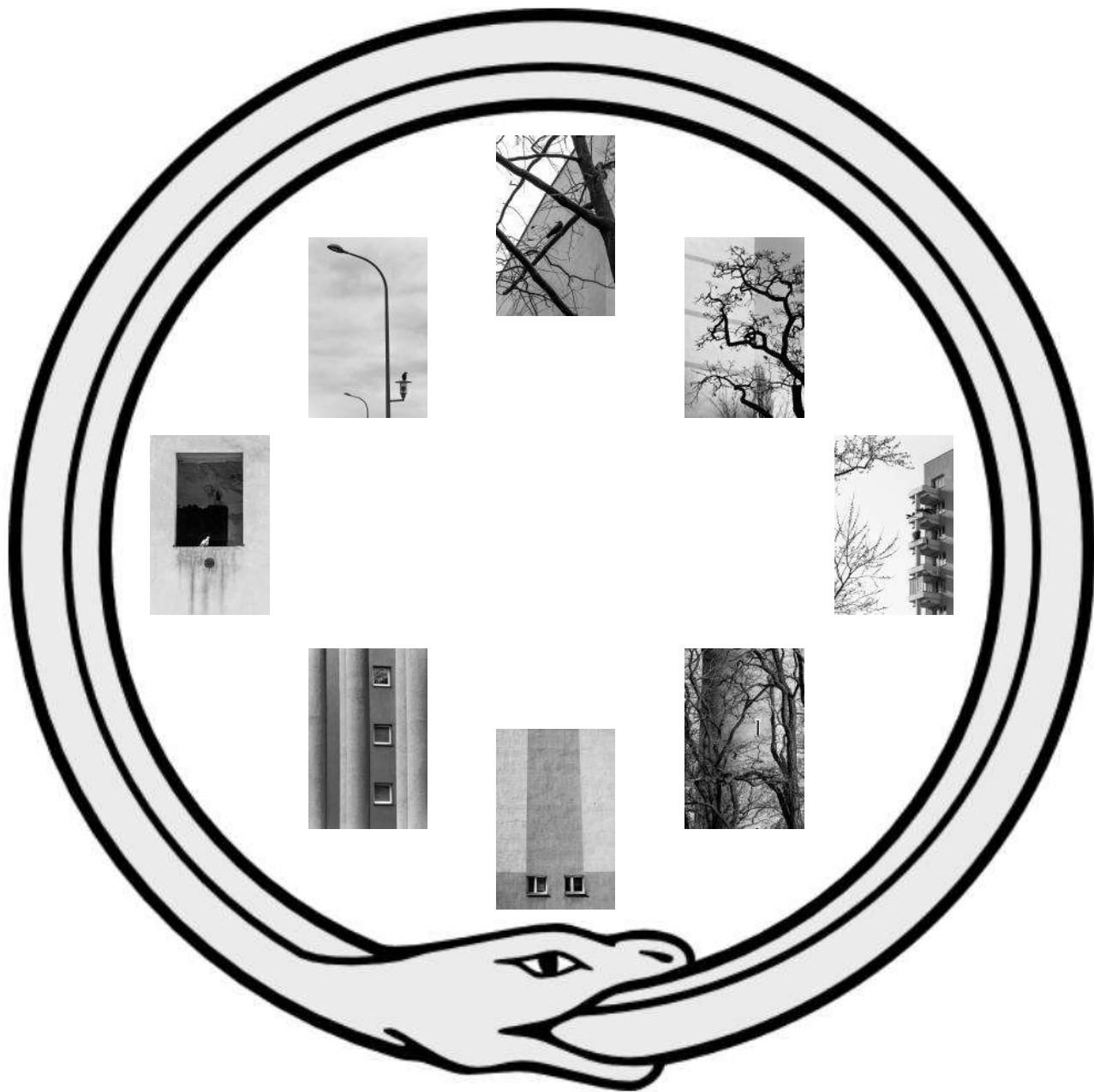


ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

02.2019 p. 1

NEGATION OF THE END



www.adammazek.com

NEGATION OF THE END

The first post published in February 2019 was called "The Negation of the End." It was the second set of photos (the first was "Farewell," published in "Diaries" 09.2018 p. II), which I posted on my blog. While I did "Farewell" as part of my diploma at a photography school, I did "Negation of the End" with the www.artfinder.com website in mind. I will write more about this page later in this issue of "Diaries." As a chronicler, I must add that the title work is also the second one that I have presented in the Polish language. Enough of this writing. Here is the work "The Negation of the End" in all its glory:

NEGATION OF THE END

Everything in this work has its own logical order, like the eternal order of this Universe. The "Negation of the End" references James Joyce, Hiroshige, and Charles Sheeler. It is also a tribute to all people who have started using art as a tool for self-expression. The entire work consists of eight photos. If you organize them properly, they will create unique visual endless work. The structure of the piece refers to the composition of the work by James Joyce entitled "Finnegan's Wake." Its cyclical, mysterious, cryptological, and ongoing construction creates a surprising reference to the ancient Egyptian symbol of life and death, Ouroboros. Ouroboros is a serpent that consumes itself forever and is reborn of itself simultaneously. The photos presented in work "Negation of the End" also refer to death and resurrection. By combining the beginning and end of the images shown in this work, according to the attached graphics, with a continuous transition between the three motifs (trees - windows - birds), the structure of the work resembles the Uroboros. One theme disappears, a second one suddenly appears, then a third one returns to the first plot again. Adam Mazek's work has no de facto beginning or end like the ancient Egyptian animal symbol. The snake is a cosmic soul. It brings everything back to life while killing everything. Ouroboros is everything and nothing as well. It is everywhere, and at the same time, it is nowhere to be found. Nothing in this world has a beginning or an end. Everything, including life and death, is part of the eternal, incomprehensible order of the Universe.

NEGATION OF THE END

„Negation of the End" has its own endless flow and circulation. As already mentioned, the collection of photographs has three central motifs that interpenetrate each other: trees, windows, and birds. Japanese artist Hiroshige inspired me to create this work when it comes to trees. Vertical frames, full of curly, twisted, strange tree branches, are a motif that we often see in the masterpieces of the Japanese master. The tree can be a symbol of rebirth. Humanity left the bodies of its ancestors in wooden coffins. In most religions, these bodies await the resurrection. The tree is the symbol of this rebirth. For alchemists, the tree is not only a place of awakening to new life but also of suffering. Suicides and executions have been carried out in forests throughout human history. Another theme we can find in this work is the window theme. The window is a transparent threshold. We can let in the fresh air, sunlight, or dark night thanks to it. A window is where two worlds meet, connect, cross and penetrate each other: the inner and the outer. Windows are the eyes of houses. They are a symbol of hope. All our dreams, memories, and fantasies are actually windows to our soul and psyche.

On the other hand, in ancient cultures worldwide, windows were being opened at the time of death. The goal was one: to free the soul to immortality. Paintings by the American artist Charles Sheeler often show windows. The openings in the wall in his paintings prevent us from seeing the interior of the building. Windows appear impersonally as flat shapes in skyscrapers. We can observe a similar phenomenon in my photos. In "Negation of the End," we see lonely windows housed in strange, hostile, minimalist buildings. The third theme in the presented work is birds. Waking up while the birds sing is one of the most relaxing and moving things a person can experience. It is no coincidence that the tiny bird sculpture found in a German cave turned out to be one of the oldest works of art. The sculpture is only five centimeters long. Nevertheless, it is convincing in its simplicity.

NEGATION OF THE END

It makes us realize that 30,000 years ago, the sculptor was able to switch between two worlds - from the outer world of the senses to the inner world of the imagination. Something pushed the work's creator to shape a piece of ivory into a new form, the image of a bird. It was this creative act that made us human. Birds are a symbol of the different laws of nature. When prisoners return to society, straight from prison, they feel free as a bird. We leave the mundane world in our imagination, rise to the heavens and observe everything from above. Throughout history, birds have been viewed as heavenly messenger who communicates with the Gods. The dove, for example, was a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Birds live everywhere. We can meet them in the most remote parts of our planet.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that my work has no end or beginning. By creating it, I wanted to trifle with time. In denying the end, I want to emphasize that the entire Universe is one endless and unsolvable puzzle. I would like to add that the work "Negation of the End" is a tribute to all artists and other people who have asked and will be asking fundamental questions about our existence. After all, each of us, without exception, is paradoxically both nothing and everything.



NEGATION OF THE END



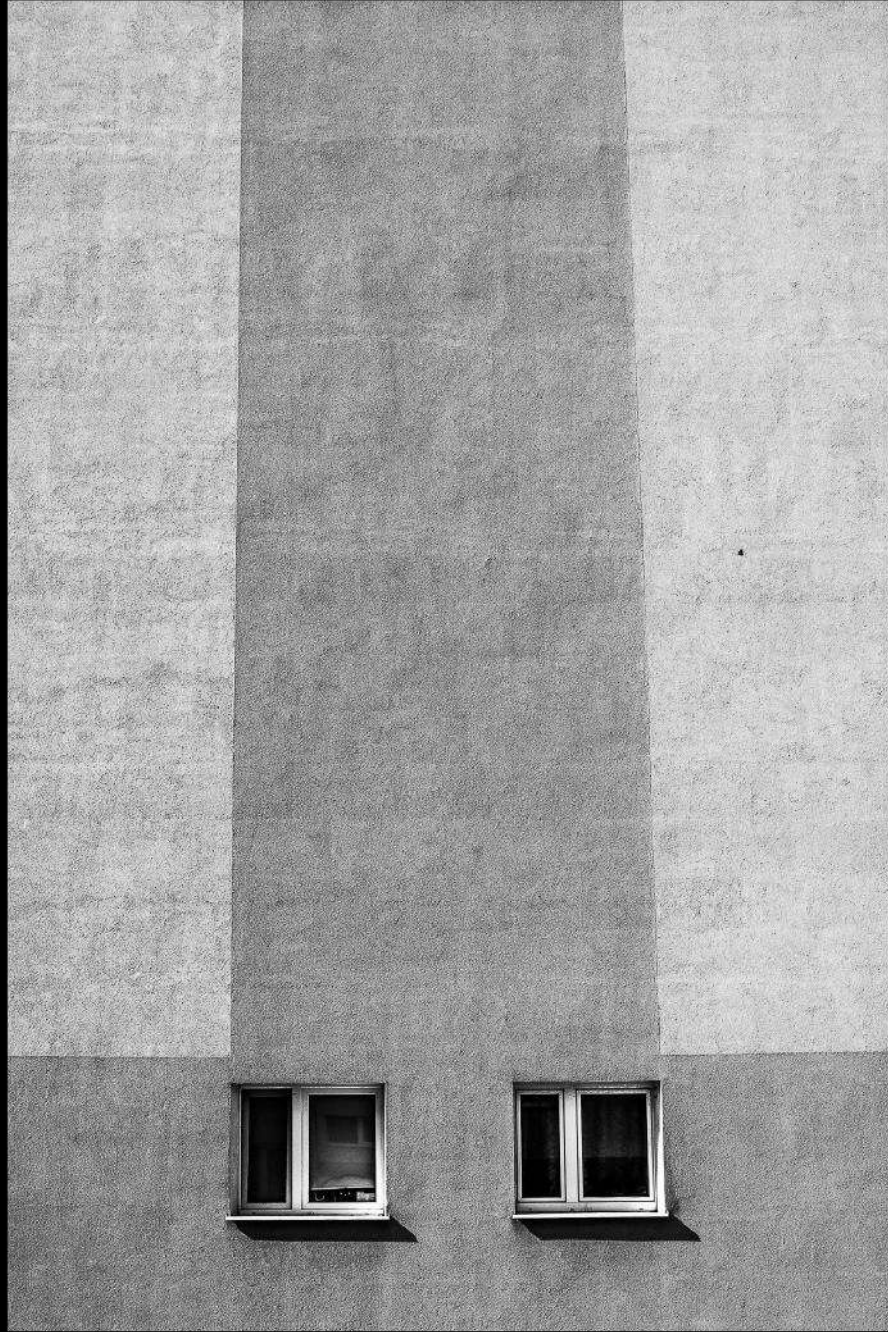
NEGATION OF THE END



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NEGATION OF THE END

INSPIRED BY POLAND

I wrote about my homeland in the text entitled "Inspired by Poland." My country and my countrymen inspire me to be creative in my life. The truth is that Poles often dream of traveling to "exotic" countries. Favorite tourist destinations are e.g., Australia, Japan, Thailand, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, USA, and Canada. Many more countries could be enumerated.

On the other hand, I often wonder if the inhabitants of other countries dream about coming to Poland that is "exotic" to them. How do I see my homeland? For me, Poland is a country:

- where a lot of people drink beer and vodka;
- in which people eat delicious pickled cucumbers and sauerkraut;
- from which many people emigrated after we acceded to the European Union;

• Cover: post „National Geographic”

• Post „Inspired by Poland”



INSPIRED BY POLAND



- Post „Inspired by Poland”

- whose capital city was destroyed in 84% during World War II and then rebuilt. Warsaw is a city that has experienced its own death;
- which from the very beginning was between the two powers (Russia and Germany) and, however, managed to maintain a separate identity. Our mentality reminds me of the clash of the West (we Poles have always wanted to be treated like a Western country) with an inalienable Eastern mentality;
- whose current borders and national ethnicity have been imposed on us from the outside. It happened without our will, after the Second World War;
- who, despite many historical perturbations, gave the world many geniuses, including Mikolaj Kopernik, Fryderyk Chopin, Maria Sklodowska-Curie, Wislawa Szymborska, Pope John Paul II, Stanislaw Lem, Zdzislaw Beksinski, and Robert Lewandowski;

INSPIRED BY POLAND

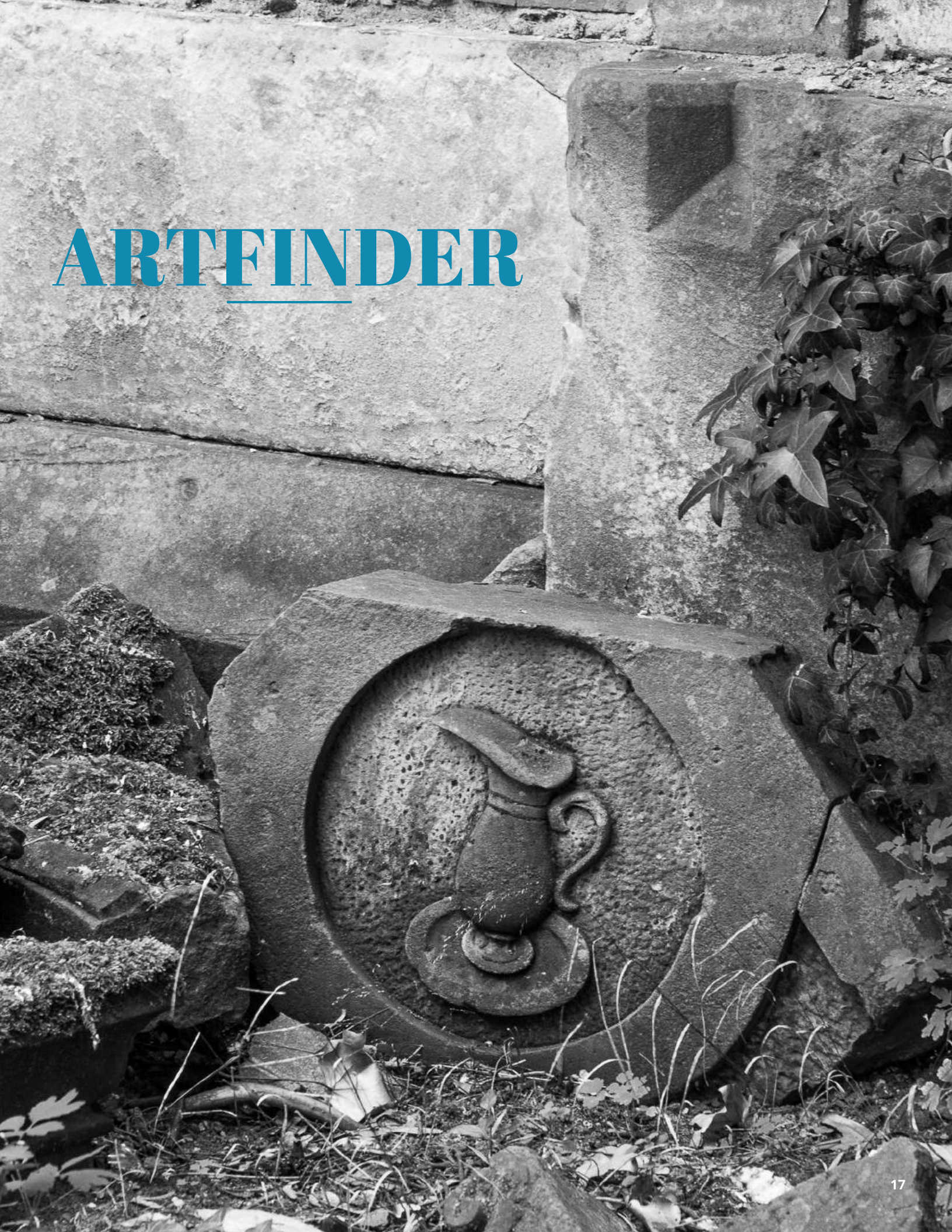
- which I sometimes think is actually nothing unusual. Poland seems to be the most down-to-earth, average commonplace that can only exist. However, after a moment's thought, I find the opposite. I think I was fortunate to be born in this and not another place, at this and not another time.

I often see Poland as a magical, ambivalent country, full of contradictions. I love a homeland so much that I cannot imagine my life anywhere else. Of course, I feel offended at my country at times. When exactly? Mainly during football matches. Unfortunately, I often get angry when I see Polish players in action. If you don't know what I mean, check the results of the 2018 World Cup. So my Dear Friend, are you ready to visit this "exotic" country?

• *Post „Inspired by Poland“*



ARTFINDER



ARTFINDER

I announced in the next post that the ArtFinder platform has accepted me as its artist-seller. I wanted to emphasize that I don't see anything wrong with earning money from my photos. Was I surprised that Artfinder accepted my candidacy to sell photos on their platform? Of course, I wasn't. In fact, I'd be surprised if they didn't take me. The truth is, in February 2019, I was ready to start selling my photos. Does that mean I haven't done it before? No. In January 2019, I sold my first photos, but the transaction took place outside the ArtFinder website. The fact that I will sell my works on the eponymous platform will not change my personal, holistic approach to photography. I will continue to wander the streets of Warsaw because it gives me unimaginable fun. I'm not going to change anything on my website either. I enjoy photographing and writing so much that I don't see any reason why I should stop doing this.

However, do I plan to take pictures on request? Do I plan to fulfill clients' expectations, not mine? No. My name is Adam Mazek, and the essence of my artistic activity is that I do what I want and like, not something the client requires me to do. I want to remain an independent artist for the rest of my life. The artistic legacy of Salvador Dali and Zdzislaw Beksinski taught me that it is worth being independent. In conclusion, I am convinced that the more photos I take, the better I become. In this way, the value of my works will undoubtedly continue to increase. Moreover, I am convinced that my photos will gain enormous importance, probably only after my death.



• *Post „Artfinder“*

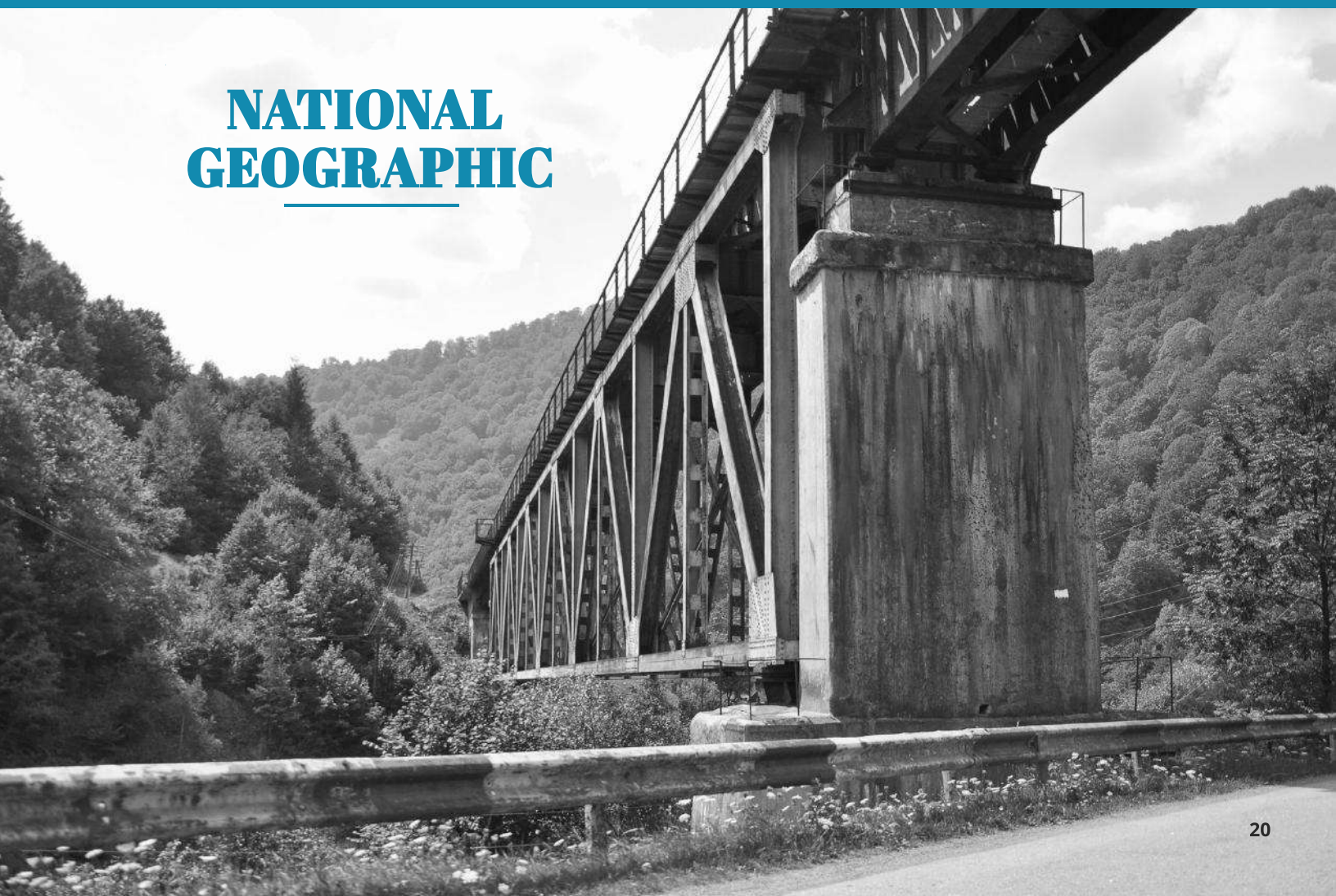


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

I was prompted to write another post by reading the Polish edition of National Geographic in August 2018. The article's title was "Life Beyond Earth," and it was about the planet Saturn. You could read in the text, among others, a statement by Carl Sagan, the famous American astronomer and popularizer of science. Sagan once said that humanity comes close to discovering the most powerful secrets in the context of space travel. I partially agree with this statement. By uncovering the next secret of the Universe step by step, the level of our knowledge increases significantly, so it undoubtedly brings us closer to discovering the unexplained, universal truth about the cosmos, its origin, and future, etc. However, with each found, explained puzzle, dozens, if not hundreds, of new questions about the essence of the Universe are automatically created. In short: the more secrets that science uncovers for mankind, the more doubts and puzzles appear.

Paradoxically, the closer we get to the greatest mysteries, the more we move away from them. Does this mean that we should abandon all space exploration activities? Of course not. I sincerely support science in discovering the secrets of the world and space. I am inquisitive about what breakthrough discoveries I will live to see. I do not combine my curiosity with discovering the Universe. I am also interested in new finds in artificial intelligence, medicine, or archeology. However, I am simply aware that we have limited opportunities to know the world around us all. At this point, the lyrics of the Metallica song called "Through the Never" come to my mind. The words "Limitations of human understanding" often pop up in my head. Our cognitive abilities are indeed limited.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC





NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

I am convinced that we will never know the answers to many questions, e.g., who created the Universe? God? Chaos? Big Bang? Before the Big Bang, was there an infinite number of similar cosmic events, and the process will never end? Is Earth facing an inevitable cosmic doom beyond our control? Are we alone among the unimaginable cosmic dust made up of millions of superclusters or groups of thousands of galaxies? Is it possible to reach the edge of an ever-expanding Universe given that it would take us 25,000 years to just get out of our Milky Way with current technology? To contact the edge of the Universe, one has to exceed the speed of light, but is it even possible? The answer for today is that it is not. But what role do the omnipresent dark energy and dark matter play in the Universe? Will we ever know their essence?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Everything we see, including our planet, the Sun, and other stars and superclusters, is matter, which makes up only 5% of the entire mass of the Universe. Are there an infinite number of dimensions in which an endless number of versions of ourselves can appear? After all, the multiverse theory was born in the minds of scientists. How to explain infinity? All I have are doubts. The more we discover, the more questions will arise. Being aware of this, I look forward to the subsequent groundbreaking discoveries. Mysteries of the Universe are waiting to be unraveled. The magazine "National Geographic" wonderfully evokes man's hunger for knowledge to be satisfied. I encourage you, my Dear Friend, to read "National Geographic." It will undoubtedly provide you with surprising inspiration. In turn, I wish scientists fruitful work!



• *Post „Artfinder“*



MAKING SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

MAKING SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

I admire people who created something out of nothing (post: "Making something from nothing"). I want to follow in their footsteps. One example of creating something out of nothing is writing. For me, it is unbelievable that writers write novels with only the power of thought and imagination. For me, the highest level of such creative abilities was possessed by Fyodor Dostoyevski and Stanislaw Lem. Fortunately, many other brilliant creators have achieved similar success. Writing is an excellent example of how people can create amazing new things by working their minds. Thanks to the book by Norman Mailer entitled "Moonfire" (Taschen) came to mind for another example of making something out of nothing. This book tells the story of the moon landing. Reading it, I found out that today's average refrigerator has more processing power than the machines that allowed the Apollo 11 astronauts to land on the moon. I wrote this text on a computer that NASA scientists would have dreamed of at the time of the memorable moment at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s. As Norman Mailer wrote:

The software that scientists were using at the time would have been considered Neanderthal in the Xbox era.

After all, the Americans achieved tremendous success. They sent astronauts back and forth with minimal resources compared to today. All the examples mentioned above are a real inspiration for me. I want to do the same. I want to create great things using a minimal amount of tools. All the tools I have are my imagination, eye, camera, and laptop. Of course, I also have legs that allow me to walk along the streets of Warsaw. While doing this, I take pictures and contemplate many things. You can find many fruits of my reflections on my blog, my Dear Friend.

THE END



**MAKING SOMETHING
FROM NOTHING**