriptions, introduced quirky characters and used colorful language replete with anachronisms, regionalisms and metaphors. As a painter and graphic designer, Schulz left numerous sketches, pictures and illustrations, many of them inspired by the themes of his prose.

The Montreal conference will unite the following researchers presenting their vision of Schulz' artistic work:

David A. Goldfarb, Columbia University, New York

Gershon Hundert, McGill University, Montreal

Jerzy Jarzebski, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Włodzimierz Kryszynski, Université de Montréal

Vira Meniok, Ivan Franko Drohobycz State Pedagogical University, Drohobycz

Maria Poprzecka, Warsaw University, Warsaw

Norman Ravvin, Concordia University, Montreal

Malgorzata Smorag-Goldberg, Université Paris IV – Sorbonne, Paris

Kris Van Heuckelom, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Louvain

Johanne Villeneuve, Université du Québec à Montréal

Accompanying each presentation, passages from Bruno Schulz' novels will be read by **Liliana Komorowska**, Quebec artist of Polish origin. As part of the Conference, Mrs. **Elżbieta Ficowska** will show a documentary feature film (in Polish) "Amulety i definicje" (1998) on the work of her late husband, Jerzy Ficowski, a friend of Bruno Schulz, considered the best specialist on that author's writings. "Street of Crocodiles" (1986), a legendary animated film by the Quay brothers, will also be shown.

For further information and detailed program please see www.brunoschulz.mcgill.ca. Participation in the conference is free of charge but pre-registration is mandatory, either on the above web-site or by calling the Polish Library at McGill: **(514) 398-6978**.

Organizers: Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada, Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cracow and Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Warsaw. Financial support: Senate of the Republic of Poland, Warsaw, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Ottawa, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, Montreal, Book Institute, Cracow and Corporation Québec – Pologne pour les Arts, Montréal.

Please, note that the language of the Conference will be English or French, without simultaneous translation.