



ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

May  
2018  
part 1



- Post „Numbers“
- Cover: post „Dream“

## NUMBERS

The first post, published in May 2018, was called "Numbers." Numbers are everywhere. With their help, we can describe the whole world, from atoms to galaxies. I admire all people (businessmen, scientists, economists, analysts, accountants, officials, teachers, etc.) for whom numbers are essential. I appreciate those who have to face the mystery of numbers during their daily activities.

Nevertheless, the question I asked in my text was: Do we always have to measure everything with numbers? I know that this is the most convenient and effective way of making all calculations, estimates, measurements, forecasts, etc. Numbers provide us with the most critical information. They are the foundation of human civilization. But do we have to be their slaves? Let's kick the numbers out of the world of art, at least. I don't want to measure my greatest passion by numbers. I do not pay much attention to the number of views of my site or the figures of likes on social networks.

# NUMBERS

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What's more, the money will never be a measure of my progress. How do I measure my passion, then? First of all, I trust my intuition and my judgment. I always ask myself if I am happy with what I have done. What's more, I ask myself if I am honest in my work. Do I believe in what I do and write? Does all my creative activity make sense? I think that satisfaction with what we do, who we are, and where we are going should be one of everyone's essential aspects. Other people's opinions are important, but certainly not the most important. Let your inner, creative voice, my Dear Friend, lead you. I also wish you the highest numbers on your bank account and wherever you want to. Nevertheless, I urge you to think about whether continuing to multiply the numbers you dream about should be your life's goal.

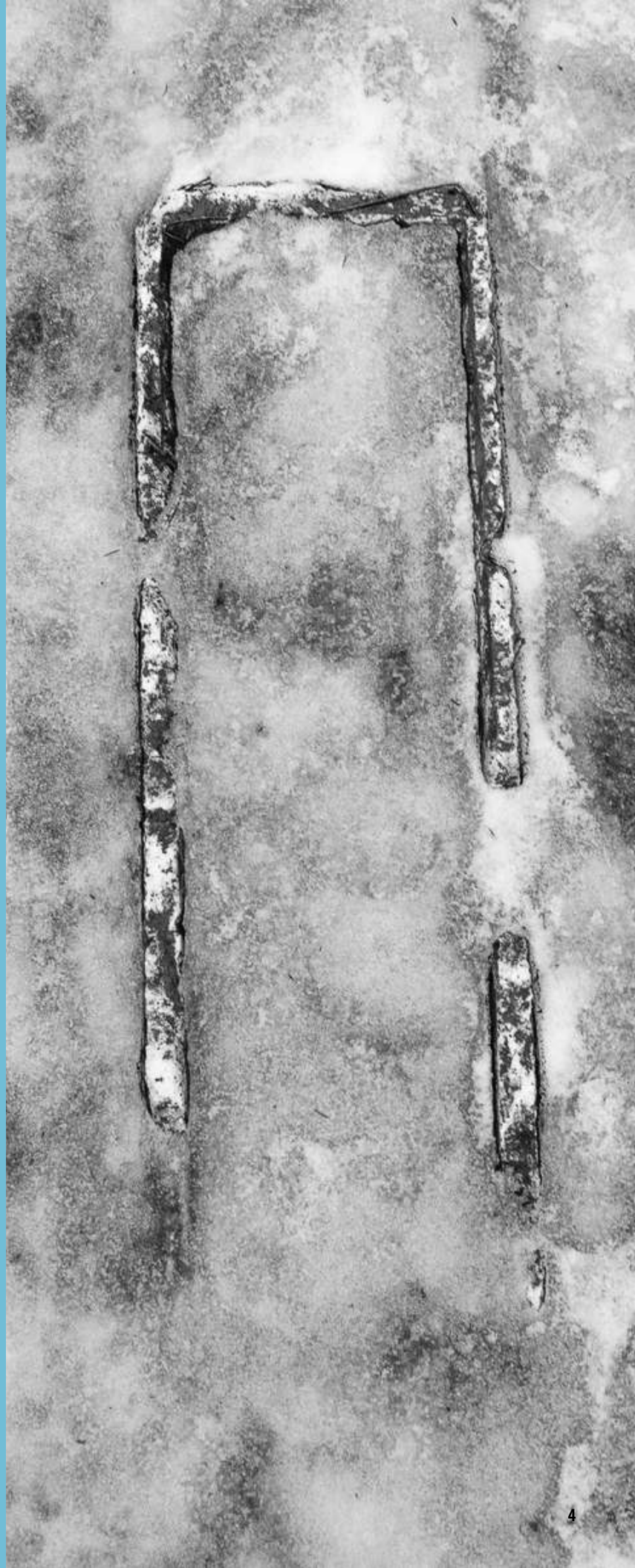
• *Post „Numbers“*



## LET'S DO THE WASHING UP

About the fact that I never liked washing dishes, I wrote in a post entitled "Let's do the washing up". For this reason, I have a dishwasher. Nevertheless, I wash some dishes by hand. Is what I wrote banally? Yes. Funny, however, is that often while doing this, I get ideas for more posts. I know it will sound strange, but I am sure that the level of our mood and creative abilities may depend (among others) on the activity of our hands. I believe that in two professional groups, i.e., among drummers and football goalkeepers, we can see the correlation between the work of hands and state of mind. In general, people from these two groups are often considered eccentric, crazy, specific, having their own opinion, incapable of taming individuals. Both groups have many examples of people who were just as inspirational as they are insane.

- *Post „Let's do the washing up“*



## LET'S DO THE WASHING UP

Examples include Roger Taylor (The Queen), John Bonham (Led Zeppelin), Keith Moon (The Who), Travis Barker (Blink 182) on the drummers' side. On the goalkeepers' side can be mentioned: Peter Schmeichel (Manchester United / Denmark), Fabien Barthez (Manchester United / France), José Luis Chilavert (Paraguay), Artur Boruc (Legia Warsaw / Poland). What makes all these people eccentric? Everyone, to a large extent, used their hands in their work. They did it often in an acrobatic way. They earned (and some of them still do) a lot of money on their artistic or sports performances. Handwork plays a crucial role in their passion. Viewers like to admire their exploits. Crowds appreciate this kind of creative, musical and sporting work. People want to watch spectacular goalkeeper parades. They also want to hear and "feel" the drums of their idols. I think we should be a bit like goalkeepers and drummers.

Not only when washing dishes, but for example, while playing sports. I love swimming. During this activity, I often found the best solutions to my problems. The most intriguing thing about all of this is that it is no accident that when we celebrate something, we jubilate (e.g., the reaction of fans after scoring a goal by their beloved team), we spontaneously raise our hands in a gesture of triumph, and a smile appears on our faces. Raised arms symbolize victory. In turn, people who are not self-confident often keep their hands down, right next to their body, showing a closed attitude to the surroundings. Ok, enough for writing today. I am going back to washing the dishes.



• Post „Let's do the washing up“

## HOW TO MAKE BETTER PICTURES? TIP NO. 6 - OBSERVATION

The next post was the sixth text about how to take better pictures (post: "How to make better pictures? Tip no. 6 - Observation"). I focused on observing the surroundings. Without analyzing the reality that surrounds us, we will not start taking better photos. We can develop our imagination, our observational sense, virtually all the time. We can do this by going to school or work, for example. This text was somewhat a repetition of one of my previous posts.

Nevertheless, because I never know who and when will start reading my blog, I allow myself to do repetition. The Old Masters also made repetitions on their paintings. Among others, Vincent van Gogh (repetitive motif of olive trees), Salvador Dali (often appearing motif of bread, grilled bacon or ants), or Zdzisław Beksiński (the theme of the female corps heading towards the viewer). Personally, I often consciously do repetitions not only in my texts but also in photographs.

- *Post „How to make better pictures? Tip. No. 6 "Observation"*





- *Post "How to make better pictures? Tip no. 6 - Observation"*

## HOW TO MAKE BETTER PICTURES? TIP NO. 6 - OBSERVATION

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Returning to the keyword from this post: how can we train our "muscle" responsible for the imagination? For example, we can observe the environment and imagine how we could show it in the frame of our camera. Maybe we should move to the right? Or perhaps we should get closer to the photographed object? Will removing some elements from the frame benefit the photo? This is often the case. Wouldn't it be better if we tried to imagine what we see in black and white colors? The choice is yours, my Dear Friend. The more you analyze, ask more questions, the better photos you will start taking. Besides, to make a better picture, undoubtedly, it is necessary to analyze and contemplate the works of famous masters. I recommend all of the painting masters, as mentioned above, plus such geniuses as Leonardo da Vinci, Hieronymus Bosch, or Wassily Kandinsky.

## HOW TO MAKE BETTER PICTURES? TIP NO. 6 - OBSERVATION

When it comes to photography, I would recommend looking at works of Eugene Atget, Henri Cartier-Bresson, or Sebastiao Salgado. I am convinced that the more often you observe well-known works of art, the more you will capture all sorts of nuances. This way, you will be able to add more and more artistic aspects to your photos. The more knowledge and inspiration you get, the better photos you'll start taking. And one more thing. I suggest observing the works at exhibitions or in books, but not on the internet. It is worth investing in books to have access to works of art at your fingertips. This is my favorite option. By the way, Taschen is my ideal publishing house. I love reading their editions. By contemplating works of art in wonderfully published books, we will gain much more inspiration, knowledge, and power than watching the same images on a smartphone screen.

- *Post „How to make better pictures? Tip. No. 6 "Observation"*







# PUZZLES

## PUZZLES

The fourth post was called "Puzzles." May 2018 was when I added at least four photos to each post, often from different categories. What do I mean by "from different categories"? All four images that appear in each post usually contain a different theme and come from different periods. Visually, they also often differ from each other. Sometimes, there is no connection between the photographs and the written text. Some people would say that this proves that I am hesitant and don't know how to organize and present my photos. You, people, are wrong. Why? The answer can be found in the word "puzzles." I take photos, edit them in Lightroom, I write texts. I add all this to the website. All these activities bring me great joy. What's more, these activities encourage and inspire me to be an increasingly productive artist. Walks through the streets of Warsaw help me relax. Thanks to them, I contemplate my life.



• *Post „Puzzles“ (also p. 9)*

## PUZZLES

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• *Post „Puzzles“*

Taking photos in urban space develops my imagination. Working on my photos is helpful for me in practice, among others, concentration. Looking through my pictures and editing them, I feel like I'm playing with a vast puzzlement called puzzles. Writing provides me with the development of my creativity and artistry. Reading art books gives me a lot of new information and incentives to act. In short, my passion, loosely connected with photography, brings me pure, childish joy. When I do all these things, I feel like a little child playing with puzzles. A state of euphoria pours into my mind, heart, and soul like water when I do them. This is a state of mind called freedom. Art is like a drug. The famous Polish painter Zdzisław Beksiński said that art for people is like vodka served to the convict. It stuns and envelops us, helping us survive in this world. Beksiński's comment is a tragic vision of humanity. However, it is impossible to disagree with Beksiński. He also painted pictures because he enjoyed it. I wonder if he somehow compared his activity to playing a child with a puzzle.

# SHOCK



## SHOCK



• *Post „Shock“ (also p. 12)*

In the next text, I wrote that my goal is not to cause shock among recipients (post "Shock"). My goal is to provide the recipient with feelings, but not necessarily those associated with broadly understood pleasure. I would like these feelings to be melancholic and force me to reflect on life. Salvador Dali was one of the masters who were able to cause shock among the audience. He was a very ingenious and scandalous artist. Sometimes the cause of the scandal was his eccentric behavior (e.g., breaking a window during his exhibition at the Bonwit-Teller department store in New York) or a work of art (painting "The Lugubrious Game"). Other examples of arousing fear, anxiety, and shock may be paintings by the Polish painter Zdzisław Beksiński. When it comes to photography, the shock was caused by the works of photographers such as Joel-Peter Witkin ("Un Santo Oscuro") or Robert Mapplethorpe ("The Perfect Moment").

# SHOCK

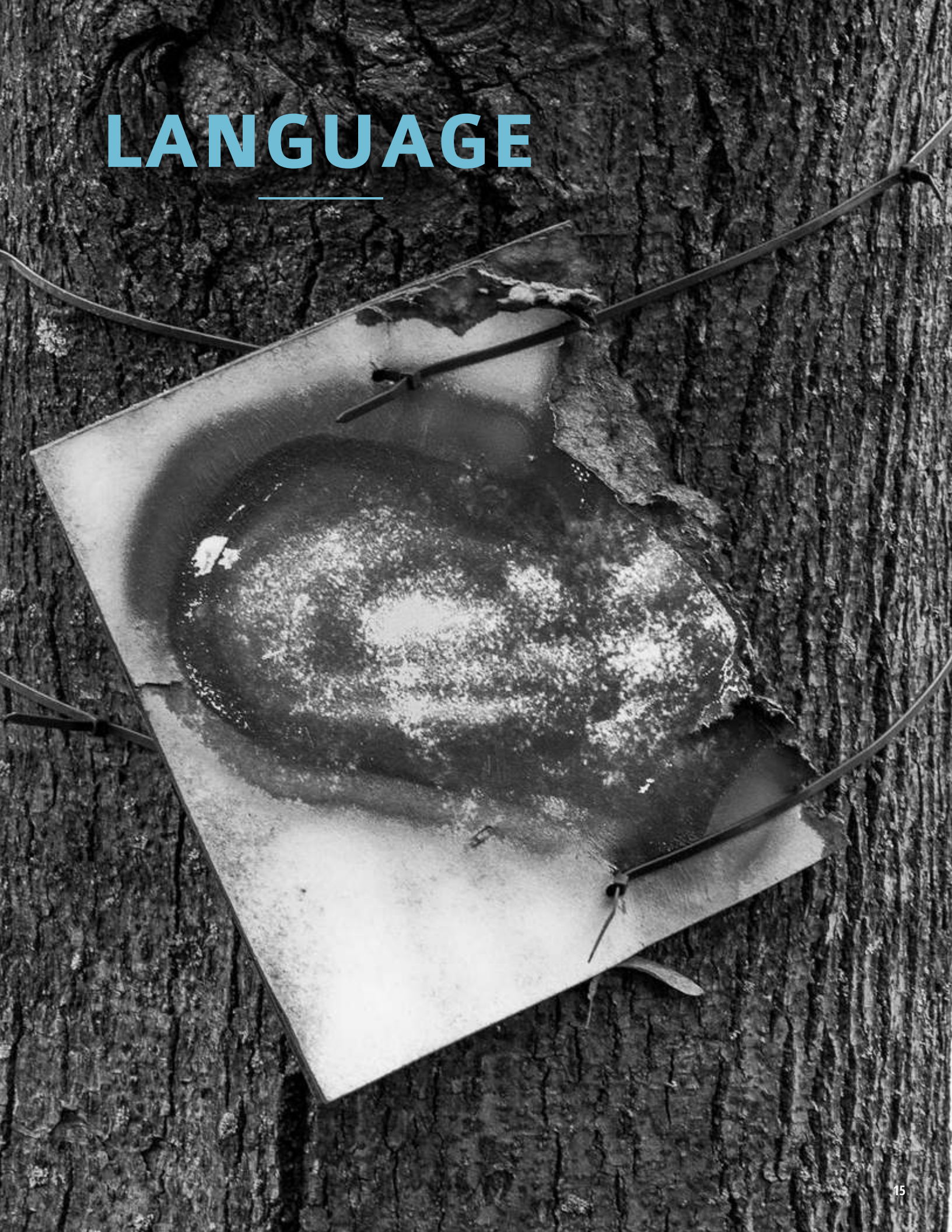


- *Post „Shock“*

Examples of the above artists prove that causing shock with broadly understood art should be reserved for selected artists. If someone wants to create a shock, they should be able to answer why they do it. This kind of art is reserved for those who are honest with their pain. I'm sure we can all shock other people by describing (both verbally and visually) what we see during our daily activities. For example, we can take photos of our surroundings. Pictures that I added to the post "Shock" are proof of this. These photos may cause a shock. What's more, they can bring uncomfortable, not very pleasant feelings and thoughts. Today I did it to prove that our surroundings contain many strange, repulsive, and disturbing visual nuances. Nevertheless, in the post, I wanted to emphasize that we should be careful in presenting controversial photos. Why? In short: it's easy to hurt someone's feelings. Still, I think that controversial art is much more interesting than art that presents beauty in a joyful form. These types of works can be (but not always) merely boring for me. To sum up: create, have fun and look for the beauty hidden in your surroundings. If you find something scary, specific, beautiful, and at the same time, ugly, do not hesitate, and take pictures. Let the stream of creativity flow through your soul as often as possible. Nevertheless, may you not have to be too exposed to shock.

# LANGUAGE

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- *Post „Language“ (also p.15)*

## LANGUAGE

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**In the post called "Language," I explained why I write in English and not in my native language, Polish. The answer is simple. I want to reach as many readers as possible. I didn't want to wait, that maybe someday someone would translate my texts into English. The fact is that Polish is challenging to learn and is not a popular language in the world. Estimates suggest that between 44 and 48 million people use the Polish language every day. This means that if I wrote in Polish, my blog scope would be limited to the number mentioned earlier.**

**On the other hand, in the book "English Worldwide," it is written that in 2006, about 1.5 billion people could communicate in English. These data were fourteen years ago, and it can be safely assumed that currently, the number of people who can communicate in English is even higher. This is the reason why I write in English. I don't want to limit myself to 48 million people living on this planet. I want my message to reach as many people as possible directly. In the post, I wrote that I do not exclude the possibility that I will start to manage my website in two languages at the same time.**



# LANGUAGE

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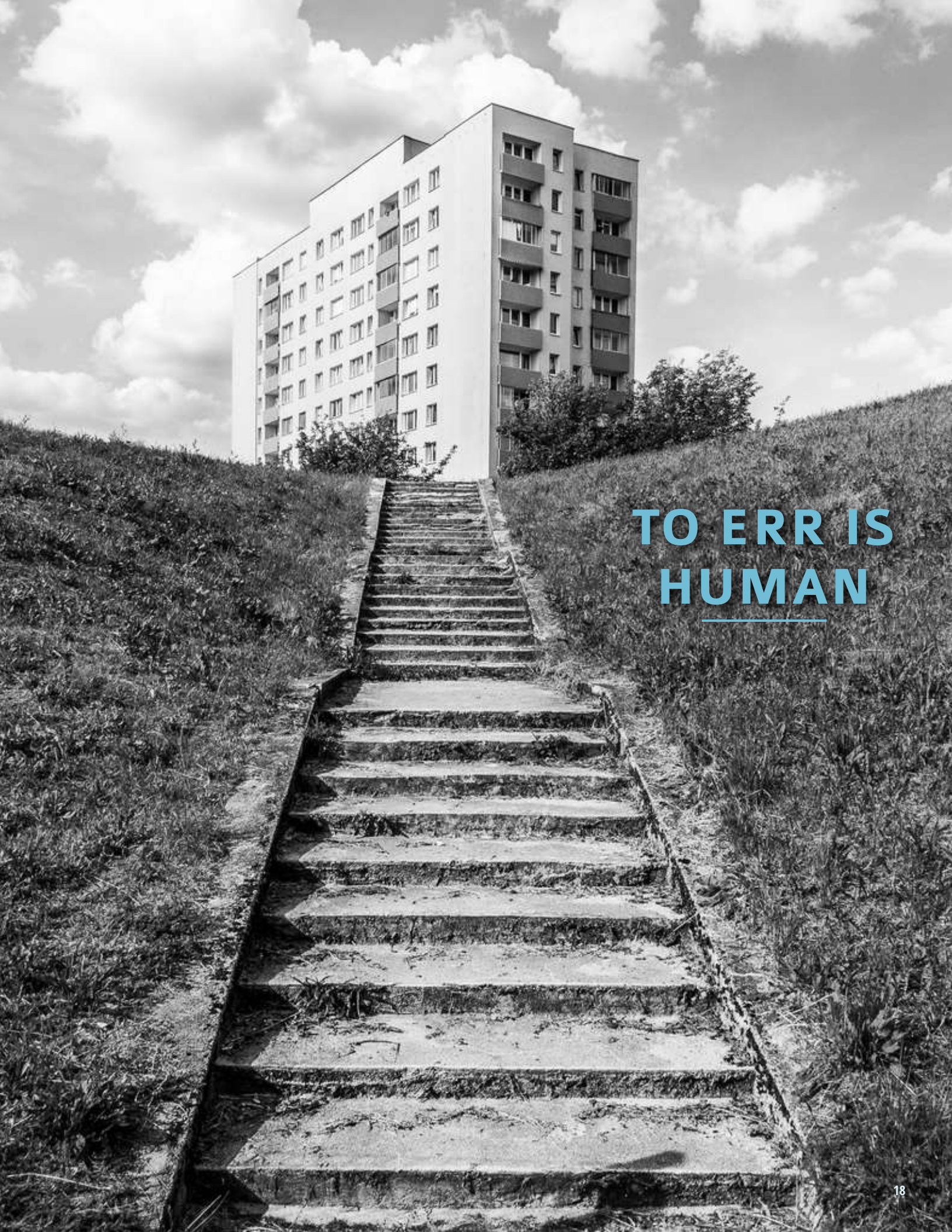
**In this respect, I have only partially succeeded. The website itself is still not bilingual, but I consider it successful to publish the Diaries in two language versions. To sum up my text, I want to encourage you, my Dear Friend (no matter what language you use every day) to learn English. It will make your life easier.**



• *Post „Language“ (above and below)*

• *Post „To err is human“ (p. 18-20)*





**TO ERR IS  
HUMAN**

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About the fact that erring is human, I wrote in a post titled "To err is human." The truth is that all people err during their lives. I am not an exception. I have sometimes made mistakes or made the wrong decisions. Nevertheless, nobody is perfect. Tupac Shakur rhymed: "you got to keep your head up." I always try to do it, no matter what happens in my life. In my text, I did not focus on my mistakes. I wanted to emphasize in it that biographies of virtually all significant artists can show us that no one is perfect. Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Jim Morrison, about which I wrote in detail in the post "People are strange" ("Diaries" 02.2018), are an excellent example of this. The truth is that all people who have achieved world-famous success have been on their way to the peak of defeat. Vincent van Gogh, Albert Einstein, Frida Kahlo, Charles Bukowski, Bruce Lee, Zdzisław Beksiński, or Steve Jobs are other examples of people who experienced various problems during their lives and had to fight like a lion to reach the very top of glory. To make an omelet, you must break an egg. If we want to make progress in our lives, we must remember that mistakes and failures are natural elements of success. Before we reach the top of the mountain, you must cross dangerous, long, dirty, tedious, cold, exhausting paths and trails. The knowledge of ancient people will tell us the same.



**TO ERR IS HUMAN**



**TO ERR IS  
HUMAN**



- *Post „B-movie“*

## B-MOVIE

In the post entitled "B-movie," I wrote about the fact that "Earth Wars," which I published in the Diaries of January 2018, could become a peculiar script for the movie. Such a film would be an exciting and demanding challenge for the director. I would see my work as a B-class movie. It could be a low-budget pastiche of the famous George Lucas trilogy "Star Wars." I mean the trilogy shot in the '70 and '80. The works of George Lucas are a classic science-fiction genre. Another inspiration to portray "Earth Wars" as a B-class movie would be Mike Hodges, "Flash Gordon." One of the most unforgettable elements of the film is the music of the legendary Queen, who composed the soundtrack. Photos of my authorship presented in "Earth Wars" can serve as a starting point for creating the film. My paintings are practically ready shots from the film set. The next films that could give creative stimuli to prepare a class B film entitled "Earth Wars" are: "Braindead" by Peter Jackson, "Dr. Stangelove" by Stanley Kubrick or comedies with Leslie Nielsen.

## B-MOVIE

I would see "Earth Wars" as a pastiche and parody of all the abovementioned movies. If we combine the characteristic elements with the above works, and we will add to this scenario in which the lost aliens landed on Earth to ask Earthlings about the way back to their planet, I am sure that it would be one of the most peculiar films in the history of cinematography. The film would depict people as one of the most aggressive and primitive civilizations that have ever appeared in the universe. The film would also show that we are not aware of it. I am convinced that in the face of contact with the "Unknown," human civilization would act like a tribe from the North Sentinel Island in touch with people outside their island. Their reaction to contact with strangers is aggression. In the film, we would be portrayed as not very wise, striving for self-destruction creatures. I wonder if our planet's location in the universe is by chance the equivalent of the area of the North Sentinel island on the globe. Nobody appears here, for what? To annoy underdeveloped people? I am convinced that the movie "Earth Wars" would become a classic among B-class films.

• *Post „B-movie“*





**DREAM**

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## DREAM

In the next post, named "Dream," I wrote about the fact that one of my artistic dreams is closely connected with Warsaw. The truth is that in Poland's capital, geniuses known around the world created masterpieces. They all inspired me to give this city the respect it deserves. For example, Frederic Chopin, one of the greatest composers of all time, completed his musical education, and composed his earlier works in Warsaw. Magdalena Abakanowicz - one of the most respected sculptors in the world, studied and lived in Warsaw. Zdzislaw Beksinski moved to the Polish capital at the age of 48 and spent the rest of his life in Warsaw, another 28 artistically fertile years. Stanislaw Szukalski, a forgotten genius who became famous again, among others thanks to Leonardo di Caprio, before World War II, he had his studio in Warsaw. The authorities of the capital of Poland more or less honor individual artists. Chopin became an icon of the city. Abakanowicz's sculptures are located in several places in Warsaw.



## DREAM

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In the block in which Zdzisław Beksiński lived, a mural was painted in his honor. As far as I'm concerned, I don't expect anything from the city. I want to help this city, taking them to artistic heights. I dream about becoming an artist who will be clearly associated with the capital of Poland. I really believe that, paradoxically, thanks to my photos, texts, works, many people, in the undefined future, will want to visit Warsaw and walk the streets and paths I used to walk on. Nevertheless, I do not want to become a showcase in the style of what Franz Kafka has become for Czech Prague. I would like my photos to become an artistic portrait of the city. These portraits must infinitely bring joy to recipients. Instead, I prefer to give people a melancholic moment of contemplation of life, which I often try to capture in my paintings. In the end, the Polish capital experienced many traumatic experiences, including total destruction during World War II. Warsaw was actually formed like a phoenix from the ashes. My dream is for Warsaw to become one of the most artistically famous cities in this world. What's more, I want the Polish capital to be the most valued and recognizable city in the world. By the way, I would like to enjoy my passion and inspiring other people.



• *Post „Dream”*

# THE END