

ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

06.2019 - part I



ALCATRAS
5 LAY
ALCATRAS

WC



WC



The first post published in June 2019 was called "WC." I thought about whether I wanted to write about such topics, but I decided not to censor myself. Is it necessary for me to write about handling physiological needs? The answer is not clear. It is because I believe that defecation and micturition are underestimated bodily functions. On the other hand, writing about physiological needs is not a very pleasant taboo subject. I have doubts whether I want to read this kind of content on the Internet. Despite my misgivings, I took a chance and wrote my thoughts on WC. Do I plan to publish photos of excrement? No, because I don't have such pictures and don't intend to. However, why do I actually write about all these things? In short: often, good ideas come to me in the toilet. The idea of writing this text came to me when I was peeing in the woods in Bojany (Brok commune). While urinating, I realized that my senses were sharpening at that moment. Having myopia, I suddenly began to notice a lot of surrounding details. Which ones?

For example, there were ants, ladybugs, and other insects unknown to me by name. What's more, I also began to hear the singing of three or four birds around me very accurately (usually, I only hear a bird melody blending together). Are my senses sharpening due to the immediate relief and relaxation? I think so. While taking care of my physiological needs, I can often focus easily and solve many different kinds of problems because of this. I feel that for fractions of seconds, I simply become smarter. Not a few of the best solutions have come to me while taking care of physiological needs. Sometimes I wonder if there are any medical or scientific studies on this subject. About the brain instantly changing its state for a short period. Or maybe it just seems that way to me? Okay, enough writing for today. I have to go to the toilet.

• Cover: post "Birds"





**CAN EVIL BE
BEAUTIFUL?**

CAN EVIL BE BEAUTIFUL?

About whether evil can be beautiful, I tried to answer in a post titled. "Can evil be beautiful?". In my opinion, immorality can be stunning. I was inspired to write this text by Leo Tolstoy's novel titled. "Kreutzer Sonata," which I read in August 2018. In his work, the Russian writer wrote, among other things, about beauty. Tolstoy wrote that the beauty we have before our eyes can be deceptive and evil. He gave the example of a woman. A woman who is beautiful in appearance is not necessarily good in character. She may have bad intentions in many things. Tolstoy wrote that if a woman who is attractive in appearance talks total nonsense, we listen to her anyway and continue to admire her. We don't see stupidity, falsity, and evil but wisdom. A woman's visual perfection can fool us. Even if she commits evil deeds and says horrifying things, the rest of the world can still see her beauty. Tolstoy indeed proved that beauty can be an evil deceiver. The famous Russian novelist also wrote that even if a pretty woman is silent and doesn't say stupid things, we are still convinced that she is wise and good. We believe that such a beautiful woman cannot be evil.

In the text "Can evil be beautiful?" I wrote about a beautiful woman only because Leo Tolstoy gave such an example. Undoubtedly, we could similarly write about an unearthly handsome man. One example that came to my mind is the title character of Martin Scorsese's film "The Wolf of Wall Street." "The Wolf of Wall Street," played by Leonardo di Caprio.

Nevertheless, for me, it is pretty similar to photography. I like sad, down-to-earth black-and-white photos because I don't want to deceive anyone with photography. There is no hidden evil in them. Disturbing, melancholy photographs tell the truth about life. They do not speak about something beautiful, unreal, or something that does not exist.

On the contrary, they strikingly show that our reality is not beautiful but mundane and even sad. Thanks to the fact that these kinds of images do not deceive, in my opinion, they are not bad; there are no bad intentions behind them. Paradoxically, by showing the gray, sad, gloomy reality, I believe that I am presenting the good. Does all this mean that all the beautiful women, handsome men, and breathtaking, colorful photographs present evil?

CAN EVIL BE BEAUTIFUL?

Of course not. In fact, nothing is only good or only bad. Just as the so-called black and white photography is not black and white but contains a whole spectrum of grays, just like each of us. Therefore, evil can be beautiful, but remember that everything has its dark and light side.

PS

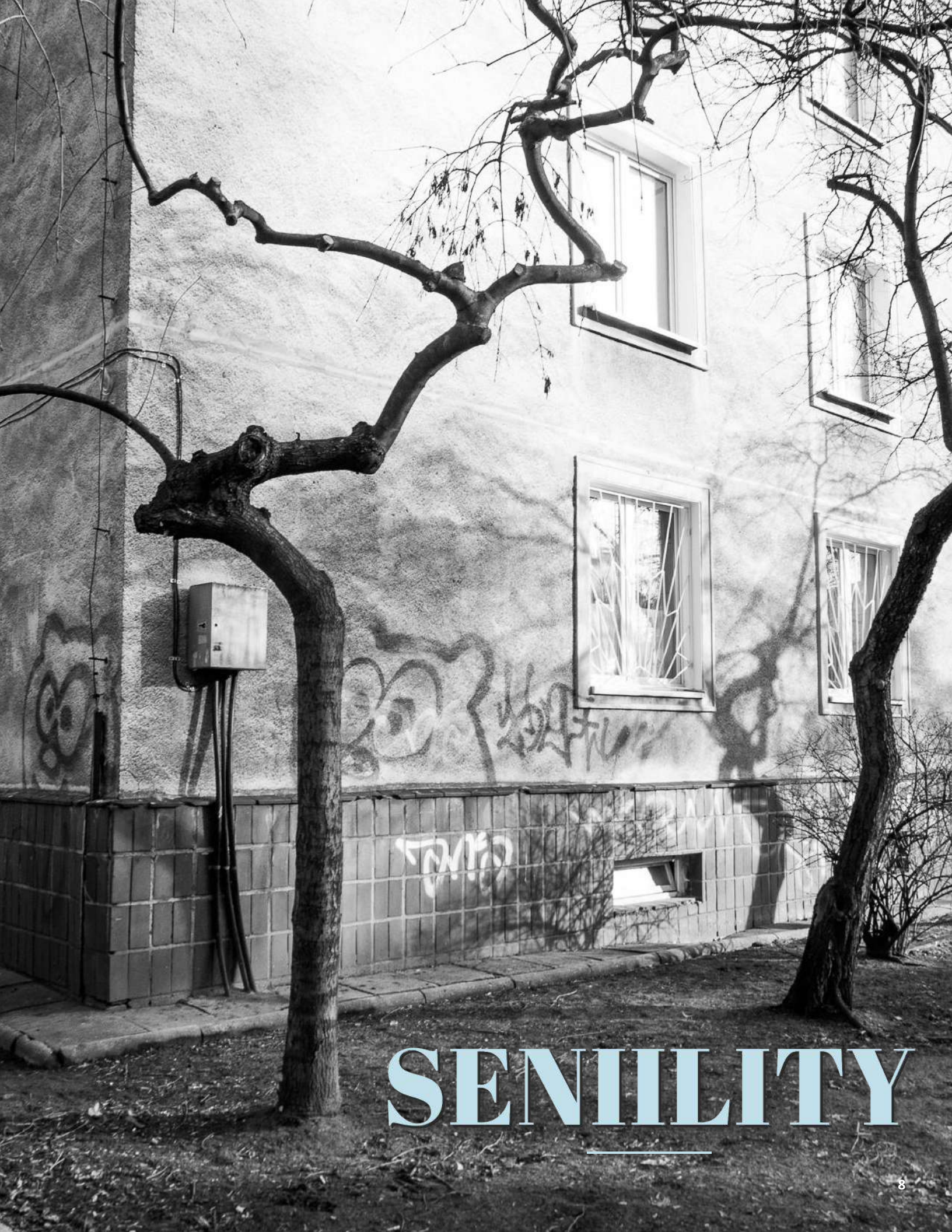
It seems to me that an excellent example of how evil can take on a false, colorful, seemingly good form is candy. Nevertheless, I will expand on my thought in the future.

BIRDS

The post "Birds" was the first in which I presented a set of photos with accompanying text in a PDF file. In the current issue of "Diaries," you will find the entire work at the very end, on page 21.



- Post: "Can evil be beautiful?"



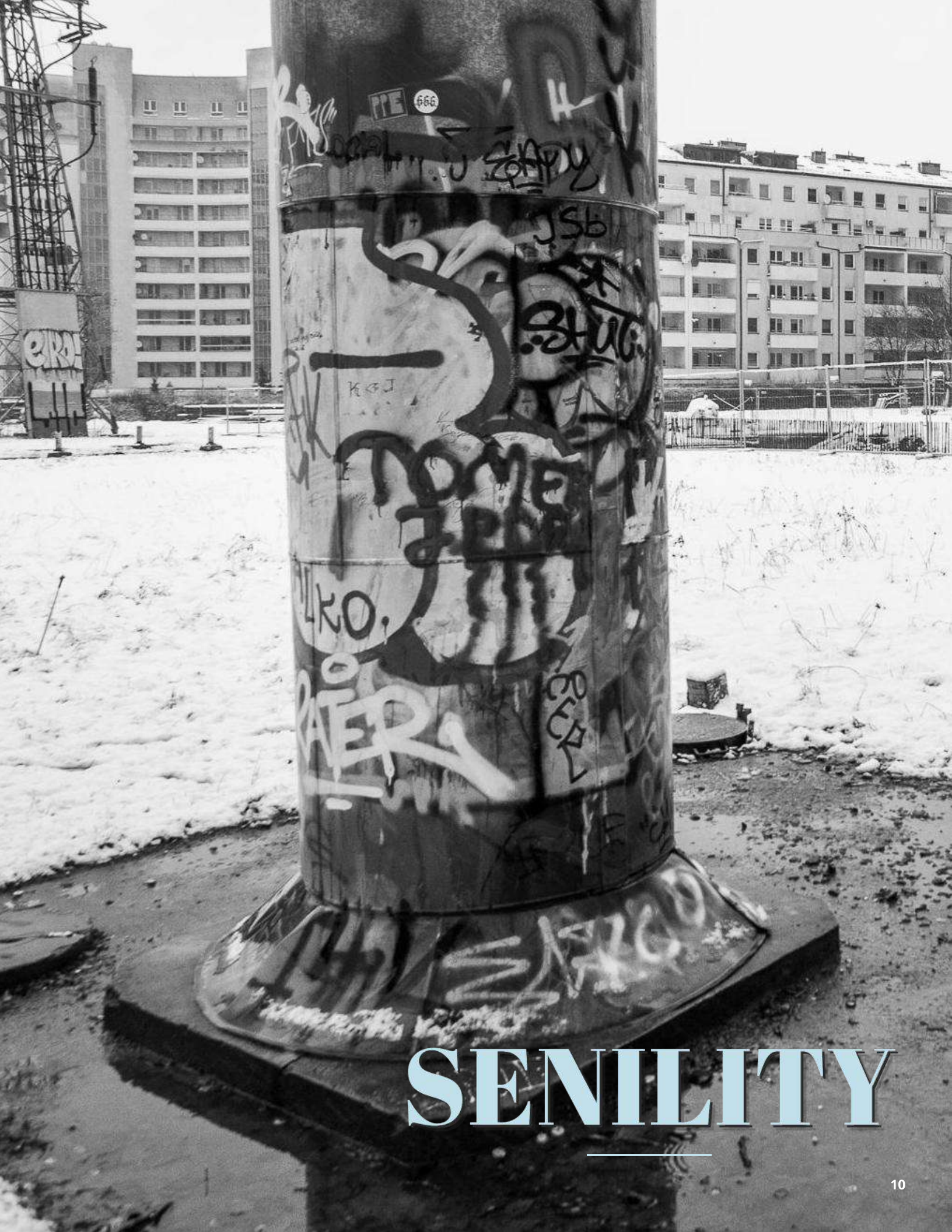
SENILITY

SENILITY

Am I afraid of old age? The answer is not clear. I wrote more on this subject in a post titled "Senility." I am probably scared of it to the same degree as most of us. In general, however, I try to think about it. Am I making a mistake? Perhaps. Only the passing of time will give me the answer. I've already written in a previous post (the "Wine" post published in the second part of the August 2018 "Diaries") that the older I get, the better I feel. The most positive news is that I am becoming a more prolific artist.

I feel stronger and stronger, both physically and mentally. I gave up alcohol at the beginning of 2018, at the age of 33. In 2018, I only drank vodka or beer five times, in symbolic amounts. Many Poles would say that such an amount is nothing. I am physically active. I take frequent and long walks with a camera in hand.

What's more, I stretch my muscles at home on a mat. I feel I am becoming more innovative and fitter as I get older. Of course, I am still afraid of diseases that may occur during my hypothetical old age. I think most people are fearful of both illnesses and old age. Is it worth worrying about the future? I don't think so. I think it's much better to focus on the present, on the here and now. As I mentioned in my previous posts: the good old days are today ("Diaries" 10.2018 part II). That's why I focus on my beloved Kamilka, my wonderful parents, and my passion, i.e., photography, writing, and running this website. I strive to be as prolific an artist as possible. I quietly hope that in my old age, I will still be able to walk, photograph, and write whatever comes to mind. I hope that I will be able to pursue my passion until I die. When it comes to old age, I try to be more optimistic than pessimistic. I hope to retain my creative abilities for the rest of my life.



SENILITY

I love to enjoy the works of other artists. The fact is that I dream of other people savoring my results (post: "Relishing my art."). When analyzing my works, I hope that the viewers will have the ambivalent feelings and experiences that I have when savoring other well-known works. Today I will give examples of how I am inspired by other works of art. The first example that came to mind and which inspired me to write this post is listening to two albums by the band Pink Floyd. Which albums specifically am I writing about? I'm referring to "The Dark Side of the Moon" and "The Wall." The music of the English rock band has incredible magic and power. Practically always, listening to the mentioned albums, I have ambiguous feelings. My mood changes. Sometimes I calm down, falling into a gentle melancholy, and sometimes I get anxious. Enjoying Pink Floyd albums is one of the most magical and mysterious things people can experience.



RELISHING MY ART



- Post „Relishing my art“

RELISHING MY ART

Another example of when I feel ambivalent feelings through art is when I read, analyze and contemplate various magical books. These are not typical literary works. We often hear that paintings by Leonardo da Vinci or Hieronymus Bosch are the best of the best. This is quite a common opinion. Nevertheless, to enjoy their works in the comfort of your home, you probably need to analyze the following items with the Taschen publishing house:

- a) "Leonardo da Vinci. The Complete Paintings and Drawings" by Frank Zöllner and Johannes Nathan;**
- b) "Hieronymus Bosch. Complete Works" by Stefan Fischer.**

When I open the two books above, which are undoubtedly works of art in their own right, my imagination begins to fixate.

A photograph of a building facade with a sign that says "WAY" and a title "RELISHING MY ART" overlaid on it. The building has a light-colored upper section and a dark lower section. A horizontal pipe runs across the middle, and a vertical pipe runs down from the sign. There are two small windows in the dark section. The ground in front is grassy.

RELISHING MY ART

A new world appears to my eyes, thanks to which I begin an inspiring, endless story anew. Analyzing the works of the masters as mentioned above is a visual feast. The third thing I want to write about in the context of relishing someone else's work is reading Fyodor Dostoevsky's novels. Do I have to prove to you, my Dear Friend, that reading books by the Russian writer is constant nourishment for the soul and mind? As a matter of interest, I will write that Dostoevsky's name appears most often in my texts. The Russian genius has provided me with incredible knowledge, many feelings, sensations, and thoughts. Every time I recall my feeling while reading his works, I relive the euphoria in my spirit. Of course, I could give many additional examples of genuinely inspiring works of art. Still, today I focused on those mentioned above, world-renowned creative geniuses. I dream that people who look at my photos or read my thoughts written down on virtual paper will also have various experiences and opinions.

A quote from a song titled "Baba O'Riley" by The Who inspired me to write a lyric titled "Fight." Which specific part of the song inspired me? The following:

I don't need to fight to prove I'm right.

I don't like physical combat. But the fact is that in 2005 I trained the martial art of Muay-Thai (aka Thai boxing) in one of the clubs in Warsaw. For a long time (i.e., until I swam continuously for one hour and forty minutes), Muay-Thai training was the most physically exhausting experience of my life.



FIGHT



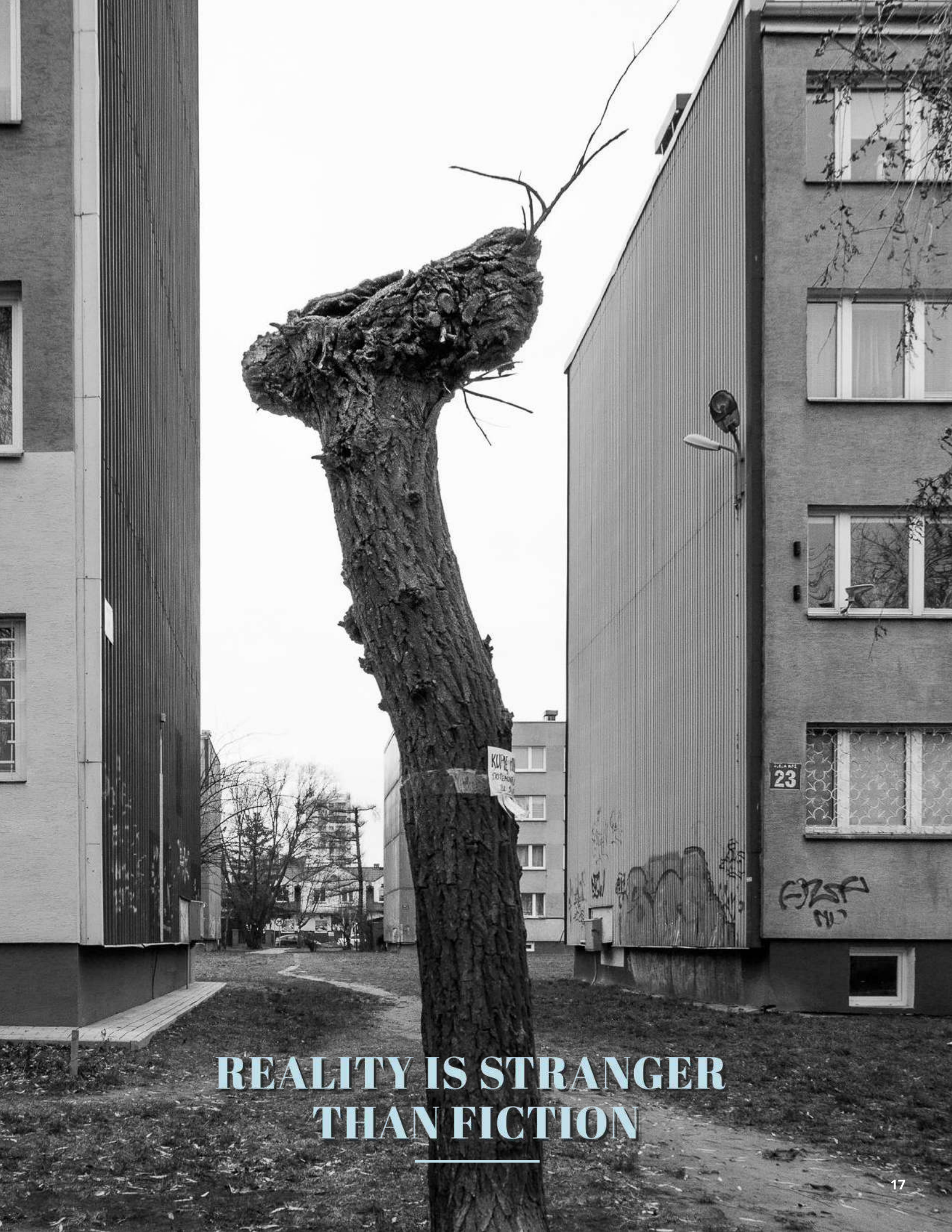
FIGHT

After four months of regular training, I gave up attending classes. The reason for quitting was lack of time. I was a student then, so I preferred to study for exams. I realized then that this kind of exercise could harm the brain's work, the thought process, that is, the mind in the broadest sense. This was when I proved to myself that the world can be conquered not necessarily by strength, physical vigor, and struggle. I don't have to prove anything to anyone in this way. I realized that physical combat does not have to be my way of leading my life, my way of life. That doesn't change the fact that I enjoyed the sport very much, and I admire the people who sacrificed their lives and health to fight in the ring. Of course, I realize that the song "Baba O'Riley" tells us about warfighting. What is my attitude to war?

In short: I am their opponent. However, looking at how the world is constructed, I have no doubt that it is necessary to be prepared for war to keep the peace. Do I have another tool serving me to fight for a better tomorrow? Of course, I do. My symbolic weapon for fighting is creation. I want to change the world through photography as well as writing. My dream is to inspire other people that they, too, can participate in the overall process of creation, building something from nothing. It is a struggle, a fight for the self with the self. I believe that creating art is one of the most peaceful kinds of struggle. There is no better way to express yourself and change the world than creating art, that is, de facto, by fighting your own weaknesses. I believe that the members of the British band The Who would say the same thing.



FIGHT



**REALITY IS STRANGER
THAN FICTION**

REALITY IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

It seems that reality is stranger than fiction (post: "Reality is stranger than fiction"). We all associate many bizarre and unusual works of art, i.e., paintings, movies, lyrics, songs, or photos. The truth is that artists drew inspiration for many of them from reality. What examples of strange works of art could I give you today, my Dear Friend? For example, the following:

a) Sets of photographs by such photographers as Joel-Peter Witkin ("Un Santo Oscuro"), Robert Mapplethorpe ("The Perfect Moment"), or Bruce Gilden ("Face").

b) In painting, we can find many strange images, for example, in virtually all paintings by Zdzislaw Beksinski or Salvador Dali's erotic drawings and paintings (such as "The Lugubrious Game"). Examples of horrifying images are some of Caravaggio's paintings of murderers. One, for example, may be "Judith Beheading Holofernes."

c) In the history of cinematography, many scary and strange horror films and thrillers exist. Examples first from the shore may be the following: "Silence of the Lambs" by Jonathan Demme, "The Shining" by Stanley Kubrick, "Jaws" by Steven Spielberg, "Twin Peaks Town" by David Lynch or "Repulsion" by Roman Polanski.

Although most of the works mentioned above (and many others) were created in people's imagination, they have many characteristics familiar to reality. In today's post, I want to emphasize that many works the world knows were inspired by mundane reality and everything around us. My artistic activity is no exception. On the contrary, I depict ordinary places in my photos. Nevertheless, I show the mundane reality through my personal filter. The truth is that I don't have to look far for inspiration. I have no doubt that what is real, tangible, and here and now is stranger than fiction. The gray, even grim reality provides many unusual stimuli for creation. Hence there are many bizarre and peculiar works of art.



- Post: "Reality is stranger than fiction"

REALITY IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

Many movie scripts have been inspired by facts. Many real-life events prompted writers to create unique and often bizarre novels in their imagination. Some real-life events were so unusual and macabre (e.g., the Nazi death camps or the September 11, 2001 attacks) that they beat many other people's inventions in their weirdness. Okay, I'm done writing. I'm off to see what's happening on the streets of Warsaw. The eye-beating reality is much stranger than all that I am just describing.



**REALITY IS STRANGER
THAN FICTION**

Adam

Mazek

presents



BIRDS

www.adammazek.com



BIRDS

Waking up while singing birds is one of the most relaxing, moving, and divine things that a person can experience.



It is no accident that the small sculpture of a bird found in a cave in Germany turned out to be one of the oldest works of art ever seen. This sculpture is only five centimeters long. Thanks to it, we realize that 30,000 years ago, its creator was able to move from one world to another, i.e., from the external world of the senses to the inner world of the imagination.



BIRDS

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BIRDS

Birds are a symbol of the unearthly laws of nature.



In many cultures, through the entire history of humanity, birds symbolically connected the sky with Earth. They were seen as a symbol of the soul or a celestial messenger who contacts Gods. Birds live on all continents. It means that we can meet them even in the most remote corners of our planet. What interestingly, the birds belong to the most intelligent animals. Crow, for example, can use its claws and beak as primitive tools.



When prisoners return to society after serving their sentences, they feel as free as a bird. In our imagination, we often leave our ordinary, mundane world, and we become a free spirit like a bird. Mentioned at the beginning birds' singing in the morning is calling us to live.

BIRDS

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BIRDS

Birds accompany me practically at every stage of my photographic adventure.



Not all people, however, respect, love, or admire them. For example, pigeons, which are a characteristic feature of the urban landscape, are often considered to be dangerous and oppressive creatures.



BIRDS

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BIRDS

People try to poison them or even shoot them because they view them as "flying rats."



For me, a resident of Warsaw, birds (like trees) are a peculiar representation of nature in the urban landscape of the jungle. Thanks to them, we can remind ourselves that there are many amazing creatures outside the city walls that are waiting to be discovered.



Adam Mazek

THE END

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