



## The Spirit of Polonia

**EMILIA PLATER**  
*Military Heroine of Poland & Lithuania*

\$ 3500

signed and dated: *Tracy H Sugg / 2009*  
stoneware clay  
23 x 13 in.



## PROVENANCE

DeLamar Mansion/Polish Embassy in New York City, NY Unveiled during a formal ceremony 2009

The Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City, NY Solo Exhibit 2009-2012

Private Collection of Sculptor Tracy H Sugg 2009 to present

Sculpture that reflects a Touch of the Infinite  
[tracyHsugg.com](http://tracyHsugg.com)



## NOTES

*The Spirit of Polonia—A Legacy to Mankind* was an exhibit created that covered the history of Poland through the heroes and heroines that are reflected in her faith, military, arts, science and statecraft. Each portrait bust is over life-size.

The purchase of any sculpture from *The Spirit of Polonia* includes a certificate of authenticity and an exhibit catalogue.

*Except from the Introduction:*

But all of the Poles in the selection have influenced American life in some way in the various individual and collective legacies. Tracy H. Sugg, in her personal journey of discovery to breathe life into her sculpture of these champions of Polish, American and world liberty has done all of us a great service - she has captured in their spirit the love of liberty and nation that burns in the heart of every freedom loving soul. May her work serve as an inspiration to all freedom loving people everywhere to keep the flame of liberty so nobly kept burning by these Polish Patriots a bright beacon of hope that will never be extinguished.

Thomas R. Rozman (Rozmyslowicz)

September 29, 2009

*Except from pg 24, Emilia Plater*

Countess Emilija Plater, born to privilege and nobility, was raised on the stories of Joan of Arc and Tadeusz Kościuszko and the poems of Adam Mickiewicz. No doubt inspired by Kosciuszko, she cultivated an interest in and relationship with the peasantry, learning their ways and their songs. She also developed an affinity for both horseback riding and marksmanship. This unusual and somewhat mold-breaking upbringing evinced itself in the events surrounding the November Uprising, in which Plater organized a volunteer military force of infantry and cavalry. Leading her small army, she took a local town and joined forces with General Chłapowski, who ordered her to return home and leave the fighting to the men. True to form, Plater refused, stating that she would not remove her uniform until Poland was a free nation. Her refusal was accepted, and she was granted command of the Polish 1<sup>st</sup> Lithuanian Infantry Regiment. Her subsequent valor at arms earned her a promotion. After the army's stunning defeat at the hands of the Russians, General Chłapowski ordered Plater to retreat. Again, she disobeyed orders, intending to break through the enemy lines and continue the fight. Unfortunately, the cold weather, fatigue, and sickness had taken their toll on her, and after writing farewell letters to family, she succumbed to illness two days before Christmas in 1831. An instant heroine for expatriate Poles around the globe, Plater was immortalized by Adam Mickiewicz in his 1832 poem, *Śmierć Pułkownika* (Death of a Colonel):

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### **Sculptor's Note –**

There are not many images of Emilija. In fact, there seems to be one major work that all others are derived from. This painting, created during the Romantic period, shows her through that artistic style: large eyes set in a confident glance, small mouth, and delicate tilt of the head. It is a portrait of a beautiful young woman— a Romantic ideal. However, from reading the history of her brief life and seeing her determination to free Poland, I knew Emilija was more than 'just a pretty face.' I kept returning to her resolve just prior to her fatal illness when she was set to disobey orders, take her troops and launch another attack on the Russians. I wanted to change the idea of Emilija as merely a sweet young lady to one of ability and fierce determination, one that says, "Orders be hanged! I'm going after the Russians!" When visitors came by my studio to see these works in progress, Emilija's sculpture was the one that got the most people asking for the story behind this beautiful, determined woman. Her sculpture seemed to draw people, like I imagine her patriotism drew men to fight under her for Poland.