

The Magazine of the Polish Academy of Sciences
No. 2 (46) 2015
Quarterly
ISSN 1731-7401

© Polska Akademia Nauk 2015

Polish Academy of Sciences
Office for Popularizing and Promoting Science
PKiN, pl. Defilad 1, 00-901 Warsaw, Poland
e-mail: academia@pan.pl
www.academia.pan.pl
www.science-online.pl

Subscription:

academia.prenumerata@pan.pl

Editorial Staff:

Jan Strelau

Honorary Editor-in-Chief

Anna Zawadzka

Editor-in-Chief & Humanities

Katarzyna Czamecka

Deputy Editor & Managing Editor

Agnieszka Kloch

Biomedical Sciences

Agnieszka Pollo

Mathematics, Physics,
Chemistry, Technology

Jolanta Iwańczuk

Earth Sciences

Daniel Sax

Editor, English-Language Version

Paweł Adamów

Art Director

Scientific Council:

Chairman:

Jerzy Duszyński

President of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Edward Necka

Grażyna Borkowska

Leszek Kaczmarek

Roman Micnas

Lucjan Pawłowski

Witold Rużyło

Henryk Szymczak

Translation by "Sax Translations"
(D. Sax, C. Stupnicka, A. Król)

DTP by Studio J.P.J.

Printed by Edit Sp. z o.o.

From Academia

The Bat and the Girls

The setting: The 23rd floor of the Palace of Culture building in Warsaw, the offices of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

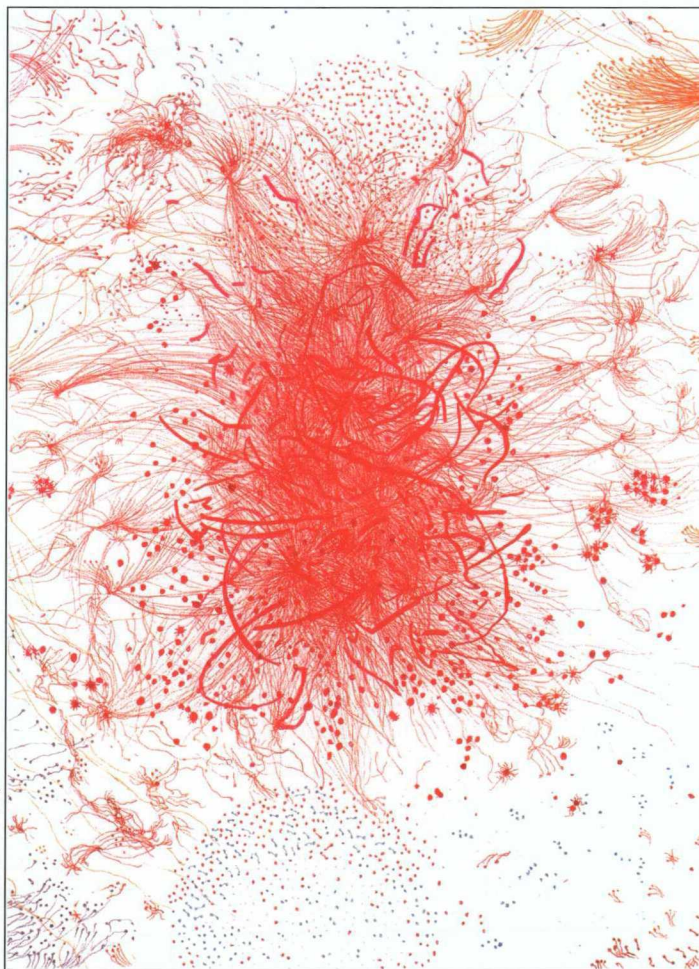
The time: Winter.

The plot: Something birdlike enters a high-ceilinged room. But it is not a bird – a creature with fur, ears, claws. Some kind of mouse? It thrashes around, flying across the room at sharp angles. Finally it hangs in the doorway, upside-down. The girls working in the room conclude: it's a bat! The creature is fearful; so too are the girls. They squeal and try to hide. They recall spooky stories involving bats. And that the worst thing is getting one tangled up in your hair. But they also feel sorry for the animal.

Working on a lower floor in the same building, at the Academy's Division for Biological Sciences, is Prof. Wiesław Bogdanowicz, a bat specialist. The girls beg him to help. The professor comes, dons special gloves, and slowly detaches the intruder. Turning his jacket into a makeshift bag, the professor takes the bat down into the building's basement areas, where – as it turns out – a whole colony lives. The bat most likely flew up to a high floor via one of the shafts in the building. The professor sets the animal free.

A creature gone astray, then rescued. Our close relative – the professor explains. A mammal like us, though admittedly quite a distinctive one. Nothing to be afraid of.

The ACADEMIA staff



Thanks to the Kasia Michalski Gallery

Maess, "Beautiful Things are Afoot" (miniature), 2015, fineliner and marker on paper, 42 x 29.7 cm