On 3 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.

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

Narodowy Bank Polski is the central bank of the State, responsible for its monetary policy and price stability. The Bank’s functions are described in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Act on NBP. NBP holds the exclusive right to issue the currency of the Republic of Poland. As the central bank, it does not provide accounts for the general public, accept deposits from or extend loans to individuals. It acts as a banker to the State budget and public sector entities. NBP also holds and manages the foreign exchange reserves of the State. Finally, it functions as a banker to banks, creating conditions for the operation of the Polish banking system.

Narodowy Bank Polski is one of the most important research and analytical centres in the fields of economics and financial markets.

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We protect the value of money
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 lives.

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.

Olga Boznańska, PhD
Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences

Face value: 20 zł
Metal: Ag 925/1000
Finish: proof and paints: red, yellow, green and blue
Dimensions: 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

On 14 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.