



May
2018
p. 11

ADAM MAZEK

Diaries



• *Post „Continual dropping wears away a stone“*

• *Cover: post "Lightroom"*

CONTINUAL DROPPING WEARS AWAY A STONE

The first post of the second part of the May 2018 Diaries was named "Continual dropping wears away a stone." Running a website has a lot to do with the famous proverb of Ovid. Why? Every post I published at that time contained at least four photos that I took mainly on the streets of Warsaw. When writing new texts, I always try to get the "green light" on issues related to SEO (website positioning). Hopefully, thanks to a smooth, stable, and regular process of running my website, I will become the number one photographer on Google Search. I would like to be number one on the list when someone enters, for example: "Warsaw photography." If you don't know what I mean, try google "Adam Mazek Photography" and spot how many photos you see from www.adammazek.com. I believe that the website positioning activities will help me in the long-term promotion. Each picture, each text, and the post attached on the website is 100% consistent with the title saying.

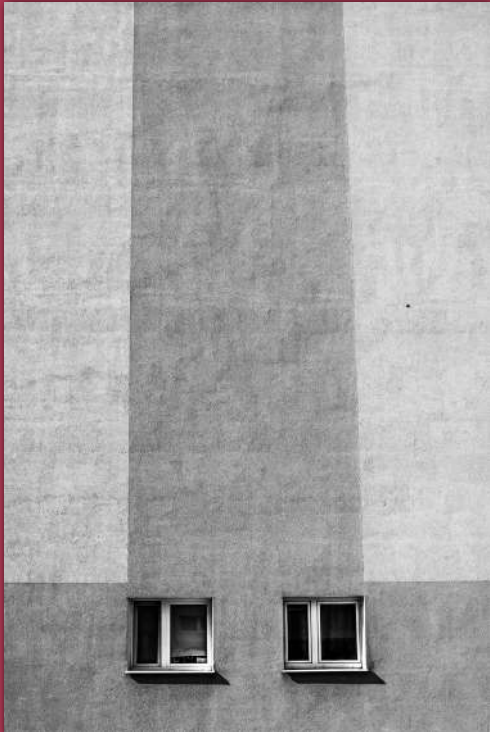
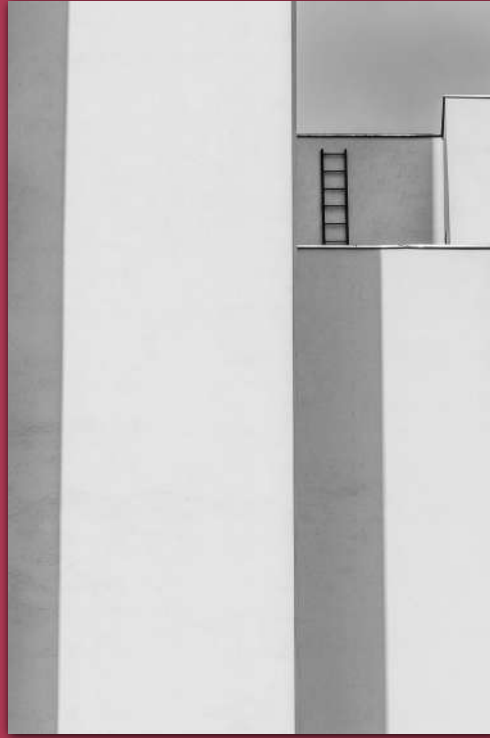
CONTINUAL DROPPING WEARS AWAY A STONE

We live in a time of social media that focuses on instant gratification in the form of likes. I am not interested in this type of award. The number of followers or likes on Instagram is third-rate for me. I trust myself, and I believe in myself. This means that I believe, among other things, in my own creative abilities that help me when taking pictures or writing texts. I am convinced that if you want to build your own brand, you should create something from scratch, something innovative, unique, and personal. I encourage you to create your project without rushing and without waiting for immediate gratification. Don't be discouraged if the beginning is not easy. I remember writing my first text for over half a day. Give yourself plenty of time to develop your skills. I encourage you, my Dear Friend, to start your own website. You will have more opportunities to express yourself. Each subsequent photo I take and each text I write is another drop that hollows the rock. The majestic trees also grow slowly, year after year, to eventually reach impressive sizes.

• *Post „Continual dropping wears away a stone“*



"MAZEK" APP

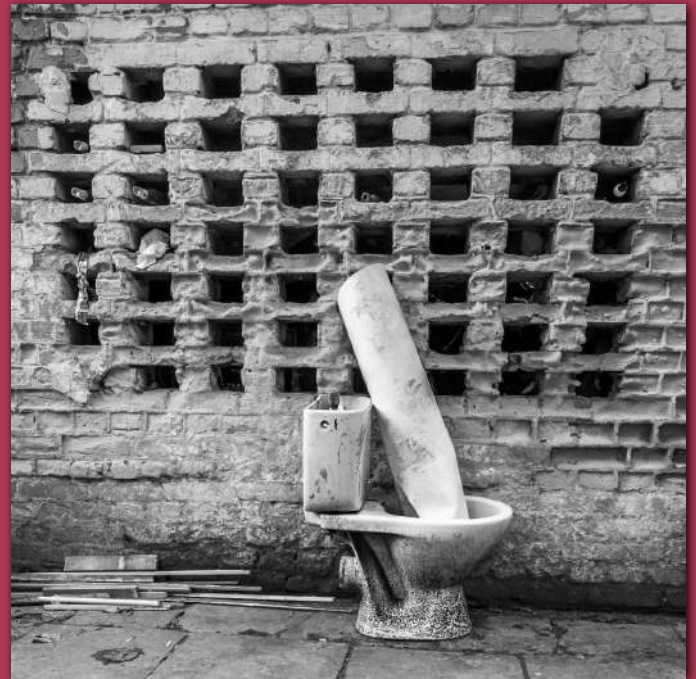


"MAZEK" APP

In the post called "Mazek App," I wrote that I dream, among others, about creating an iOS and Android application. Nowadays, many people often stare thoughtlessly at smartphone screens. We do it as if we want to find something meaningful. I am no exception in this regard. I spend too much time in front of my phone screen. To make matters worse, I believe there is a slim chance that we will see something of value on our smartphone screens. For me, about 80% of the content shown on the Internet (mainly on social media) is not worth reading. For the remaining 20%, I usually don't have time to read cover to cover. That is why I try to limit the use of the iPhone. As it often happens in life, there are also exceptions to the rule. If I find an interesting article on broadly understood art, I try to read this article to the end without taking a break. Why? Often times, if I stop reading something on my phone (as opposed to books), chances are that I will never come back to this article. Why do I dream of "Mazek App" for smartphones? I want my application to be an alternative to mindless scrolling. If people have to do something on their phones (more and more people are becoming addicted to using their cell phones), let them do something creative. I see the title application as a place where people could treat tens of thousands of my photos as pieces of a puzzle.

Players could arrange, for example, collages from my photos. In the post, I showed sets of photos that can serve as inspiration. Of course, this is a preliminary idea, a starting point. Such a game can be made to stimulate the imagination and creativity of the viewer. Another task could be arranging photo sets under a slogan (e.g., minimalism, geometry, birds, or abstraction). There might be no right or wrong answers in such a puzzle. Setting up collages with my pictures gives you practically unlimited possibilities for arranging photos. Another idea is that my quotes could appear on the screen, and then we will have to choose the images that best suit the text. All these things are my vision of the app. What I should do for today is take another ton of photos so I can choose the best ones for the app. Of course, having a "Mazek App" is not my creative goal. The goal is to have fun as an incorrigible dreamer.

"MAZEK" APP



JAK ZOSTAĆ MILIONEREM?



HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE?

I wrote about the fact that earning money is not the goal of my life in the post entitled "How to become a millionaire?". This post was kind of a repetition of one of the posts from December 2017 (post "Is time money?"), but I found that doing repetitions is not a bad thing. After all, such masters of painting as Vincent van Gogh, Salvador Dali, or Zdzislaw Beksinski made many repetitions in their works. Critics and the public appreciated their efforts. Today, my works are still not as stunning as mentioned above, painters' paintings, but their level is high. For example, I accept my photos enough to realize and believe that in my life, I should focus on artistic creation to a large extent. The joy of creating new things makes me feel like a child in a sandbox. When I supplemented my passion for taking pictures, by creating the website www.adammazek.com, writing texts, and preparing the next issues of "Diaries," I realized that I had my own magic kingdom.



HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE?

Many artists created and still create art using tools adequate to the era in which they live. Personally, I focus on what I already have: a camera, laptop, smartphone, and the Internet. I treat these things as tools for playing an artist. Some artists use microphones, musical instruments, or paintbrushes to be creative. My tools are digital cameras and a website. I think you now understand, my Dear Friend: why earning money is not the purpose of my life. I don't need much to express myself adequately. Beauty lies in simplicity. I want to focus on my passion. I hope I will have enough funds to be able to freely pursue my passion. The question of earning money and living in luxury does not keep me awake at night. What is living in luxury in the face of the possibility of being a remembered person for many centuries? Money is not the most essential aspect of life in the face of the fragility and transience of human life.



HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE?

Is it possible to create art and live in luxury at the same time? The answer is obvious: yes, it is. Salvador Dali could indeed have said something about it if he had only lived. Moreover, he will not answer whether the property he has accumulated during his life is now necessary for him. Does it even make sense to ask yourself the title question? I think not. We will do a lot more good for ourselves and for our loved ones if we stop reading this text now and hug the person we love. I am convinced that in your life, it is worth asking questions about, for example, how we can express our feelings to those we love, and not about what to do to buy a property in Beverly Hills.



• *Post „How to become a millionaire?“*

ALCOHOL



ALCOHOL

The next post was about alcohol. In 2011-2017, I was able to drink two to four half-liter cans of beer a week. Compared to my peers, it was not a staggering amount, but it was not small either. In December 2017, when I was doing push-ups, my shoulder was aching. The orthopedist prescribed me medication. While taking them, I couldn't even drink a drop of alcohol. After two weeks of abstinence, I decided not to go back to drinking beer regularly. My beloved Kamilka joined me. Why did we choose to do this? The answer is simple: for well-being. Life just got better without alcoholic beverages. Sleep quality has improved. Without drinking beer, I don't feel as tired as before. The funny thing is, I didn't realize that my fatigue was from drinking two to four beers a week. Nevertheless, it is true. Moreover, I have found that abstinence allows me to control my weight more effectively. The truth is, alcoholic beverages are very high in calories.



ALCOHOL



- *Post „Alcohol“*

Another argument for not drinking was that our skin and eyes began to look healthier, more vivid, clearer. In short: people who don't drink alcohol look prettier. The key argument for me to stop drinking beer was that I started to be more creative thanks to abstinence. My thoughts became more evident and more apparent. I began to express myself a lot better thanks to the fact that the writing process started taking up a lot less time. I have the impression that reading has become more effective for me. Abstinence certainly helps you focus your attention better. Without alcohol, I started creating more stuff related to my blog. I successfully overcome laziness. I manage my time better. Now I know why Fyodor Dostoyevsky did not drink alcohol and was a staunch opponent of drunkenness. I'm sure it helped him write so many great novels. I want to live similarly - I want to quit alcohol and focus on broadly understood creation. The fact is, I had an average of one beer every two months since December 2017. Let this state last until the end of my days.

LIGHTROOM

I dedicated my next post to Adobe Lightroom. This is a photo editing program that I have been using since October 2015. Did I write about how I use this program? No. I will discuss the process of editing photos in the distant future. Why am I not using Adobe Photoshop to process my photos? I am already used to Lightroom. Moreover, I don't need to put too many photographic "fireworks" in my photos. Lightroom is the digital equivalent of a photographic darkroom. Its possibilities are strictly limited to the processes corresponding to analog photography. Photoshop, on the other hand, goes far beyond photography. You can do virtually anything with this program, turning a photo into a graphic. I don't need Photoshop's fancy for today. In Lightroom, I have acquired the right skill and efficiency in photo editing to use this software according to my needs. Why did I choose Lightroom? First, if you learn the basics of this program, your photo editing skills will proliferate.

• [Post „Lightroom“](#)





- *Post „Lightroom“*

LIGHTROOM

After learning the basics, you will undoubtedly start discovering this program on your own according to your needs. Perhaps for novice photographers, the layout of the program is not intuitive. Still, I want to assure you, my Dear Friend, that after you have learned the basics, you will start navigating this program efficiently. I am sure that if someone explains how to use the basics of Lightroom, you will gain some useful knowledge to work with the Adobe application. You will find a lot of tutorials on the Internet that will help you get to know the basics of the program quickly. At the end of the post, I'd like to emphasize that it's not the most critical software you use to edit your photos. Nevertheless, if you are unsure of what program you need, I would recommend Lightroom to you. For me, it's the best photo editing software. If, on the other hand, you want spectacular fireworks that go beyond classic photography, you can undoubtedly go in the direction of Photoshop.

A black and white photograph of a modern apartment building with balconies and a tree in the foreground. The building is on the right side of the frame, featuring several balconies with plants. A tree with sparse leaves is in the foreground on the left. The sky is a uniform light gray.

WHY WILL I SUCCEED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?



WHY WILL I SUCCEED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

I wrote about why I will be successful in photography in the post entitled "Why will I succeed in photography?" The key to the answer is in words such as persistence and consistency. When I want to do something, I start doing it, and I'm not going to stop. This is my recipe for success. My approach to photography is not the leading example of my persistence. In 2011, due to an injury (you can find more information about this incident in the "Diaries" of February 2018), I started to swim regularly. I have been doing this sport regularly for seven years in a row. During this period, I had many seven-days-of-swimming weeks, even for an hour and forty minutes (with toilet breaks). Do you know any other swimmer who could boast a better result? Before you answer, my Dear Friend, I want to tell you that I was working in the office at that time, often over 40 hours a week. But why am I writing about all these things?

WHY WILL I SUCCEED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

I mention this because I am convinced that the key to success in every aspect of our lives is passion, consistency, and focusing on what we want to do and achieve in our lives, no matter what the circumstances. Personally, I want to focus on photography, writing new texts, running this website, and publishing new issues of "Diaries." This is the creative path that I follow. I want to live with passion. When there is big money in my love, will I be able to say that I have succeeded? The answer is simple: no. Money and numbers are not critical indicators for me in measuring success. I don't care how much money I make from my hobby or how many followers I have on Instagram. The most important thing for me is creative persistence and consistency. I want to work hard on my passion because I believe in myself and in what I do. I want to create until the end of my days, or as long as my health will allow me. Being artistically fertile is the key to success. Being consistent is the most important indicator for me to measure success.



- *Post ..Why will I succeed in photography?*



WHY WILL I SUCCEED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

People are another key measure. If someone comes to me and says:

- Adam, you inspired me to be more creative in my life. Your artistic activity has changed my approach to life. Thanks!

This message will inform me that I have achieved success not only in photography but also in my entire life.



- *Post „Inspired by Bosch“*

INSPIRED BY BOSCH

In the post "Inspired by Bosch," I focused on one of the triptychs of the outstanding Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch, called "The Haywain." Over the centuries, Bosch has inspired generations of artists. His paintings encouraged the creation of strange, unusual, and terrifying works of art. In English terminology, the term Boschian has even been coined to describe fantastic, surreal, and scary works from all areas of art. Hieronymus Bosch specialized in painting the inhabitants of hell. In his paintings, the hellish depths are inhabited by people, animals, plants, and hybrids of these creatures. Let's take a closer look at the characters from the painting "The Haywain." We see, for example, a hooded man with branches growing from his back. Another terrifying character is a fish with human legs that swallows a human body. The hybrid of a man and mouse climbing a ladder is another example of bizarre traits that characterize Bosch's work. The Dutch master, in his work, manifested a unique imagination that invariably fascinates people.

INSPIRED BY BOSCH

I suppose his incredible imagination was inspired by his surroundings, the Bible, and his inner voice, similar to dreams and nightmares, among other things. Bosch's work inspires me to look for strange, peculiar, frightening things in Warsaw's surroundings. I try to find them in the shadows, trees, and even in... rubbish lying on the street. When I see this type of frame, I often present it with some Bosch's creativity. I realize that in photography, I will not be able to show such fantastic and bizarre creatures as Bosch portrayed in his paintings. Nevertheless, it is pure fun to look for similarities in the modern world to the works of the Dutch master. Coming back to the picture "The Haywain," what those mentioned above weird creatures do on the triptych? They pull the hay wain, and with it all humanity, straight to hell. Does this mean that I want to persuade you to sin, my Dear Friend? No. I would like to inspire you with Bosch's work. If you are looking for inspiration, I encourage you to look at the other paintings of the famous Dutch master. Believe me, it's worth it. Finally, I would like to add that Bosch's work also inspired, e.g., Salvador Dali and Zdzislaw Beksiński.

• *Post „Inspired by Bosch“*



WHY DO I LOVE WALKING?

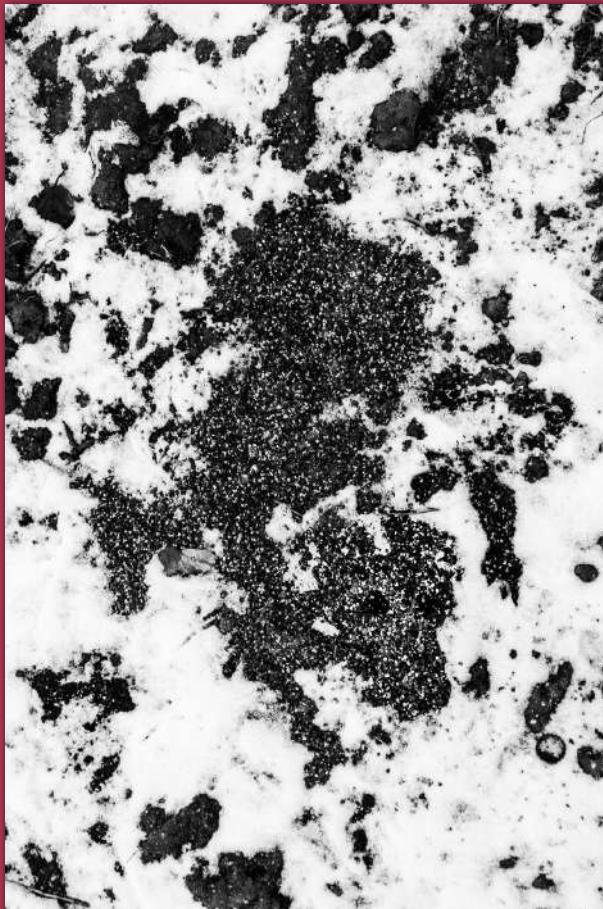


- *Post „Why do I love walking?“*

The penultimate post, from May 2018, was called "Why do I love walking?". In it, I answered the question of why I like to walk. I love this activity, not only because I take photos while walking. It is a fact that I have time to contemplate many topics when hiking. What's more, endorphins are released while walking, i.e., the happiness hormones that make us feel happy. When I wander the streets of Warsaw, I almost always feel an influx of inspiration. As I walk, many new ideas come to my mind. When I smell the fresh air (I ignore the situation when there is smog in the air) and when I feel the ground under the sole of my shoe, I feel that the whole world is mine. I equate walking with freedom. As I walk around, I can feel the blood flowing through my body, from head to toe. I am then happy. When I walk, I feel alive, I feel healthy. It is no coincidence that when people are unable to walk, they panic bordering on insanity.

WHY DO I LOVE WALKING?

A perfect example of this can be one of the scenes from John Schlesinger's film "Midnight Cowboy." The unforgettable creations of two actors: Dustin Hoffmann and John Voight, force us to reflect on many life topics. I mentioned in previous posts that I love to swim. The advantage of walking over swimming is that we can take photos of attractive surroundings while walking. Moreover, by wandering the city's streets, we can visually analyze everything we see around us. I know that everything I wrote about walking is evident to most people. But I'm sure there are still many people in the world who simply don't like walking. I will not force them to like it, but I can only encourage you that if you start doing it more often, it is very likely that your health will improve. However, if you combine walking with photography, you will gain a much broader perspective and more excellent knowledge about the world around us.



• Post „Why do I love walking?“

**INSPIRED BY
DALI**



em!



INSPIRED BY DALI

The last post, published in May 2018, was called "Inspired by Dali." The truth is, I was inspired by Salvador Dali's work, thanks to a book written by Robert Descharnes and Gilles Néret called "Dali. The Paintings", published by Taschen publishing house. One of the excerpts from the book caught my attention. It presents the painter's attitude to the Spanish Civil War. The famous artist admitted that he was not a historian. He even stated that he was both anti-historic and apolitical. Dali noted that the Spanish Civil War did not affect his artistic ideas and way of thinking. The Spanish genius was averse to any kind of revolution. When the war mentioned above broke out, Dali did not react in any way. He wanted people to look at him, and his works only through his person's prism, not the circumstances in which he was given to live. Nevertheless, public opinion demanded that the Spanish surrealist decide whether he was a supporter of Stalin or Hitler. In his biography, the famous Spanish painter wrote that he was, is, and will be, until his death, Salvador Dali and nothing else. He did not believe in communism, the National Socialist revolution, or any other political system. Dali only believed in himself.



- *Post „Inspired by Dali“ (also p. 24)*

INSPIRED BY DALI

Coups and revolutions were attractive to the Spanish painter in only one aspect: they retrieved fragments of a tradition that were considered dead because they had already been forgotten. The famous artist added that for him, all the Spanish Civil War people - atheists, believers, communists, fascists - fought with exceptional courage and pride. Personally, I don't want to write about wars. Nevertheless, like Salvador Dali, I would like to have my own unique style in creating art. Contrary to the Spanish genius, my tools for expressing myself are photography, the website, and "Journals." I wish my works would represent 100% of my thoughts and beliefs. I want to describe and express myself. What's more, I would also like to present, reinterpret, and comment on the world and the people around me, through the prism of my own experiences, knowledge, and feelings seething inside me. The dream is to leave a permanent, artistic trace of my activity to posterity to inspire them to their own creative action. Salvador Dali's works inspire people from all over the world thirty years after his death. I am convinced that they will inspire us three hundred years after the death of the Spanish genius. I believe in myself and my activities, and I hope that my work will inspire others during my life and after my death. I do intend to represent myself and my views only in my life.



THE END

• *Post „Inspired by Dalí“*