

All Polish collector coins feature:

- face value
- image of the Eagle established as the state emblem of the Republic of Poland
- inscription: Rzeczpospolita Polska
- year of issue



Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate important historic figures and anniversaries, as well as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture, science and tradition.

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the [www.nbp.pl/monety](http://www.nbp.pl/monety) website.

Should you have any questions, please contact our consultants at the following phone numbers: +48 22 185 45 96 and +48 22 185 13 03.

Collector coins issued by NBP are sold in the NBP regional branches and at the internet shop.

In November 2016, Narodowy Bank Polski will be putting into circulation commemorative coins from the series “Discover Poland” – the Pomeranian Dukes’ Castle in Szczecin with a face value of 5 zł.

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Narodowy Bank Polski

*We protect the value of money*

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Narodowy Bank Polski

Polish Painters of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Olga Boznańska



Collector coins

# Olga Boznańska

Olga Boznańska achieved a lofty position in the European art world already during her lifetime. She was born and raised in Kraków in a Polish-French family. She studied in Munich and later lived in Paris, from where she visited her native country and sent paintings for exhibitions.

She developed a highly individual formula for painting, placing very high demands on herself, continually developing her hand and eye, treating art seriously and seeing it as the sole purpose of her life. She specialized in portraits, although in the Munich period she also created genre scenes, and in the ensuing years, also views from the window of her studio, interiors and exquisite still lifes.

She painted portraits of adults and children, presenting the aristocracy, the intellectual and artistic elites, but also people from her immediate environment. She didn't idealize her models. She depicted sensitive and thinking physiognomies, but was also able to emphasize the expression of pride, complacency or thoughtlessness. The careful psychological analysis was accompanied by a masterful rendering of the facial features, posture and hand gestures, which the artist treated as an element at times saying more (or something else) than the facial expression.

The secret of her painting lies in the combination of these distinctive characteristics of the model with a specific understatement of form obtained through the dispersion of shapes in a vibrating haze of small patches. On the surface, this technique resembles the experiments of the Impressionists, but the paintings of Boznańska are distinguished from them by a scattered, dim lighting and a limited range of colours, very rich in nuance, as well as a peculiar rough texture. She achieved it by painting with oil paints on a cardboard base, which gave the effect of a matte surface glowing with colours. Her understanding of the purpose of art was also



different from that of the Impressionists. She did not attempt to show a fragment of reality that is changing under the influence of light, but wanted to explore that which is timeless, although existing within physical shapes. She did not strive for an objective account of reality, and instead presented an extremely subjective vision, shaped by her own personality, and the passion in seeking the truth about man and the essence of painting.

*Urszula Makowska, PhD  
Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences*

The reverse of the coin carries an image of Olga Boznańska according to her *Self portrait* (ca. 1906, National Museum in Warsaw). On the left side, there is a painting palette, shaped like one of Boznańska's preserved palettes. The artist's dates of birth and death are placed on the background of the palette: 1865–1940. Below this is the signature of Olga Boznańska.

The obverse of the coin depicts a fragment of Olga Boznańska's painting entitled *Girl with Chrysanthemums* (1894, National Museum in Krakow). In the background, there are oval patches of irregular shape, alluding to the way in which the artist formed the painting texture.

**Face value: 20 zł**

Metal: Ag 925/1000

Finish: proof (pad printing)

Diameter: 40.00 x 28.00 mm

Weight: 28.28 g

Edge (side): plain

Mintage: up to 20,000 pcs



Coin designer: Urszula Walerzak

Issuer: NBP

The coins, commissioned by NBP, were struck by Mennica Polska S.A.

In September 2016, Narodowy Bank Polski is putting into circulation a silver coin from the series "Polish Painters of the 19th and 20th Centuries – Olga Boznańska" with a face value of 20 zł.