



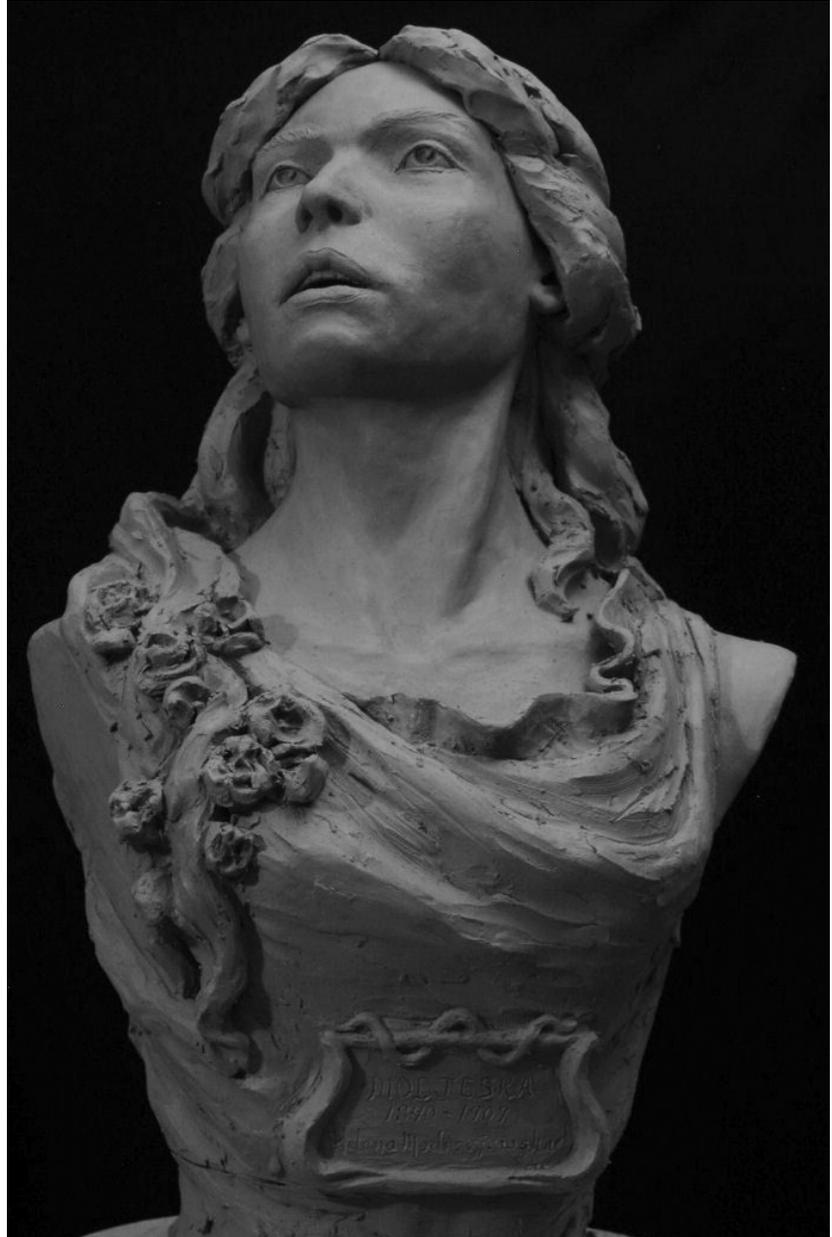
The Spirit of Polonia

HELENA MODJESKA

Polish Exile, America's Pioneering & Leading Stage Actress

\$ 3500

signed and dated: *Tracy H Sugg / 2009*
stoneware clay
23.5 x 16 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



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 28, Helena Modjeska

Known best for her stage portrayal of Shakespeare's heroines, Helena Modjeska (as she was known in America) typified the difficulty of the Polish experience under an occupied country hostile to Poland's national identity.

After a performance in Warsaw, a number of students presented Modjeska with a bouquet of roses tied with red and white ribbons, the national colors of Poland. The students were accused of fomenting political unrest and were summarily expelled from school, and barred from any other education. Distraught, one of the children committed suicide.

After emigration to California and having the American public greatly receive her performances, Modjeska was featured at a conference for women at the World's Fair in Chicago. Speaking to her audience there, Modjeska detailed the struggles of living under the oppression of an occupational government. Her remarks were reported to the government in Russia, and she was banned from returning to Poland.

During the later years of her life, she gave performances strictly for charitable causes, staying primarily near her home in California. Upon her death at the age of 68, her remains were returned to Poland to be buried in Krakow. In death, she defied the rule of Tsarist law and returned to her homeland.

Sculptor's Note –

Helena is someone that I immediately connected with personally. In spite of a rocky beginning to her career, she continued studying and working and improving. She was a devoted mother and wife, whose husband was key in launching her talent to international notice and acclaim. She was a staunch patriot and hard-working in her field.

I have chosen to portray Helena in one of her title roles as *Ophelia*. In all the characters she played, Shakespearean tragedies were her forte. Studying the many photographs of her in her theatrical costumes, wigs and accoutrements, I combined elements from various photographs to best show her in this dramatic role.