



ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

June

2018

p. 1



- *Post „Analog photography”*
- *Cover: post "Negative Thoughts"*

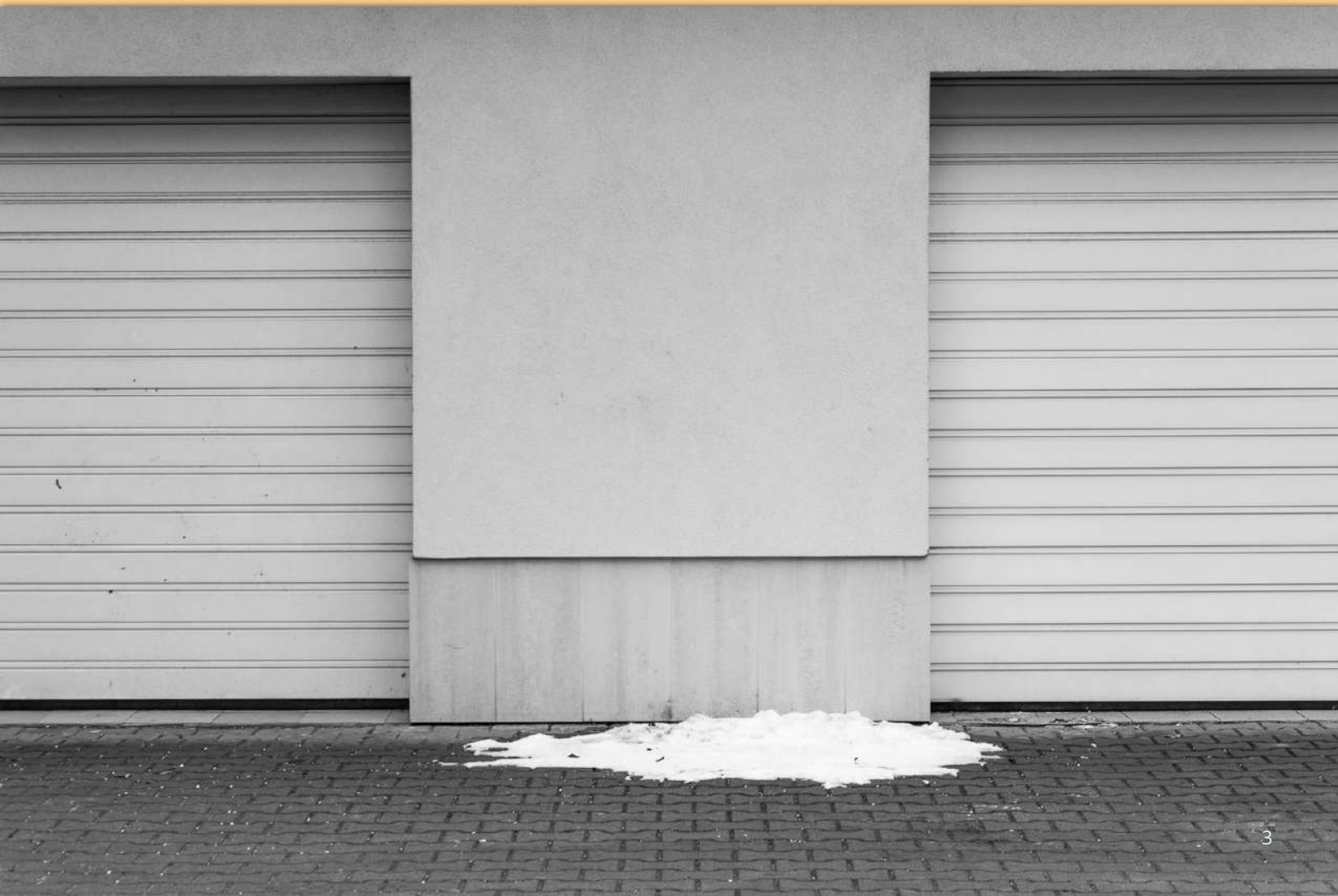
## **ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY**

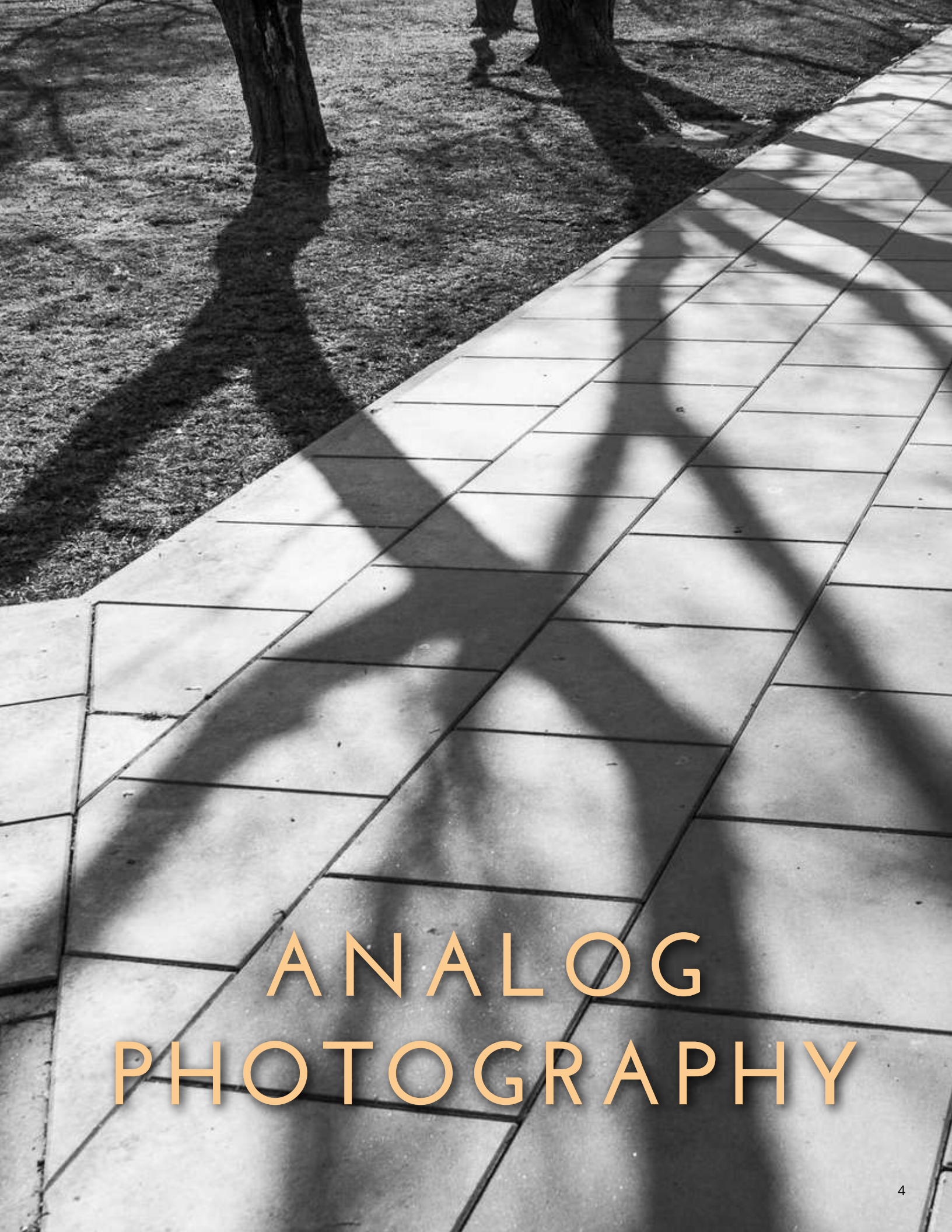
**In the first post from June 2018, I wrote about analog photography. You may wonder, my Dear Friend, if I have ever taken analog photos. The answer is simple: yes, I did. The fact is that classical photography has its own unique charm. Where does it come from? When we take photos without immediately seeing what we have photographed, we force ourselves to think twice before taking each photo. Suppose we take pictures using the traditional method. In that case, there is a good chance that we will develop our passion faster than taking pictures with a digital camera. I respect and admire the people who use the classic method of photography these days. The analog technique is more complicated than digital photography. Its origins date back to the 1820s. In the same decade, one of my favorite writers, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, was born. Developing analog photos in a dark room is a magical activity. This is a more complicated process than editing digital images in Lightroom. When you close the darkroom door and start working on developing photos, the sense of time passing drastically changes.**

# **ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY**

I would compare this situation to the story of Hans Castorp, the protagonist of Thomas Mann's novel "The Magic Mountain." More details on this issue can be found in the "Diaries" of November 2017. Another vital advantage of traditional photography is the quality of photos. This quality is better than the properties of digital images taken in RAW format. I use the latter format when taking digital images. Since analog photography has many advantages and is unique at the same time, why don't I take analog photos every day? I chose digital photography as a way of creatively expressing myself. For today, the digital camera is my tool with which I want to communicate my thoughts to the society. Perhaps someday I will switch to analog photography, but today I want digital photography to reign in my artistic lifestyle. Finally, I will add that in the years 2017-2018, I took photos on analog film. I have not developed these photos so far. I don't know when I'll do it. Perhaps in several dozen years. Let's treat this still-undeveloped film as some kind of treasure for future generations.

• *Post „Analog photography" (also p. 4)*





# ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY



ADAM MAZEK

TV

## TV

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I wrote that I don't like watching TV in the second post in June 2018. For me, staring at the screen is one of the best examples of passive entertainment (similar to browsing a smartphone without reflection). The two activities mentioned above require no mental effort from people. Television is fast food for the brain. When we watch it, we rarely convey any valuable information to our thoughts. We watch what they want us to see the corporations or governments of individual countries. Television provides a lot of unnecessary information that is only passed on so that someone can make money on it. I usually only watch TV when a football match is interesting to me. I'm not like the main character of the Genesis song "Turn It On Again." I don't need another TV channel to be happy. I also don't identify with the protagonists of the films. I have never dreamed of getting to know the actors from our color TV screens.



- *Post „TV“ (also p. 5)*



• Post „TV“

## TV

Apart from the Genesis mentioned above song, my other favorite TV song is David Bowie's "TVC 15". The famous British singer composed this song after hearing stories of Iggy Pop's acid-taking hallucinations. In the narcotic vision, Iggy saw the TV devouring his girlfriend. In the song, Bowie portrays the television set as a kind of demon. How? Singing the narrator's girlfriend is being pulled by the TV. Once she disappeared into its abyss, the narrator followed her. This is the essence of watching TV. Often people stare at it for hours, not consciously, without more profound reflection. As I mentioned at the beginning, a similar situation also applies to smartphones. More and more people are staring at the wide TV screens and on their phones' small screens. Unfortunately, I am no exception. I often try to minimize the time I spend on my smartphone, but it is not easy. In a way, I feel like a slave to my phone. It's better to read your favorite book, write another post, or go out for a walk to take some pictures. It would be even better to hug the loved one you are with.

# SELFIE



I wrote about taking self-portraits in the post "Selfie." Who among us doesn't like taking pictures of ourselves? There are probably people who would say that they are not doing the so-called selfie. If someone tells me that, I don't really believe such a person. I can imagine that not everyone publishes their own portraits on the internet. Still, I am convinced that the vast majority of people just take pictures of themselves. In the days of Instagram selfies, many of us forgot that taking selfies is not an invention of the social media age. Let me give you some examples of artists who were involved in this kind of artistic activity. For example, these will be Albrecht Dürer, Vincent van Gogh, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, Egon Schiele, René Magritte, Salvador Dalí, Frida Kahlo, or Andy Warhol.





My own "I" is one of the most fascinating artistic endeavors. Thanks to the artists, as mentioned earlier, we can analyze the evolution of creating self-portraits. Why am I also doing "selfie"? For me, self-portraits are proof, a record of my history and the passage of time. Perhaps someday, at the last stage of my life, I will collect all my self-portraits and present them in an unconventional form.

Nevertheless, nowadays, I focus, among others, on making a selfie. These photos are somehow evidence of the case, a trace of my photographic activity. Thanks to a rather unusual passion (photographing down-to-earth streets in Warsaw), I often find strange objects, thanks to which I can take a self-portrait.

**SELFIE**

# SELFIE



The photos I featured in the Selfie post are examples of how we can use city space to create ourselves. I would like to encourage you, my Dear Friend, to take and publish your selfies. Don't be afraid of publication, because as long as you're not Michael Jordan or Madonna, no one probably won't need these photos for anything. I would also like to inspire you to look for new ways to take a self-portrait. Probably all the methods have already been invented, but maybe there is still a novel way to take a selfie?

## WRITING

About the fact that I never liked to write was mentioned in the fourth post in June, entitled "Writing." The truth is that in Polish language lessons, both in primary school and in Secondary School, I got rather average grades for writing various types of texts. Interestingly, I was not too eager to read for a large part of my education (1992-2009), including schoolbooks. I did it when I had to (with some exceptions). Both writing and reading were relatively dull for me. Now I know that sometimes some of us just have to grow up to certain things. In 2011, I started reading regularly. During my studies (2004–2009), I focused more on having fun with my friends and not deepening my knowledge. Why did I start reading regularly two years after I graduated? Due to a leg injury that grounded me for about three months. Since then, I have read practically all the time.

• *Post „Writing”*





• *Post „Writing“*

## **WRITING**

**I hope it will be the same with writing articles for a blog. As I mentioned at the beginning of this post, I didn't like writing - neither in Polish nor English. If someone told me (in 2016, for example) that I would be writing posts, I would say that this person needs some serious medical attention. I always thought that I would never find inspiration and motivation to write. Nevertheless, I managed to do it myself and started doing it. The beginnings were tough because I was forcing a little bit of myself to write something. Why was I doing this? I wanted to set up my own website for publishing photos. Nevertheless, subconsciously, I felt that publishing photos alone would not be enough. The idea to add content came in May 2017. It was the month when I wrote my first posts. It took me half a day to develop my first post.**

## **WRITING**

**From the very beginning, I decided to write in English. Why? Look for the answers in the first part of the May 2018 "Diaries" ("Language" post). Today I can write a short text for a page even in twenty minutes. The more I write, the more I want to continue. Writing has become my new passion. The love for this activity is practically equal to the enthusiasm I have when taking photos, reading books, or playing sports. I love writing, and I want to do it for the rest of my days. Will I inspire you, my Dear Friend, to do the same? I do not know. I would definitely like to encourage you to try to express yourself via the written word. Try to find your own creative expression, whether painting, photographing, writing, dancing, sculpting, or singing. Do what you love and follow your creative path until the end of your days.**

• *Post „Writing“*





# NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

# **NEGATIVE THOUGHTS**

Negative thoughts are one of the best examples of how many people cannot deal with everyday problems. I am no exception. There are also negative thoughts in my head. Some people fail to erase the destructive way of looking at the world from their minds. Negative thoughts have been and will remain attached to the human species as long as man remains human. So if we can't remove this sad way of seeing the world, how can we deal with it? For me, the phrase "worst-case scenario" is the clue. When negative thoughts come to my mind, I always try to imagine the worst-case scenario that could happen in a given situation. Do you know what is most intriguing about it, my Dear Friend? The fact that any plot, sooner or later, will end in death. For example: if I lose my job, what worst-case scenario could happen? First, I may lose my social position. Later in the plan, I will be left without enough money to live. Lack of cash can lead to the loss of property, including home. It can make me homeless.



- *Post „Negative Thoughts” (również str. 14)*

# **NEGATIVE THOUGHTS**



- *Post „Negative Thoughts“*

**I can end my life lying drunk, frozen, lonely under one of Warsaw's bridges. We can implement a similar way of thinking in virtually all potential, unpleasant situations in human life. Since all worst-case scenarios will end sooner or later, why should we worry about all the problems we may face? Personally, I don't have time for this type of discussion. I much prefer to focus on my beloved loved ones and my passion (photography and blogging). I do not analyze all the unpleasant situations and circumstances that may arise in my life. I just know that all "worst-case scenarios" (the best ones) lead to death. Therefore, there is no point in wasting time and energy thinking about and analyzing my negative thoughts. In conclusion, thinking about death can bring us a lot of good energy. In the end, we're all going to die anyway, so what's the point of continually worrying about what might happen to us in life? Accept the negative thoughts running through your head, and don't let them take up most of your "I."**



# GRAFFITI





- *Post „Graffiti“ (also p. 17)*

## **GRAFFITI**

**I wrote about the fact that I like graffiti in the post with the same title. City paintings are, for me, a specific street way of expressing myself. When I wrote about graffiti, I didn't mean the murals, which, in my opinion, are a related, but still separate field of art. Basically speaking, I like graffiti, especially when two conditions are met: the work blends in with its surroundings and does not offend anyone. Moreover, I consider graffiti a grateful object to photograph. When taking pictures of this type, I often wonder who the actual creator of the work is. The undeniable fact is that by taking a graffiti photograph, I register the trace, another person's work. The photo I took is only evidence that another street artist was here and left behind a more or less charming artwork. 95% of graffiti photographs are the work of street painters. Nevertheless, whenever I see street art that catches my eye, I try to add something to my pictures.**

# GRAFFITI

In the post, I presented some photos of graffiti that are primarily the work of other people and mine. Why? One of the best examples of images that both graffiti artists and photographers can be photo-makers is the photo with the bench opposite the graffiti (picture no. 1 below). This photo appeared in "Diaries" from January 2018. Interestingly, this photo was the first (out of about 400 images) to be re-published on the blog. When I saw that bench and the graffiti, I wanted to stop and sit for a while and enjoy the view, contemplate it. Unfortunately, this activity only lasted a few seconds because it was too cold to stay longer.

Nevertheless, the photo shows graffiti with the surroundings. The photographer's task was to find the right place and the right angle to take the picture. By contemplating taking photographs, we can quickly force the viewer to pause for a second and enjoy and analyze it. I also took the other photos posted in the post in such a way that some elements of the environment were skillfully integrated into the frame.

• *Post „Graffiti“ - picture no. 1*





BOREDOM

# **BOREDOM**



• *Post „Boredom“ (also p. 20)*

The next post was about boredom. I wrote in it why I practically always have a camera and a book with me. Passivity and stagnation are some of the worst things that can happen in a person's life. I would not like to be in prison, among others, for fear of getting bored. When I hear the word "enslavement," I automatically imagine hundreds of days of inactivity. This visualization does not fit my concept and vision of lifestyle. Carrying a backpack with a camera and book in it is one of the best ways to avoid boredom when I'm out.

When I have to wait for something while in the city, I often buy a coffee and start reading a book. On the other hand, if there is still daylight outside, I transform waiting for someone into a passion for looking for more photos. Needless to say, when I am at home, idleness never comes into my life. I love spending time with my girlfriend, Kamilka (both at home and outside). This is the most precious and magical time I can imagine. On the other hand, if I am alone at home, I always have a lot to do. These activities are closely related to my passion. This is processing consecutive photos in Lightroom, reading inspiring books (my favorite publishing house is the German company Taschen), writing posts or managing my website, and discovering how to improve my blog. What do you do, my Dear Friend, to avoid boredom in your life?



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



- *Post „Photography exhibition” (also p 22)*

## **PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

**On June 14, 2018, I wrote about the opening of my first photography exhibition. The vernissage took place in the restaurant "Przystawki" on Stawki 3 Street, in Warsaw. The title of the collection was "Warsaw." In the post, I invited my readers to come to the titled event. I wrote that I believe that this exhibition will be a breakthrough in the development of my passion.**

**Moreover, I expressed the hope that I would receive a new stimulus to expand my artistic interests. I also believed that I would inspire others to slow down the pace of life and encourage them to take pictures of their neighborhood. It is this willingness to transform and interpret reality through our inner voice that makes us human. The photos that I posted in the post were not the ones that appeared in the four-month exhibition. When I finish writing about this event in "Diaries," I would like to thank all the people who appeared at the vernissage. Thanks to you, I realized that doing what I do without an audience would make no sense at all. Creating art for the sake of creation is not my goal. I would like to inspire others to create new things in broadly understood art through photography and writing.**

# NEVERENDING PHOTO STORY





## **NEVERENDING PHOTO STORY**

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I wrote about the fact that photographing, writing, and running a blog, [www.adammazek.com](http://www.adammazek.com) is an endless adventure in the post entitled "Neverending photo story." It is my way of relaxing, leading my life. Someone malicious would say:

*You're boring, you repeat yourself.*

I do this not because of a lack of inspiration. The reason for this is that I never know who or when will start reading my website. That's why I want to repeat the visions of my inner world. In the post, I wanted to introduce my philosophy to my new readers. I also emphasized that I do not want to stop photographing and writing. The fact is, I want art to be a part of my life until I die. I want to breathe my passion. The habit of creating became oxygen without which my soul, mind, and heart could wither. Creating new things is the temple where I seek refuge, peace, and harmony. Photography (and art in general) are the things that shape my life path more and more. I wrote this post at 6 a.m. on March 20, 2018, before leaving for the office.





## NEVERENDING PHOTO STORY

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After work, since the days are getting longer, I will go for a photo walk. After returning home, I spend time with my beloved Kamilka. We often talk about photography. Kamila encourages me to develop my passion. Besides, after returning from the office, I often read books closely related to art. Alternatively, I'm working on my photos in Lightroom. When I get home, I usually create a new blog post. It is a process by which I mix previously taken photos with previously written content. Will it ever start to bore me? I don't know the future, so I can't answer that question. Nevertheless, I don't think so. The world of art can provide us with a lot of inspiration. For now, I cannot imagine that one day I will stop the whole process. Is it an addiction? Probably yes.

## THE END