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### **Quarks, Elephants & Pierogi: Poland in 100 Words** *Winner of Most Beautiful Books in Poland 2018 in the Guide category*

**Mississauga, ON:** An eye-catching new book exhibit introducing Polish culture to English-language readers has come to the Art Gallery of Mississauga. Can you distil the essence of a country into just 100 words? We think so.

In December 2018, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute's Culture.pl team sent their first book to the printer's. "Quarks, Elephants & Pierogi: Poland in 100 Words" is made up of a series of 100 illustrations and articles that each discuss all sorts of Polish words, such as *miłość* (love), *imieniny* (name day), *ojczyzna* (fatherland), *wolność* (freedom), and even *filizanka* (tea cup). Often via etymology, each word is an entry point to the multi-layered world of Polish culture and history.

Geared towards English-language readers, especially those with some Polish ancestry, those who pick up the book should find it a fun and innovative introduction to a country with one of most unusual histories out there. It'll also show them how languages intersect and whole cultures arise, and make readers realize just how interwoven our world is.

Along the way, they'll find out why quarks are made from curd cheese, learn what elephants have to do with a Central European country, and discover how pierogi saved an entire town. Plus, they'll get to enjoy 100 illustrations by Polish graphic designer Magdalena Burdzyńska

"We wanted to make something that was both information rich and a feast for the eyes," the book's editor Adam Żuławski explains. "Magda Burdzyńska, a highly-respected book designer and illustrator, managed to be the perfect visual foil to the dense yet often tongue-in-check texts that we had prepared. It even has a tongue that sticks out, and a poster in the back. So whether you want to learn something surprising or just admire something beautiful, the book should hit the mark."

Join us at the Art gallery of Mississauga until November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to feast your eyes on the magic that is Quarks, Elephants & Pierogi. The book is currently available by pre-order with AGM staff, and available on Amazon in the USA and Canada.

The book's distributor is **Consortium Book Sales & Distribution**

#### **For editors:**

**'Quarks, Elephants & Pierogi: Poland in 100 Words'**  
**Text: Mikołaj Gliński, Matthew Davies, Adam Żuławski**  
**Illustrations: Magdalena Burdzyńska**  
**Graphic design & typesetting: Magdalena Burdzyńska**  
**Concept & production: Sylwia Jabłońska**  
**Warsaw 2021**

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Review by Juliette Bretan: <https://culture.pl/en/work/quarks-elephants-pierogi-poland-in-100-words-mikolaj-glinski-matthew-davis-adam-zulawski>

Animated films inspired by a book "Quarks, Elephants & Pierogi: Poland in 100 Words":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHRCWzm7tBY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vpn45DILsc>

Editorial Reviews