

FROM THE EDITORS

A BUMPY ROAD

Humanity has continually sought new paths, crossing boundary after boundary in order to shape the future. “Progress,” we could say, is our crucial strength as a species, a motivating force that leads us to change the world around us every day. In this issue of *ACADEMIA*, we take you on a journey through epochs and across fields of science, to highlight extraordinary discoveries that have shaped our past and continue to influence our reality.

We talk to scientists whose passion and dedication are opening up amazing new possibilities, and we look at progress as a catalyst for social, economic, and cultural change. We strive to understand how progress affects our lives, the challenges it poses to our society, and the moral dilemmas associated with it. We explore technological innovations and advancements in social sciences, trying to delve into the consequences of each new step into the future.

Thanks to the work of scientists, the latest technologies are now entering our daily lives like never before, improving our quality of life, and newly invented materials are finding applications in everyday objects. Supercomputers and state-of-the-art computational methods are helping us predict adverse environmental changes in the future, while next-generation drugs are saving human lives. Collaboration between scientists and industry is allowing innovative technologies to be brought swiftly to market.

Progress is inherently linked to our development as a society and as individuals. However, at the same time, we of course cannot ignore the side effects of this ceaseless march forward. The articles in this issue of *ACADEMIA* showcase the myriad possibilities opened up by the relentless pursuit of new discoveries and innovations, but also the challenges and dilemmas we sometimes unexpectedly face in connection with progress.

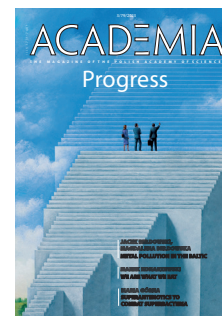
JOLANTA IWAŃCZUK
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**J. Aurelia
 Sikiewicz-Wojtaszek**
*Gilgamesh the secret
 immortality*
 oil and acrylic on
 canvas

Sentiment and sensitivity to art led Joanna Aurelia Sikiewicz-Wojtaszek (working under the artistic pseudonym J. Aurelia Sing) to the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of the Silesian University of Technology, from which she graduated in 2003 among the top of her class. She comes from an artistic family, and grew up in close contact with art from an early age. The leading theme inspiring her work is humankind and the surrounding natural world. Her paintings can be found in private collections in Poland and abroad (in England, Germany, Switzerland, USA).



HTTP://WWW.AURELIAATELIER.PL/



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