

Różanka was built in 1929. It is a charming square with elegant railings decorating the entrance. Its center point is an oval fountain which served as a pool for flamingos in the 1930s.

After the war, two sculptures by Magdalena Gross were installed at the entrance: Duckling, built in 1946, and Rooster, built in 1947. Both sculptures were replaced by copies in 1970s. Magdalena Gross was also a designer of a Tuzinka figurine. Tuzinka was the first Asian elephant born in Poland, which happened in the Warsaw ZOO in 1937. At the same time, it was only the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian elephant born in captivity in the whole world, hence it was a unique moment.

The sculptress Magdalena Gross (b. 18.01.1891 in Warsaw – d. 17.06.1948 in Warsaw) specialized in intimate portrait and animalistic sculpture. After meeting Jan Żabiński, Director of the Warsaw ZOO, she became fascinated by the animal world and started sculpturing it. During German occupation she was hiding in the Warsaw ZOO at first, where she was supported by Director Żabiński and his wife Antonia. They would call her “Starling”, Antonina recalled in her memoirs, as she would almost be whistling Dixie and stayed optimistic, her plight in disregard. Later she found shelter in Rendzner family villa in Saska Kępa. Symmetrical alleys of Różanka are lined with gravel, similarly as in the past. An oval fountain served as a pool for flamingos in the 1930s. Charming yet formal lanes, lush plants and exotic animals all attributed to Różanka becoming a favourite meeting spot of Varsovians before the war.

Up until 1970s the alley between the square and Żabiński Villa served as a driveway to the Director’s Villa. At the entrance, in the corners of the square, memorial stones are installed, commemorating two of the Warsaw ZOO directors – Wenanty Burdziński and Jan Landowski.