

## Mysteries of the message (1998)

The whole is composed of 2 parts. The first is a humorous, perverse and at times even malicious commentary on conventions of the contemporary art, says Mark Gozdziwski, the curator of the exhibit. The answer to the question which all artists ask themselves: what to show and where. In the second part with a deceiving name 'retrospective' the oldest parts of the European civilization are connected with the latest technologies.

Subsequent objects gain an additional meaning thanks to the material they have been made of: iron, bronze, silver and gold. The artist often puts one next to another. He "changes" ingots of gold into lead and then he shows a bronze cast of "Six Ingots of Gold Turned into Lead". Human skeleton made of nickel, called "Immortal" is reminiscent of a prehistoric archeological finding. "It is immortal because it is not a subject to corrosion, it will always exist", says Szczerbowski. In all his works we discover new meanings again and again. Each has at least the second meaning. We do not always understand them immediately, we do not always notice the hint of irony but we feel it intuitively.

In the first room there are stone and clay tablets and a CD reminiscent of the works of ancient masters as well as rolls of Torah. They are covered with machine language understood only by computers. It contains a sequence of binary digits: 0 and 1. In the second room there are objects which appeal to the reason and science (a cast of a brain "Nude brain" and "Four Clones") and to the alchemy ("Six Ingots of Gold Turned into Lead") and to religion ("Sacrificial Table"). In the third room there are two last tablets with machine language which brings the associations with the tablets with Ten Commandments. The last room marked as an "exit" is the look into the future.