



Carving His Own Destiny

**Document
inspired by the life career
of the sculptor Albín Polášek**

31 min., 2019

Directed by:

Kamil Holub

Photography by:

Michal Němec

Petr Muláček

Starring:

Radmila Hnilicová

Jiří Schwarz



Albín Polášek (1879 - 1965)

He was born in a poor Wallachian family. Apprenticed as a wood-carver in Vienna he studied later in Rome. At the age of 22 he left for the U.S.A. where he graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in the field of statuary. Later he got promoted to a professor at the prestigious academy of arts in Chicago where he also continued to work for almost 30 years.

He has never forgotten about his homeland. Coming back home he created a number of statues there. The best-known of them is probably the statue of Radegast (1931) and the statuary of Cyril and Method located on the top of Radhost mountain. He was also the author of the first Czechoslovak medal named „Freedom“. His monumental statue of the American president Wilson in front of the main railway station in Prague was destroyed during the invasion of Nazis.

Today is this artist almost unknown in Czech Republic, but in the U.S.A. he belongs to meaningful and powerful personalities of the 20th century. Polasek's creative heritage is being treasured in the museum in Winter Park, Florida, where he was working since 1950 till his death. Although bound to a wheelchair after a stroke he did not give up his creative work. At the age of 82 - after his first wife died - he got married again.

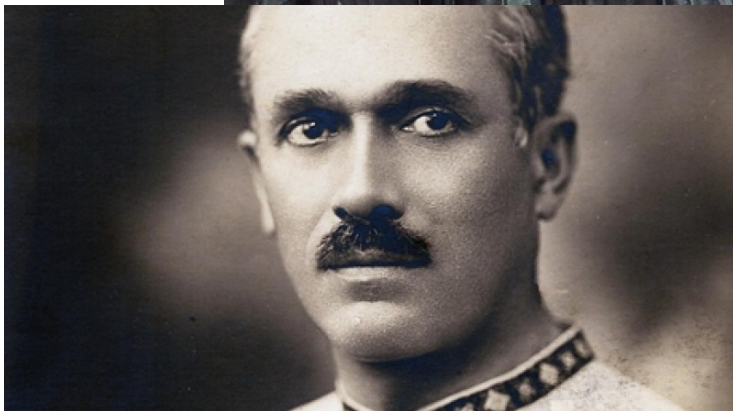


A half-hourly artistic document outlines the life career of Albín Polášek from the Czech, or actually from the Wallachian point of view. The film title **Carving His Own Destiny** has been taken from the name of one of the best-known statues of this sculptor.

Debúting film director **Kamil Holub** – who is also personally linked with the region under Radhošť – portrays the spiritual beauty of the land, which had a lifelong influence on Polášek. As a worldwide renowned sculptor, Polášek felt inly adherent to his mother Wallachia coming back there, especially in the period of the first Czech Republic. He was coming back there either personally or through the topics of his artworks.



As a valuable source of information for this film there was the sculptor's diary and his private correspondence with his family including family photos. But above all, the most valued information were the memories of Polášek's great-niece **Radmila Hnilicová**. This unique document shows Polášek's personality from a different perspective than just an official and impersonal biography.



The document brings comments to the Polášek's work and its „big themes“ are corresponding with the destiny of this artist who finally managed to resist his physical handicaps.



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