



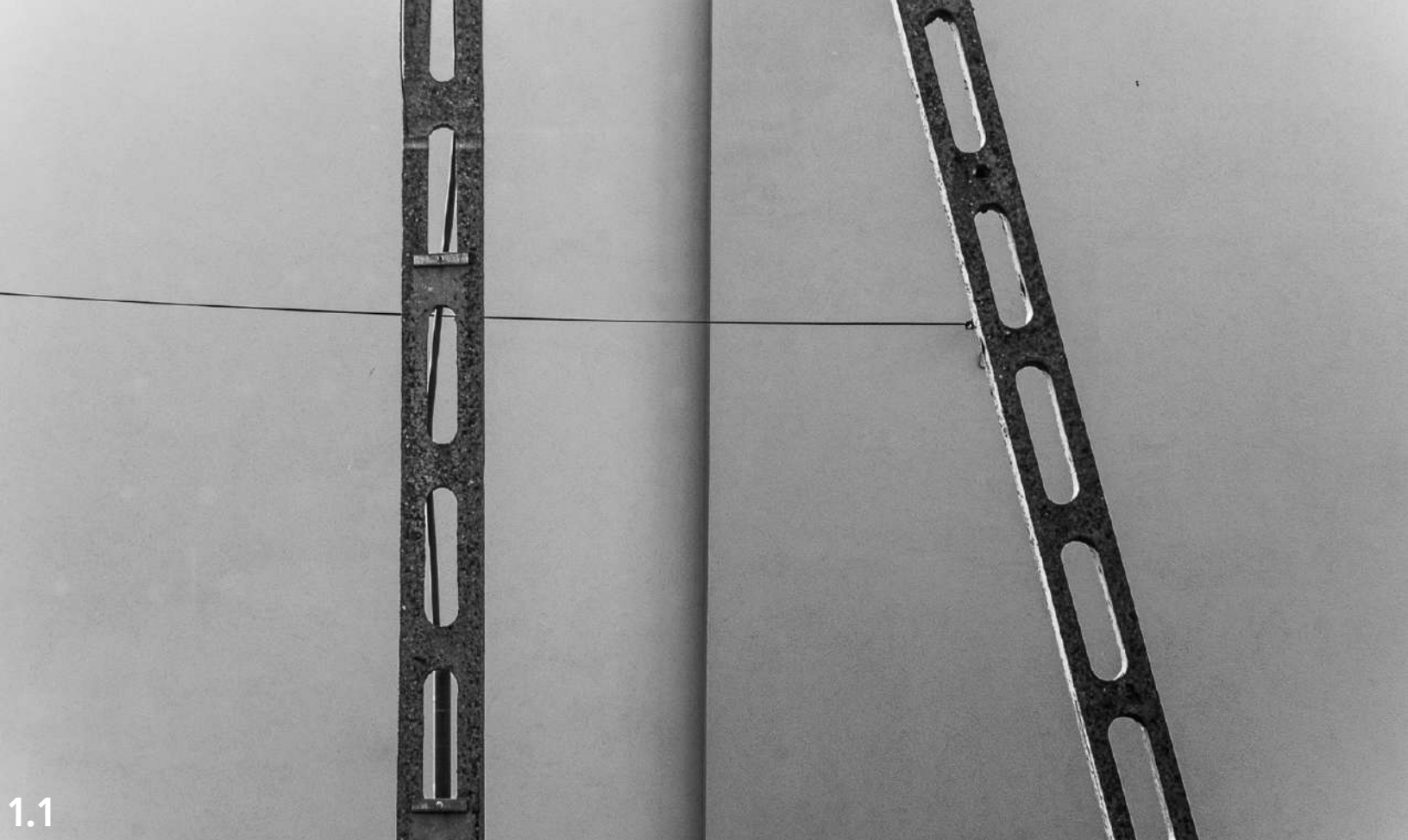
ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

March

2018

part II

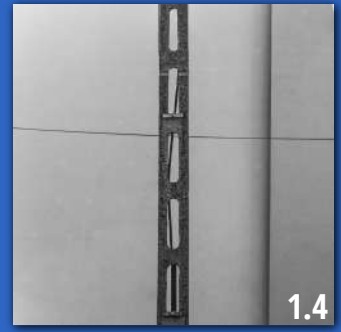
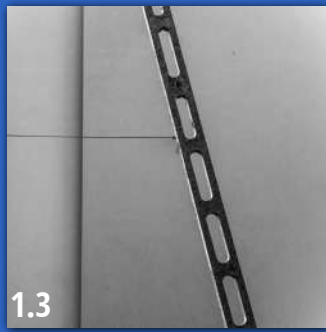
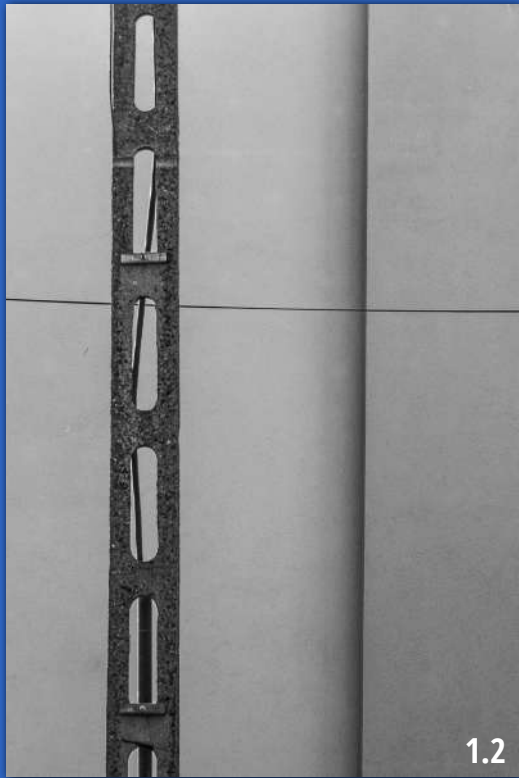


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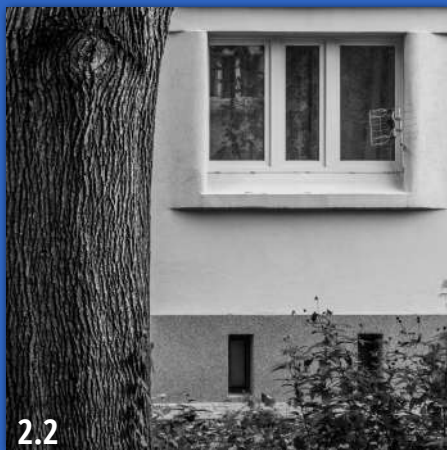
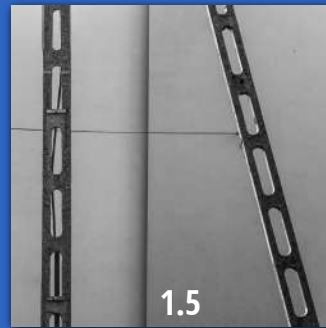
## HOW TO MAKE BETTER PICTURES? PART IV



2.1



SET NO. 1



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## HOW TO MAKE BETTER PICTURES? PART IV

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The second part of the posts published in March 2018 begins with the text in which I again asked the question about how to take better pictures (post: "How to make better pictures? Part IV"). Undoubtedly, you need training and practice. First of all, we should train our imagination. How can this be done? We can analyze what we see in front of our eyes at a given moment. One way is to try to divide the frame into smaller parts. Let's look at the main pictures of individual sets (p. 2 - photo no. 1.1 and 2.1). At first glance, we won't see anything unusual on them. Nevertheless, I would like you to look, my Dear Friend, at the next pictures in both sets (p. 3). Don't they look familiar? Yes, of course. Photos no. 1.2-1.5 have been cut out from Photo no. 1.1. Similarly, it happened with photographs no. 2.2.-2.5, which were created after cropping the photograph No. 2.1.

There is a theory that if you can create two or more frames by dividing a photo, then there is a high possibility that the picture is visually attractive to the human eye. This process may be associated with symmetry, which can be seen in set 2. Still, it is not necessary to obtain a pleasant effect on the human eye. Can you often see these types of images? Of course. I am sure that each of us sees them every day. The trouble is, nobody thinks about it. We do not train our imagination, often without having time. That is why I encourage you, my Dear Friend, to slow down the pace in your life and to more often contemplate and analyze (visually) the reality that surrounds us.

To sum up: walk, watch, think, analyze, take pictures. Hunt for frames that you can divide (e.g., in Lightroom) into two or more frames. The more often you do it, the more you will become visually sensitive to the world around you. That way, you'll start making progress, including by developing your passion, which can be photography.



- Post "Art"

## ART

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The next post was about art (post: "Art"). I wrote in it that the primary purpose of art is to evoke feelings in people. Art should give breath to human souls. It should evoke unusual, hard to describe, elusive impressions, emotions, and feelings. Art has a healing power. I treat photography as a method of not only intellectual but also mental development. When taking pictures or writing texts, I know that I am continually strengthening self-discipline. Also, I'm training my imagination. When taking photos on the streets, I feel like a stranger from an alien planet. I am always wondering what the human world will present to me. With this attitude, suddenly, I am interested in every corner of my beloved Warsaw. I'm starting to pay attention to the objects that surround me and their details. Creating art is one of the most healing therapies for the human soul, heart, and mind. This is one of the best ways to feel freedom in your soul. Creation is also an ideal method (as well as reading, traveling, and talking to people) to gain knowledge about the world around us.

## ART

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The more we expand our knowledge, the more questions we begin to ask ourselves. The more they arise, the more doubts arise in our minds. Finally, the more we doubt, the faster we try to develop passion because we want to find the answer to several often existential questions. The best part is that humanity cannot solve many vital mysteries.

*Why are you writing about all this? What exactly do you want to tell me?*

You will undoubtedly ask me, my Dear Friend. I want to say that I didn't know all this for most of my life. Broadly understood art has opened my eyes to many aspects of human life. Now, I want to share my knowledge with you. Creating art is one of the most healing and developing gifts. If you create, take pictures, write, dance, sing, compose, design, paint, etc., then you become stronger, first of all, deep in your soul and in your mind. You are developing, you are more and more confident, you feel free. You remember that you are only human.

• Post "Art"





**OSTENSIBLE  
CHAOS**

## OSTENSIBLE CHAOS

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Another post from the second part of March 2018 talked about ostensible chaos (post: "Ostensible chaos"). Many people believe that we live in eternal chaos. I would like to modify this idea a bit. I think that we live in seeming chaos. I believe that people will never understand many age-old existential problems. Which ones? For example such: why did we appear on this planet? Is there a God who created this world? Is there life after death? No one knows. There are many theories about all the above questions, but none of us are and will not be able to provide evidence for them. The more approaches we create, the more we fall into chaos, and the more doubts we have. Since the dawn of time, humanity has been trying to get information about the world around it. We want to organize the reality around us, explain the unexplained, give meaning to existence. The problem is that many questions will simply never be answered. Our minds cannot understand some things.







- Post „Ostensible chaos“

## OSTENSIBLE CHAOS

It is impossible to get knowledge about God (assuming that he exists). We will never fully understand the processes that govern our universe. Broadly understood technological progress is continuously evolving, but it will never answer fundamental questions. The more we will find, step by step answers to fragmentary questions, the more we will be confused. Why? One hundred more problems will arise with each subsequent solution. We try to find clues in religions, sciences (e.g., mathematics, astronomy), astrology, alchemy, or art, but we will never understand many things. The only thing we can do is look for the answer, knowing that we can only get closer to it, but not discover it ultimately. This is the path that we, as humanity, should follow.

## OSTENSIBLE CHAOS

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I have found that the more I ask myself, the more I want to find answers and solutions, the more I see. What can I see more precisely? That the chaos that surrounds us is apparent. Stanislaw Lem wrote that the fact that the set of atoms created living cells could not be an accident. He also added that it is impossible that in subsequent phases, these cells (in the number of trillions) have accumulated and formed a human body. Thanks to Lem, I realized that all-natural laws existing in our world (e.g., those regarding astronomy, physics, chemistry, or mathematics) could not arise from chaos. The predictable movements of stars and planets, the laws governing the solar system, the regular change of day and night, the constant appearance and disappearance of the moon, show that there is, in large part, incomprehensible order in the universe. The fact that everything arose out of chaos and is eternal confusion is simply a convenient, "understandable" theory that explains everything, meaning it does not solve anything.



- Post „Ostensible chaos“



- Post "Enchanted pencil"

## ENCHANTED PENCIL

The fourth post, published in the second half of March 2018, was called "Enchanted pencil." I explained why I often read books with a pencil in my hand. The pen is used to mark quotes and to write (at the end of the book) the pages on which I have marked the quote. Some of my earlier posts have been written, among others thanks to the fact that a few years earlier, when reading the books of Dostoevsky, Lem, Mann or Seneca, I marked the most inspiring quotes and at the end of the book I wrote pages on which the selected fragment of the work is located. I remember wondering why I was doing this. The only sensible thought that came to my mind at the time was that maybe I would use it in the future. Did I have a good feeling? Yes. It turned out that now when sometimes I lack inspiration and I don't know what I would like to write about, I reach for my good old books. The truth is that the works of Geniuses are endless sources of inspiration. Referring to them, we can analyze, transform, develop, or even discuss with them.

A black and white photograph of a dense forest of bare trees. The trees are mostly without leaves, showing a complex network of branches and trunks. In the foreground, a large, light-colored tree trunk is prominent, leaning slightly to the right. The background is filled with more trees, creating a sense of depth and a dense canopy. The overall tone is somber and wintry.

**ENCHANTED  
PENCIL**

## ENCHANTED PENCIL

Circling texts saves me time. I don't have to flip through pages in a given book, because everything has already been written down with an enchanted pencil. Quotes by masters of the written word can be a starting point for us to form our own thoughts, or, for example, comments on many aspects of our lives (ranging from religion, broadly understood the culture, science, philosophy, to science fiction). Today I want to emphasize that I am proud of myself, that I began to mark with a pencil all the quotes that interest me since 2011. The truth is, many of the quotes I have marked are still waiting for me to turn to them. What authors are we talking about? Eg. about Tolstoy, Chekhov, Bukowski, Hesse, or Celine. I hope that I will refer to the work of all the writers mentioned above on my blog, thanks to the magic pencil.

- Post "Enchanted pencil" (also p. 12)





- Post "Chopin"

## CHOPIN

Another post told about Fryderyk Chopin. His work inspires subsequent generations of people around the world. Chopin's music is the quintessence of the Polish soul. The Polish composer was a real genius. The most interesting is that people from every corner of our planet listen to his music and can interpret the work of the Polish artist in their own local way. Chopin was adding motifs from Polish folk melodies to his music. Listening to his tunes, we can imagine nineteenth-century Poland with Warsaw and a small village, located near the Polish capital, whose name is Żelazowa Wola. This is the place where the world-famous composer was born. Chopin's works are universal. No matter who is born, when and where, anyone can listen to the artistry of a Polish genius. His works are still being heard all over the world, almost 170 years after his death. In our souls and memories, he will live forever.



## CHOPIN

**My dream is to achieve the level of Chopin's genius, at least in a few percents. I want my photos to be as full of both Polish and universal message and expression as Chopin's music.**

**Now I will present my goals related to art:**

**a) create images saturated with unspeakable, ambiguous and non-literal accents that will evoke a full cross-section of feelings at the recipient;**

**b) generate a kind of art that will be recognizable to people from all over the world, regardless of the times in which these people will live.**

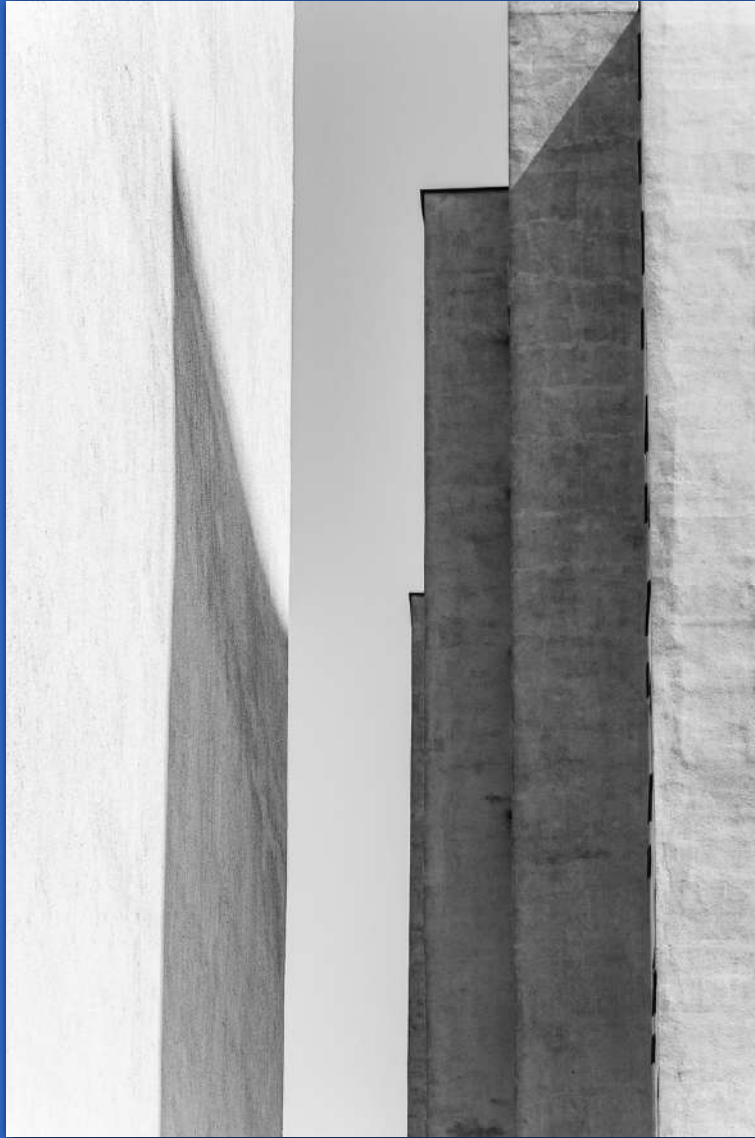
**Can I do all this? Nobody knows today. I will do my best to perform this difficult task. I am going to take pictures for the rest of my life. This is one of my life goals. Be creative and productive until I die.**

A black and white photograph of three weathered concrete bollards in a grassy field. The bollards are cylindrical and feature horizontal stripes of white and dark grey. The closest bollard is in sharp focus, showing its texture and some surface wear. Two other bollards are visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The ground is covered in grass and some dry leaves.

# COMPETITORS

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- Post „Competitors“ (also p. 16)

## COMPETITORS

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About why other photographers are not a competition for me, I wrote in a post titled "Competitors." Nowadays, all people can take breathtaking photos every day. In the era of ubiquitous smartphones, each of us is an artist-photographer. We can all create art here and now. That's the truth. It is only up to us whether we want to invest time and energy in the development of our passion. If you live in a country like Poland, there are many possibilities at your fingertips. That's why I don't consider other photographers as competitors. Competing with the whole society would not make sense to me. I'm sure that most people see a lot of fantastic views every day that can be photographed.

## COMPETITORS

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However, usually, people see them but do not register them, these views do not always get to their memory and imagination. Moreover, these views are also not saved in their cameras and smartphones. People often think about many different things, but not what they see around them. Even if people see the scenery that is pleasing to the eye, they rarely take a picture of it. However, if they make a picture, they don't always publish it online. The critical point is how much time and energy people want to devote to their passion. Mundane problems affect us all. That's why many people don't have the energy and time to analyze what they see. The resources needed to take pictures usually appear during the holidays. This is one of the reasons why photos taken during the holidays are often cute.

• Post „Competitors“



## COMPETITORS

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We can afford to analyze our surroundings when we are relaxed and when other earthly problems (related to e.g., health, family, finances, etc.) do not disturb our psyche's rest. When I realized all these things, I noticed that each of us is a great photographer. That is why it is much easier for me not to treat other people as competitors. With this approach, I focus only on the personal process of creation. I would not call this process a business. It is much more than just a business. I'd say it's a way of life. I don't wait for holidays anymore to be able to take cool photos. If everyone can take great pictures, why should I treat others as competition? Another thought is that I think photography is a very democratic tool for creating art. Today, anyone with smartphones can take great photos. Anyone can, just like me, create a website, e.g., on Wordpress.

- Post "Chopin"





- Post "Art"

## COMPETITORS

By the way, I think that building your own website is the key to success in broadly understood art. In my opinion, many profiles on Facebook and other social networks somehow standardize the works that are presented there. Sometimes, when I see breathtaking photos on Facebook or Instagram, I get the impression that I've seen this photo before on other profiles. This is because the presentation method is enforced and limited by the restrictions of social media sites. For me, this is probably the most significant disadvantage of social networking. That's why I decided to invest my time and money to have fun blogging. As I said before, photography is not a tool for me to do business. It's a toy for an adult who likes to ask a lot of questions. And you know, my Dear Friend, what is the most exciting thing about all this? I feel that this is just the beginning of my artistic journey. That's why other photographers are not competitors for me, but buddies I meet on the playground.

# MAZEK LIVE PERFORMANCE

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## MAZEK LIVE PERFORMANCE

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In the next post, I invited readers to the "Mazek Live Performance" show. This performance did not have the atmosphere of great music concerts, created, for example, by the legendary band Queen. There will be no screaming and crying fans. During my performance, you won't see Freddie Mercury singing or Roger Taylor playing drums. Queen's performance at Live Aid in London in 1985 lasted 20 minutes. Nevertheless, in the hearts of fans, the show will last forever. The concert is considered one of the best live performances in rock history. "Mazek Live Performance" show will not have an atmosphere similar to the performance of Marina Abramovic, "Artist is present." In the performance of Adam Mazek, the viewer does not know that the artist is present. I can't give the date or place of my show. Viewers do not know if this guy with a camera in his hand is a famous photographer, a criminal, or an ordinary gray man. In my show, the artist's meeting with viewers is ruled by chance.

- Post „Mazek Live Performance“  
(also p. 21)





- Post „Mazek Live Performance“

## MAZEK LIVE PERFORMANCE

My presence is another passing moment in the life of passers-by. We are extras for ourselves - a more or less transparent background. The stage of this show is the street. During my performance, we hear the noise of cars, conversations of people, or an echo of our own thoughts and the eternal silence. Adam Mazek's performance is another, ordinary moment amid gray reality. It is not filled with such emotions and feelings as they appeared during the abovementioned of Marina Abramović's performance. "Mazek Live Performance" is an elusive show. It takes place everywhere and nowhere. That's why I love street photography. I have the impression that I take part in live performance all the time. I called it: "Mazek Live Performance." Or maybe I should have called it "Mazek Freak Show"? It does not matter. The most important thing is that I have fun taking pictures and writing texts about my work.



# "WARSAWA"

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**To write the last post from March 2018, I was inspired by the song by David Bowie, "Warszawa." Listening to this song, I often imagine the paintings of the Polish painter, Zdzislaw Beksinski. This is another phenomenal proof of how works of geniuses can be associated with each other.**

**I have the impression that both the Bowie song and the paintings of the famous Polish painter have many common surreal features. Bowie traveled twice by rail through Warsaw, the capital of Poland, during the Cold War. The first trip took place in 1973. It was the year in which Bowie traveled from Moscow to West Berlin. After moving, Bowie told his wife Angie that "he had never been so damn scared in his life."**





- Post „Warszawa" (also p. 24)

## "WARSZAWA"

By that, he did not mean impressions from the capital of the USSR or Germany. His commentary concerned Warsaw. The second trip took place three years later. He traveled with Iggy Pop, from Zurich to Moscow. Inspired by the emptiness he saw in the Polish capital, he wrote the song "Warszawa."

Nevertheless, the famous Polish city was not the only inspiration for the renowned singer. The lyrics in the middle of the song are based on the song of the Polish folk choir "Silesia." Silesia is a region in the southern part of Poland. On the other hand, the beginnings of Zdzislaw Beksinski's works date back to his young age when he lived in the south-eastern part of Poland, in Sanok. In 1977 he moved to Warsaw. I want to emphasize that both David and Zdzislaw saw the same gray concrete buildings in Warsaw in the mid-1970s. At that time, Warsaw was a monumental, sad, gray city, ruled by totalitarian communist authorities. The capital of Poland was destroyed in almost 84%, thirty years earlier, during World War II.

## "WARSZAWA"

Signs of war were still visible in the 70s. The city walls inspired Bowie to write the song. In those years, the Polish capital was a terrifyingly overwhelming city, just like Beksiński's works. Beksiński was fascinated by death, decay, and darkness. When I see his paintings, I hear a song by a British singer. When I listen to the song "Warsaw," I see Beksiński's pictures. In both versions, I feel an apocalyptic vision of Warsaw. Today, the capital of Poland is an open and more friendly city, both for residents and guests. It is no longer as overwhelming as it was in the 1970s. Nevertheless, my dream is that my work should also refer to Warsaw in a more or less apocalyptic way. Let the heritage of the abovementioned masters and my work (in my dreams) reminds us and leads to this unique place on earth, located in the heart of Poland.

• Post „Mazek Live Performance“



THE END