



ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

01.2020 - p. 11

CYBER-ARCHEOLOGISTS



We begin the second part of the "Diaries 01.2020 part II" with a text entitled "Cyber-archeologists." I am convinced that it is only a matter of time before such a profession as a cyber-archeologist will appear in our world. I imagine a cyber-archeologist as a cyber-maniac, combing through the remains and ruins of the early Internet era. The title profession of the future will be performed by highly specialized researchers and conservators of virtual art (e.g., photos published on the web), who will conduct advanced and technical research and virtual excavations on artworks published in the ancient days of the Internet. Whose works will be analyzed? Certainly mine, as well. I can imagine the cyber-archaeologists as art lovers. These people are also fascinated by my photos and the texts I publish on my blog.



CYBER-ARCHEOLOGISTS

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They will scour the depths of the ancient virtual space for the first original files of my published photographs. They will analyze and re-arrange all my entries, publications, etc., chronologically. They will be investigators of sorts. Restoring my website to its original form will be challenging for future cyber-archaeologists. I hope it will also be passionate and fun for them. I can't imagine it could be any other way. Everything I am writing about today will probably happen at least a few hundred years after my death. I am sure that there will be some crazy researchers, art enthusiasts, computer scientists, and scientists who will take up the challenge of rediscovering my photographs and publications. What will be their goal to bring back to their contemporaries? These will include photos of me, texts, posts, or PDFs (with "Diaries" and photo sets, such as "Ostensible Abstraction," at the forefront). Why will cyber-archaeologists work to restore my blog, among other things? I believe they will do it to rediscover for humanity, a photographic enthusiast who dedicated his life to photography. I can imagine that my website will completely disappear hundreds of years after my death. I am sure my name will be familiar to many people interested in the broader art. So, the demand for restoring the original photos, texts, etc., will be high.

Did I write earlier that I like to dream out loud? Undoubtedly, yes. This post is an example of that. Stanislaw Lem gave incredible inspiration to dream aloud about what might happen in the distant future. The post about the cyber-archaeologist profession will be another brick in the wall regarding my artistic activity. What about you, my Dear Friend? Are you also dreaming out loud in a similar tone straight out of science-fiction movies?

• *Cover: post "Break"*



THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST

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I was inspired to write the post "Thoughts from the past" by my own text. What is the theme of the post from the past? In it, I wrote that I don't want to focus on politics on my blog. Nevertheless, I will do so if I want to emphasize something important to me and the situation forces a reference to politics. What was the title of an inspiring post from the past? The title of the post was "Perspectives for my nation" ("Diaries" 10.2019 part I). And here is a quote that gave me new thoughts:

The status and economic position of modern Poland is increasingly dominant on a regional scale, i.e., in Central and Eastern Europe. This fact is influenced by many issues. I may develop this theme in the future.

Today is the future. What issues did I have in mind that make today's Poland a regional power?

Let me start with the most controversial thing: the current and previously ruling political parties have the same, minor impact on this fact. Without "aid from the West" in the broadest sense (in the form of Foreign Direct Investment [FDI], among other things), no matter what these parties do, Poland would not be as strong economically. In short, without outside help, we would not be where we already are. The industriousness of Poles is another piece of the puzzle. Poles are known in Western Europe for their hard-working approach to their assigned duties. It is not Polish politicians who are my homeland's main strength but all working people's daily efforts. I want to emphasize that the success of our nation does not belong to any political party. It is the diligence of the majority of the population that has put Poland, once again in history, among the most powerful countries in Central and Eastern Europe. That's it for today. I hope you have enjoyed my thoughts from the past.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST



STRANGENESS

The subsequent text was about the strangeness of my photos. Recently, I thought many of my photos were stranger and more peculiar than many paintings. I have written in previous posts about reality being stranger than fiction. In this case, I still agree with myself. It is the reality that has inspired many people to create new things. Even Leonardo da Vinci sourced inspiration from his surroundings. For example, the famous Italian master stated that artists should pay attention to any stains and cracks on the walls. Another prime example of how the strangeness of reality can inspire others is the work of Piranesi. The great Italian architect drew unbelievable ruins, cells, prisons, and fortifications inspired by the Roman environment in which he once lived. When I look at my photographs, I feel the strangeness of the places where they were taken.

• Below: post „Strangeness“



STRANGENESS



In today's text, I want to remind you, my Dear Friend, that I edit my photos in Lightroom, not Photoshop. What does this tell you about? It tells me that the modification of my photographs is at the level of photography (not graphics). When we look at my photos, we see the sheer strangeness of reality, not fiction. Many paintings show beautiful landscapes. Fewer painters show the ugly, strange, peculiar sides of their surroundings. Strangeness is an essential factor when I think about taking pictures. In general, I would say that my photos depicting reality have much more quirkiness and weirdness than many paintings and other works of art. Am I proud of myself for finding, identifying, and capturing the many oddities surrounding me here in Warsaw? Yes, for sure! Not everyone does such strange things. Weirdness is also an essential factor when deciding whether to take a photo. If I notice something that catches my eye, I photograph the object.



BREAK

I wrote about my recent thoughts on sharing my photos in a post titled. "Break." The fact is that from October 2016 to September 2017, I didn't publish any of my photos. I had a break. Was it a conscious choice? Yes. Before 2016, I uploaded only a few pictures to my private Facebook account. However, in October 2016, I noticed that publishing photos on Facebook was insufficient for me. I wanted something more. I haven't known how to publish my photos for almost a year. I wanted to present my photos differently than most, showing pictures on Facebook and Instagram. I decided to make my own website and focus only on this platform for publishing images. Thus, the title break came to an end.

BREAK

I launched the website www.adammazek.com in September 2017. Nevertheless, it took me almost a year to determine how I wanted to present my photographs online. In today's post, I want to emphasize that if you are going to publish your photos but don't know how to do it (social media doesn't quite convince you), I recommend taking a break regarding photo publishing. My break, which lasted almost a year, gave me plenty of opportunity to think and analyze what photos I wanted to show and how I wanted to present them online. This was the time when I decided to publish not only my photographs but also my texts, which I started writing in May 2017. For today, my photos are often an illustrative addition to my thoughts. I believe that the break I took by stopping posting photos online on my private Facebook account was perfect for my artistic activity. Bear in mind, my Dear Friend, that the fact that I didn't publish photos doesn't mean that I didn't create them. On the contrary, I walked the streets of Warsaw whenever possible. All the time, I was and still am hungry for more frames and shots taken in the Polish capital. The photos presented in this post are those I took during my longest-ever hiatus from publishing photographs online.



• Above post „Strangeness”



**NAMING OF
PHOTOGRAPHS**

NAMING OF PHOTOGRAPHS

In my next post, I touched on the subject of naming photographs. A set of pictures called "Ostensible Abstraction" was my first work in which all the photographs presented had names. What principle did I choose in naming my pictures? What key did I use? When thinking about how I wanted to name my images, I decided that the names of the photographs could not be identical to what is in the frame. The truth is that this was my first profound experience with naming pictures. When I started thinking about how I wanted to name my work, I was stuck because I didn't know how to do it. Suddenly, an idea popped into my mind. I came up with the idea of coming up with names opposite to what I see in the photo. I will give some examples. Let's start with the cover of the English version of "Ostensible Abstraction." In the photo, we see a wall with a shadow falling on it and containing a black circular element that may resemble an eye. I called this photograph "KKK" (photo #1). Why? Because the part of the shadow along with the "eye" may resemble the profile of a Ku Klux Klan member.

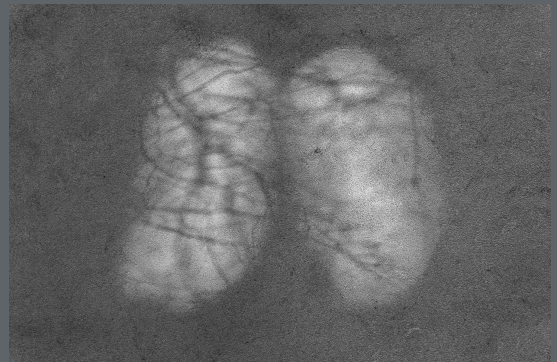
Nevertheless, I want to remind you that we do not see any human being in the photo. Another image, called "Pierced Heart" (photo #2), looks like a heart pierced by thorns. However, it is a simple plastic bag suspended from the branches of a tree. An interesting fact about this photograph is that this photo was one of the images from my first photo exhibition. Another image from my first photography exhibition is "Lungs" (photo #3). The lungs of the title are nothing more than the shadow of a tree cast on a concrete wall. Did I have fun naming all my photos from "Ostensible Abstraction"? Of course, I did. I have a lot of fun playing with all my photos. It's still child's play for me, which makes me have fun, like putting together a puzzle or Lego blocks.



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PIŁSUDSKI

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I was prompted to write a post titled "Pilsudski" by reflections from a photo walk I took in Ujazdowskie Avenue, among other places. Well, this street has a monument to the First Marshal of Poland, Jozef Pilsudski. Walking around, I remembered Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the former prime minister of Poland, who unofficially rules today's Poland. Kaczynski is undoubtedly the one who wants to become the statesman of my homeland. Pilsudski is the one who inspired him. Pilsudski saved Poland from a specific Bolshevik threat in 1920 during the so-called "Miracle on the Vistula." Today, Kaczynski also wants to protect my country from an external threat (primarily from Putin's Russia). I, Adam Mazek, want to be neither a second Pilsudski nor Kaczynski. I dream of matching another great Pole, Frederic Chopin.

I want to glorify the names Poland and Warsaw worldwide. Does that mean I want to be famous? In short, being well-known is not my goal. The goal is to popularize my homeland and capital as much as possible. I want to glorify the name of Poland by creating art. I think we were lucky to have someone like the First Marshal of Poland as a leader. He literally saved Poland and other Western countries from the invasion of communism in the early 1920s. Will Kaczynski repeat Pilsudski's achievement? This I do not know. The future will bring the answer. I hope he will not have to use the military to protect Poland. Do I dream of being an icon of Warsaw like Chopin? No. There was only one such genius as Chopin.

Nevertheless, I will try to popularize Warsaw and Poland as Chopin did. I hope there will be tours in Warsaw by, for example, tourists from Japan who want to walk the same streets that Adam Mazek walked. Am I crazy? It is possible. However, I am very ambitious when it comes to my artistic passion. Will I fulfill my dreams? Future generations will know the answer. Today, we know how much good Pilsudski and Chopin did for Poland.

• Photos on p. 14-16: post „Pilsudski”

THE END

