

ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

November
2017



Do you like to listen to music?

In the first post published in November 2017 ("Do you like to listen to music?"), I wrote that many people do not listen to music with sufficient attention. Why? Because most of us (me too) listen to music, being distracted every now and then. This happens, for example, while driving a car, working on a computer, or while running or walking. While doing all these things, it is difficult to focus on music. I compare this kind of listening to music to watching photos or videos on my smartphone. We just don't get the proper attention to contemplating sound.



- Post "Do you like to listen to music?" (p. 2)
- Cover: post "Warsaw"



Can we change it somehow? Yes, of course. I want to encourage other people to relax at home, close their eyes, and contemplate their favorite tunes. We should devote as much attention to music as possible. Feel the sound artistry in your imagination, enjoy it and let it seduce you. In conclusion, I want to emphasize that listening to music on the train is not a bad thing. However, it is worth devoting a little more attention to this activity.

On the value of artworks.

In the next post ("How can we measure the value of Art?"), I write about measuring the worth of art. My definition of the value of artistry is closely related to time. For example, if people still want to read some literary works many years after they are written, this type of literature must undoubtedly be valuable.



If works that have been painted, written, or composed by legendary geniuses in the past bring us a new, fresh approach to many things or trigger emotions in us, then this work must be a real masterpiece. In this post, I also emphasized that, in some cases, artists' contemporaries sometimes do not understand the thoughts and ideas of visionaries who are ahead of their age. That is why I am sure that I will never wholly experience the real impact of my activities on the rest of the world. To put it briefly, time is the best measure of the value of art.

■ *Post "How can we measure the value of Art?" (also pictured above)*



"Warsaw"

In the third post, called "Warsaw," I wrote that I am continually looking for inspiration and new photographic experiences in the Polish capital. The fact is that amid gray reality, people often forget how an everyday moment can be an invaluable muse, inspiration. In my lifetime project, which can be called "adammazek.com," I decided to reduce my pace of life and find beauty in the mundane parts of my quaint, sometimes strange, but always inspiring city. I hope that my photos will raise the seemingly ordinary landscape of our everyday life, towards new, not fully discovered artistic dimensions.



Central-Eastern Europe

■ Post "Central-Eastern Europe"

The next post from November 2017 concerned Central and Eastern Europe. I wrote in it that although I live in this part of the continent from the very beginning of my life, I still do not know this region well enough. The fact is that I visited such countries as Lithuania, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania. Nevertheless, the truth is that the more we visit, the more we realize how many places are still to be discovered. Another thing that came to my mind regarding Central and Eastern Europe is the fact that I feel that this part of the world is relatively unknown. What's more, it seems to me that it is an under-valued region. Why? Some cultures are simply more popular worldwide (e.g., cultures from Western Europe, North America, or Japan).

That is why one of my goals is traveling around the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and taking pictures of cities that are not widely known. What cities can they be? For example, Alytus (LT), Stryi (UA), Trnava (SK), Frydek-Mistek (CZ), Veszprem (HU), or, e.g., Zalau (RO). Is the above are cities popular among Americans, for example? I doubt it. I want to inspire people from this part of the world to start promoting their surroundings, e.g., by taking pictures. Broadly understood art can attract people from all over the world, not only to this particular region but also to other parts of the planet. I am sure that Central and Eastern Europe, with its complex history, deserves to become a popular and recognizable region among people from around the world.



The Magic Book

The "Magic Book" post concerned Thomas Mann's novel "The Magic Mountain." Reading this book was a fantastic experience for me.

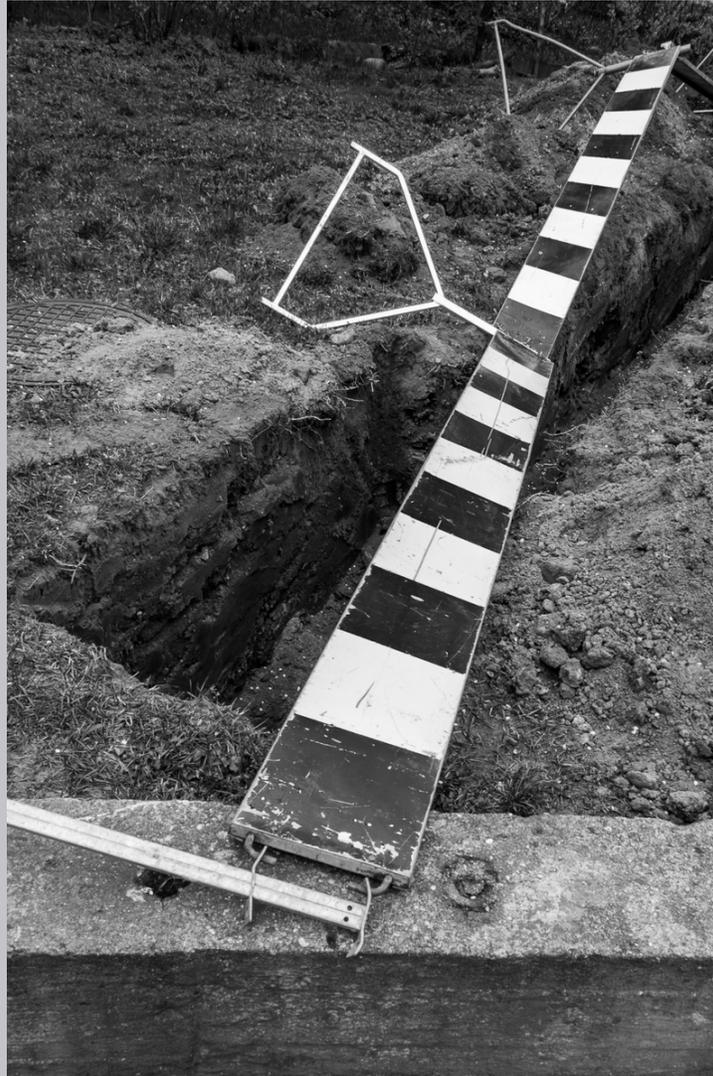
Why?

I planned to read the book in one month. It was the beginning of 2014. In 2013, I read almost all of Dostoevsky's works, translated into Polish. I was sure that I would overcome "Magic Mountain" in a month. Did I achieve my goal? No. It took me almost seven months to read the novel. Now you can imagine my amazement, my Dear Friend, when it turned out that in the work of Mann, the main character named Hans Castorp, had a somewhat similar situation. Initially, he intended to spend three weeks in the Swiss sanatorium in Davos. He finally spent there ... seven years! When I realized the above analogy, I realized that the novel is simply magic. It was extraordinary, unexpected magic.



How to make better pictures? Part I





- *Post „The Magic Book“*
- *P. 7 - post "How to make better pictures? Part I"; p. 9 - post "Warsaw"*

The last post ("How to make better pictures? Part I") from November 2017 was the first part of my photographic guide. I asked a simple question: how to take better photos? I pointed out that it is not the camera that is the most important thing that creates an image.

If not a camera, what are the key aspects of taking better photos?

Undoubtedly, you will ask me, my Dear Friend. It's the artist's imagination and mind. Therefore, when photographing, we should focus on a minimalist approach to image creation. There is a general rule in photography: the fewer objects you place in the frame, the better the picture you will probably take. Minimalism is something we should look for when photographing. Let's remember that the rules are there to break them. But if we do that, we should be able to answer the question of why we do it. To sum up the topic of how to take better pictures, I would write: think, analyze, minimize, compose, take a picture.

THE END



ADAM MAZEK
WARSAW