

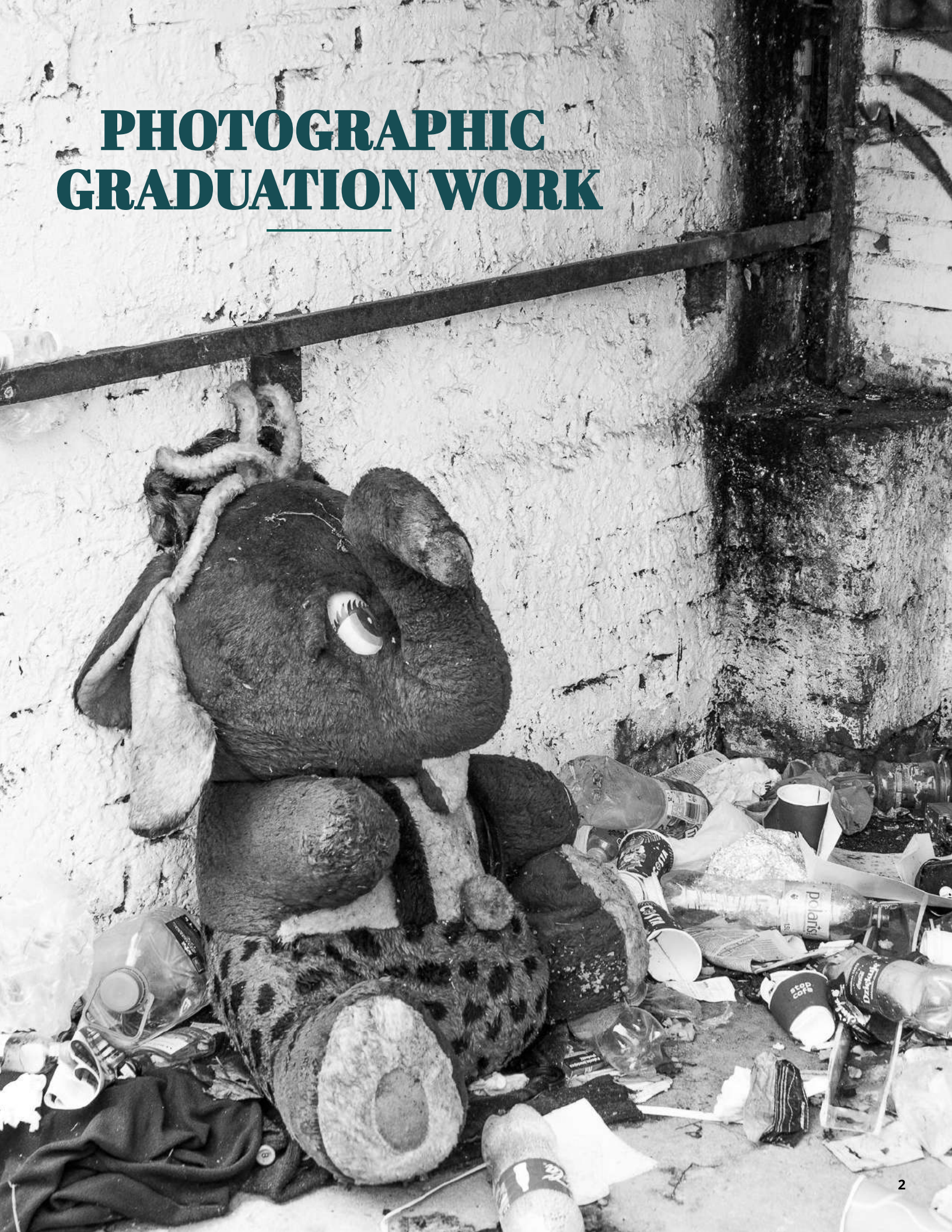
03.2019

p. 11

ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

PHOTOGRAPHIC GRADUATION WORK



PHOTOGRAPHIC GRADUATION WORK

The first post of the second part of March 2019 was called "Photographic graduation work." In it, I wrote about my photographic graduation work titled "Farewell." You can see the entire work, my Dear Friend, in "Diaries 09.2018 p. II". The truth is that when presenting this work during the defense of my thesis in art school, I was a little nervous. It was happening on June 14, 2018. In the auditorium where the thesis defense took place, teachers and schoolmates were present. I was not as nervous as I might have been if people outside the school were present. This is the perfect time to thank all the people mentioned above for our time together. Thank you for learning together! Today, I feel that it was probably more stressful for me to publish the work "Farewell" on the blog and on my personal Facebook profile. It was a time when I knew this work would reach many people I had known for most of my life. I also knew that some of my Facebook friends didn't even know I had a brother. I suppose many artists who have achieved significant status in the art world may have had similar feelings to mine. I suspect that some of them were stressed about presenting their personal work. We are all human beings. It's not easy to go public with your personal, not always positive stories. Art is a magical tool that helps us grow stronger in virtually all aspects of life. If we want to be recognized as sincere people, we shouldn't be afraid to portray and talk about the traumas that our artwork connects to. We should view this activity as another significant step in our artistic development. This step will undoubtedly strengthen you, my Dear Friend. In closing, I want to emphasize that if you have solid personal works of art but for some reason are afraid to publish them, I encourage you not to feel frightened. No one will hurt you for it. Even if someone wants to hurt you or invalidate you over it, try not to feel it as an attack on your person. Try to be like water and not take the attack as aggression (more on this in the "Diaries 12.2017"). Remember that most people will primarily admire you for your courage. Create and publish - that is my message today.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GRADUATION WORK



Many of the world's problems stem from the lust for money (post: "Money, part I"). I recently read in *The Economist* that 1% of the American public owns 40% of the capital. This inequality has been a problem for America and all of humanity since the dawn of time. Is there any way to remedy it? In one of his books titled "Dialogues," Stanislaw Lem proved that it is impossible. It is impossible to eliminate inequalities related to money and sociology in its broadest sense. Inequalities and injustices have been and will be in this world as long as people exist. However, I've been wondering lately what would happen if everyone, or at least most people in this world, stopped focusing on making money and turned their efforts to creating art in the broadest sense. It's hard to imagine such a world. Personally, though, I try not to focus too much on the numbers in my bank account.

• Cover: post „The Photographer“

MONEY, P. I





- *Post „Money, part I”*

MONEY, P. I

I strive to have enough money to live everyday life in 21st century Poland and create new things, such as photographs and texts. Sometimes I ask myself: from the perspective of the entire history of mankind, what is the difference that in the company "ABC" I will earn "n amount of USD" and in the next company, let's call it "XYZ" "n + 1000 USD?" Is this a significant factor for future generations? I don't think so. In the future, such facts will be of marginal importance. Of course, it's important to me that I can get a raise and thus be able to fly on vacation, but it's essentially irrelevant. Is it essential to focus on money in my artistic activity? No. On the other hand, is it essential for humanity that I will create more pictures, texts, or collections of photographs, like the thesis "Farewell?" The answers can be found in the biographies of people who, in their lives, have primarily focused on creating something from nothing.



- *Post „Photographic graduation work“*

MONEY, P. I

I want to join the ranks of prominent people by creating new things, not multiplying wealth. Of course, it is worth remembering that creating art and making money are not mutually exclusive. I would say that nowadays, it is quite the opposite, and investing money in art is considered the most secure and safe investment. As I write all this, I would like to encourage you, my Dear Friend, to think big. Don't let money block your creative powers. Large-scale creation and money can go hand in hand. Therefore, if you feel the urge to create, do it, no matter how much you earn. Remember also that making money is nothing wrong in itself. The point is that it should not overshadow the other critical issues of human existence.



MONEY, P. II

MONEY, P. II

I explained why I don't take custom photos for clients and think about money while taking pictures, writing texts, and running www.adammazek.com in a post titled "Money, p. II." I believe that a brilliant artist remains in the memory of posterity. Therefore, I think that my contemporaries' evaluation of my work may be quite different from that of future generations. And I can honestly say that the judgment of posterity, the review that I will never know, is most important to me. However, I want many people to know that one day there was someone like Adam Mazek, who created a photographic work in memory of his brother Marcin, who died of leukemia (the photographic graduation work "Farewell"). The set of photographs just mentioned is also a tribute to our beloved parents. I believe that we should remember that universal truths are usually banal throughout our lives. I am convinced that we should respect each other. We should talk and listen to each other.

Let us not forget that the most important thing is a man and his right to life in all the madness of this world. This is how I would like to be remembered: as a man who communicates his love for life through his photographs, often symbolically referring to his own experiences. What relation does money have to all these things I have written? Money is a smokescreen that often obscures what is most important in life. Of course, money is significant. There is nothing wrong with multiplying your wealth. But let's not waste our precious lives just to materially enrich ourselves. That's why doing business photography doesn't interest me. If I started collecting orders from clients, I wouldn't be able to do what I love. And what about money? Today we may make money. Tomorrow, we may not. The day after tomorrow, we may become disgustingly rich only to go broke at the end of our lives. Fluctuation is an inevitable part of our existence. Therefore, we should focus on who and what we love. The rest, which includes making money, should be in the background of our lives, not at its forefront.

A black and white photograph of a building facade. The upper part of the image shows a row of five rectangular windows with dark frames and small metal railings below them. Below this, a large section of the building's facade is slanted downwards from left to right. A street lamp with two light fixtures is positioned in the foreground, extending from the right side towards the center. The lower part of the building facade is made of stone or concrete blocks and features several small, square, multi-paned windows. The text "MONEY, P. II" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, teal, serif font, with a thin teal underline under the word "P".

MONEY, P. II



TASCHEN BOOKS

TASCHEN BOOKS

One idea popped into my head last time while reading books from Taschen publishing. I realized that I could design a book about my own art business myself (post: "Taschen books"). I have written many times before that I love to read. Since mid-2017, I have focused exclusively on Taschen books, which I buy almost compulsively. When I read about the artistic legacy of geniuses like Leonardo da Vinci, Caravaggio, Hieronymus Bosch, Hiroshige, Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, M.C. Escher, Salvador Dali, and Stanley Kubrick, I have an endless desire to design my own book about my business. The books mentioned above inspire me tremendously. For today, I see my book as a black and white album. I see it as a book where my photographs will be mixed with my short texts. Or I see it as a replication of some of my best posts on paper. I hope to someday design and publish an album of my own work. Do I have the skills to create such a book? As of today: no, I don't. I have a degree in economics. However, my greatest passions are photography, writing, reading, and playing sports. I have never had time to design a book. For now, I only know that probably the best software to create a book is Adobe InDesign. Today I want to emphasize that I feel with all my being that I have to design and publish my album. Moreover, I see this project as a gift for Taschen Publishing House in my imagination.

My album would almost be a ready-made model, a starting point for a book about Adam Mazek and his creative activities. I hope that my favorite publishing house will publish an album about my artistic activity one day. It will probably happen after my death. Am I crazy? Probably yes. The fact is, I just like to dream out loud. The website is where I do just that aloud. Like Seneca's lyrics, I hope that my thoughts and texts will become immortal. I believe that the book published by Taschen will become a source of inspiration and knowledge about art for generations to come. How can I find time to design a book? I don't know yet. I don't like deadlines. My primary artistic activity is to focus on photography and writing texts for today.



**TASCHEN
BOOKS**

TRUST YOUR BODY, MIND, AND SOUL.

I believe that we should practically always trust our body, mind, and soul. Undoubtedly, our body is still primarily an undiscovered mystery, and we don't realize the power it has. I live in Warsaw. I love photographing the streets of this city. If I lived in any other city in the world, I would still be doing the same things I am doing now. The place where you take pictures is not as important as many people think. In fact, it is the mind, imagination, and artist's eyes that make the photo in the first place. Actually, our body, how we feel, our mood, and our well-being affect our pictures to a considerable extent. I always try to trust and listen to my inner voice when taking photographs and writing subsequent texts. The mood of my body, mind, and soul is a source of knowledge and inspiration for me. I genuinely admire people who trust their bodies and have close contact with them.

• *Post „Trust your body, mind, and souls.”*





- Post „Trust your body, mind, and souls“

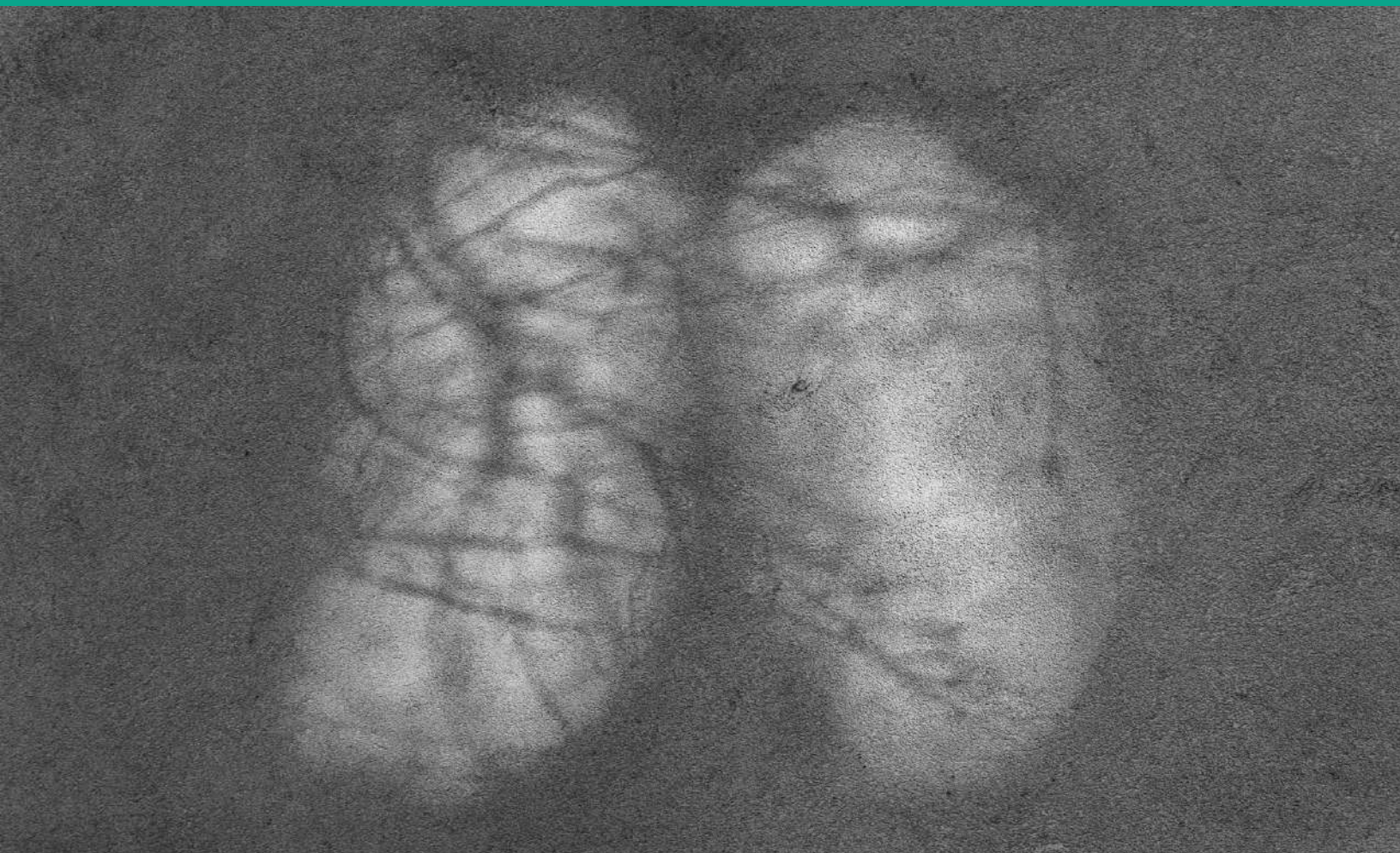
TRUST YOUR BODY, MIND, AND SOUL.

One example here would be yogis. I believe that the human body, mind, and soul, that is, all that flows from us is one of the reliable and infallible bases for thinking, creation, and communication not only with the outside world but also with oneself. Let us use another example, that of a child. Do children trust their bodies? Yes, for example, to understand the processes occurring in the environment, he can count on his fingers. Newborn babies get to know the world thanks to their bodies. They learn and trust them. Their body is everything to them, and everything else is probably a strange abstraction. The truth is, I try to think like a baby when taking pictures. Why? Because children seek joy in everything, they do. Entertainment and fun are a vital part of my artistic passion. I can't imagine wandering the streets of Warsaw with a camera in hand without pure, childlike joy.

TRUST YOUR BODY, MIND, AND SOUL.

Therefore, I also often try to listen to my inner voice and to my instinct, answering myself a simple but fundamental question: does the activity make me happy. Coming back to children, I have no doubt that they spontaneously trust their feelings. From that angle, I want to be like a child. It is also true that I try to "hear" my inner voice also during sports. Why? Because my body tells me which part of my muscles I should stretch today. Whether it's my legs or arms, I always try to listen to myself as to which part of my body should be given a workout today and which part should be given a rest. I sincerely encourage you, my Dear Friend, to also trust your body, mind, and soul. There is no better way to know yourself than to listen to your inner voice.

• *Post „Trust your body, mind, and souls.“*



THE PHOTOGRAPHER

I work as an accountant. However, while taking pictures on the streets of Poland's capital city, if someone outside of work asked me who I am, I would answer that I am a photographer (post: "The Photographer"). Why? Because today everyone uses the Internet, especially the Google search engine. If someone tries to find me in cyberspace, they will first see www.adammazek.com. The basic premise of my website is that it should be my personal, virtual business card related to my passion. I want to be known as a photographer. But on the other hand, I sometimes wonder what it means to be a photographer. I believe that today we are all photographers. The statistics are clear. According to Business Insider, in the second quarter of 2017, two-thirds of the world's population owned mobile devices. Therefore, I believe that we are virtually all photographers in developed countries. Of course, not everyone has truly professional equipment like a full-frame camera. I do not have one either. However, I am sure that we can create great photos using low-budget smartphones. So how can we stand out from other photographers? I don't think there is a universal, ready-made recipe for this. I've taken two routes myself:

- 1) being a prolific artist;
- 2) publishing photos on my own website.

You could say, my Dear Friend, that many other photographers have taken a similar path. I agree. However, I am convinced that I am one of the most prolific photographers globally. I want you to realize that I managed to take twenty-five thousand photos in 2018. Of course, 90% of them were taken on the streets of Warsaw. I continuously publish them here on this website. The best part is that I feel this is just the beginning of my artistic journey. Even if I don't get worldwide recognition in my lifetime, I will still try to leave for posterity as many outstanding photos as possible. Without constant creation, we will never reach heaven.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER



**THANKS TO ONE'S PASSION WE
CAN MEET INTRIGUING PEOPLE**



THANKS TO ONE'S PASSION WE CAN MEET INTRIGUING PEOPLE

I wrote about how thanks to one's passion, we can meet intriguing people in my last post from March 2019. The truth is that fascinating people are virtually everywhere on this planet. I met marvelous and exciting people not only during my childhood and adolescence, i.e., in schools, in college, in places where I work and have worked, but also in the photography school I attended in 2016 - 2018. Everything we did in classes, everything we learned and experienced, will be remembered by me and the other students and teachers. I hope that the bond that emerged between us during that time will stay with us for the rest of our days. However, in this post, I wanted to focus on another event. On September 25, 2018, I took pictures in one of the most dangerous housing estates in Warsaw, namely Wrzeciono (Bielany district).

- *Post „Thanks to one's passion we can meet intriguing people.”*





- Post „Thanks to one's passion we can meet intriguing people“

THANKS TO ONE'S PASSION WE CAN MEET INTRIGUING PEOPLE

On that day, I was talking to two small drinkers. One of them asked me to take his picture. Moreover, he also asked me to send the photo to the address he gave me. I took the picture (p. 19), but I did not send him the picture because he was drunk. Had he been sober, I undoubtedly would have done so. Who knows, maybe if he had had his email address, I would have sent him a message along with the photo. However, he did not have an email address. The truth is, I try to avoid conversations with strangers and drunk people. As for the other drunk, I talked to him for almost twenty minutes. We spoke of work, science, or politics. The conversation was pretty cool, except that I could smell the stench of vodka wafting around all the time. However, this kind of chitchat is not pleasant. But why am I writing about all these things? I want to show you, my Dear Friend, that you will not meet only inspiring, astounding, intriguing people during your long artistic adventure. On your path in life, you can also meet people who have hit rock bottom and are still stuck in it. I published the photo on page 19 as a negative. Why in this form and not another? You can find the answer in the GDPR.

THE END
