

The story of Wrocław's dwarfs

From protest to city symbol. Five dates that make sense of the story.

1982

30/31 August

The first graffiti

Waldemar Fydrych and Wiesław Cupała painted dwarfs on patches left by covered-up opposition slogans in Sępolno and Biskupin. [1]

1987

1 June

Dwarfs on Świdnicka Street

The movement's first mass happening, according to the Encyclopaedia of Solidarity. It was a different event from the 1988 action. [2]

1988

1 June

The Revolution of the Dwarfs

Thousands of participants filled central Wrocław. Sources differ on the exact crowd size. [2]

2001

1 June

Papa Krasnal

Olaf Brzeski's monument to the Orange Alternative stands on Świdnicka Street. Look for its finger-shaped plinth. [3]

2005

August

The first five miniatures

Tomasz Moczek made Szymierz, Rzeźnik, Pracznik and two Syzyfki: five figures, four names. [3, 4]

Remember three beginnings: drawing (1982), monument (2001), miniatures (2005). They have different creators and dates.

The exact day in August 2005 is disputed: P. Pater gives 1 August, while E. Dudek's directory gives 3 August. We use the month.

[1] M. Skotnicka-Palka, Ossolineum, pp. 79–80.

[2] E. Chabros, Encyclopaedia of Solidarity: Orange Alternative.

[3] E. Dudek, List of Wrocław Dwarfs, 28 August 2026, entries 1–6.

[4] Tomasz Moczek in the visitWrocław artists' directory.

Source comparison: P. Pater, Przestrzeń i Forma 35 (2018), DOI 10.21005/pif.2018.35.C-03.