



ADAM MAZEK
Diaries

August
2018
p. 1

PLANNING

The first post from August 2018 was about planning. In it, I wrote that I try to plan as many things as possible in my life. Nevertheless, I am aware that not everything in life goes out as planned. Do I appreciate the advantages of having a well-planned day not only at work but also in private life? Yes, of course. Accurate planning helps to efficiently manage time, energy, and finances. Planning makes life more comfortable. I highly recommend adding this activity to your daily routine. However, are there any exceptions to the planning rule? In my case, they do exist. I don't necessarily plan things in terms of my artistic passions, i.e., photography and running a website. I try not to have any plans and expectations related to my hobby. As of April 19, 2018 (this was when I wrote this text), my only strategy and goal were to write texts and add previously taken photos into them. I had no expectations for my creative activity. However, sometimes I ask myself, do I hope to get something unexpected from my passion? Probably yes, but I'm still not sure what exactly. My long-term plan related to photography is to leave a "trace" after myself as long as possible. My written thoughts or photographs can be my artistic legacy. Today, the vast majority of them are in cyberspace. I am neither a futurologist (like Stanislaw Lem) nor an IT specialist. I don't know if my site's footprints will remain in virtual reality for thousands of years. Sometimes I imagine virtual archaeologists in the future (say 3200) trying to "restore" data from the beginning of the Internet age. Who knows, maybe some passionate scientists will try to "recreate" my website? It seems to me that I often have my head in the clouds, like a child.

In conclusion, I want to remind you that we should plan our future in general. Planning helps to function in everyday life. However, my Dear Friend, remember that if your plans do not materialize, try to be like water and treat change and even failure as a lesson and an opportunity. The truth is that I have very few specific plans for is my artistic activity. The website www.adammazek.com is the place where I do what I want and when I want. Without any schedule. No special planning.

PLANNING





• *Post „Terror for the construction workers“*

• *Post „Planning“ - p. 3 and p. 5*

TERROR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

In the next post, I wrote that sometimes I feel that I bring terror for the construction workers. Did I mention that I love street photography? There is no point in discussing the obvious. I like to wander the Warsaw streets and discover new, ordinary, down-to-earth, sometimes gloomy and mundane places. The surroundings of construction sites are one of the best places for me to take photos. Usually, it's a mess around. For me, this mess is a potentially perfect subject for photography. I like to analyze and observe raw and unfinished buildings. Besides, at the construction site, we can find tons of sand shaped like pyramids. So why am I introducing fear to workers? It seems to me that when I'm near a construction site, the workers are confused. They often watch me surreptitiously, with suspicion in their eyes.



PLANNING

TERROR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Sometimes I wonder if they think I'm a local reporter, a potential property buyer, or a construction site inspector. They don't ask me any questions, unlike other ordinary passersby. If strangers ask me why I'm taking pictures in their neighborhood, I reply that I love Warsaw and want to capture every part of this city. That's the truth. However, when I'm close to a construction site, I feel a bit like an unwanted alien. A similar situation occurs in the case of security guards. They also often watch me closely. Maybe they think I'm a burglar? Perhaps. What could I steal from the construction site? Bricks, gloves, or perhaps a concrete mixer? I do not know. I feel like an intruder to them. But when I'm on the street, I don't think about it at all. I'm just focusing on my passion. I want to photograph the places around me and transform them through my unique, visual, photographic language.

• *Post „Terror for the construction workers”*



NATURAL ENERGIZER



- *Post „Natural energizer“*

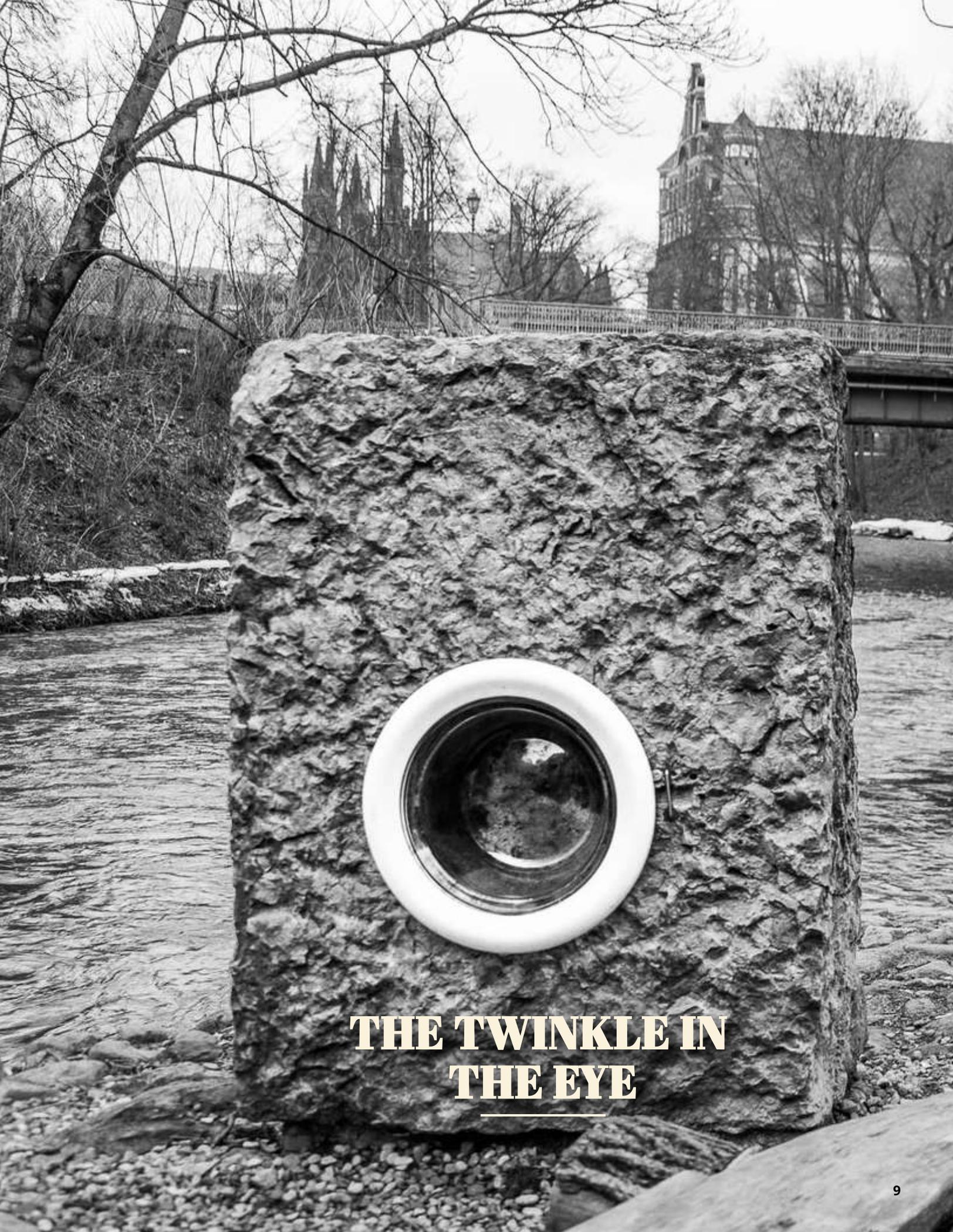
Later on, I wrote about natural energizers. The title did not refer to the energy drinks I used to drink when I weighed 99 kg in 2010. Now I don't want to pour this chemistry into myself anymore. Why? I don't want to be overweight. For me, one of the best natural energy sources that can raise the adrenaline level is music. Each of us has different moods every day. Sometimes we want to relax and calm down, resting after a hard day at work. For me, this is the best time to listen to, for example, classical music by Chopin or Henryk Wieniawski. Dire Straits' songs and the soundtrack from David Lynch's "Twin Peaks" can also set you in a blissful mood. On the other hand, we often need an immediate dose of energy. When I'm in this mood, I love to listen to the album "The Best of" Run DMC, for example. The real cherry on top, in this case, is the song "King of Rock." It gives you the power and willingness to do many things. When I have such natural energy, I can play sports or create art. Other good examples of how music can boost our energy include legendary albums such as Metallica's "The Black Album" and Iron Maiden's "The number of the beast."

NATURAL ENERGIZER

Michael Jackson, Madonna, The Fugees, or The Rolling Stones albums are other examples of albums that provide motivation to act. I love listening to these albums also in the car, out of town. I like to enjoy this kind of energetic music on the highway when I can speed up a car a little. On the other hand, when I'm stuck in traffic, this kind of music can bring me too much aggression. In this case, I love listening to and singing albums by David Bowie, Bob Dylan, The Doors, or Genesis. Hmm, sometimes I wonder if I have a wide range of musical interests. Ok, I'm done writing. I am going to play a song now and let it inspire me in the creative process. For me, music is an undisputed energy source and a source of endless inspiration.



• *Post „Planning“*



**THE TWINKLE IN
THE EYE**

THE TWINKLE IN THE EYE

I wrote that the twinkle in my own eyes can bring inspiration in a subsequent post. Overall, I never paid too much attention to my appearance. My favorite outfit is a t-shirt. I dress minimalist, and I always try to smell friendly in my surroundings. However, I never thought of myself as self-absorbed Narcissus. On April 22, 2018, I woke up at 6 am as usual. After making the toilet, I started washing my face. My reflection in the mirror caught my attention. I looked deep into my eyes and saw a twinkle in them. I've never paid too much attention to such things before. But on that day, I just saw it. The first thought that came to mind was something like, "Shit, I have nice eyes. It's nice to have a sparkle in your eyes. It is much better to have it than not." It was not a revealing thought, but after a while, I started to think about the fact that probably all people living on our planet have this magical gaze in their eyes. Some people have the eponymous gleam in their eyes, probably well hidden, even from themselves.



- Post „The twinkle in the eye“ (also p. 9)

THE TWINKLE IN THE EYE



• *Post „The twinkle in the eye“*

There may be many reasons for this condition, but I am convinced that we all can release this kind of spark in our eyes. Nevertheless, undoubtedly certain factors can help us or keep us from having a twinkle in our eyes. One of the key elements that trigger a spark in our eyes is having loving loved ones, such as parents (thank you for everything!) or a loving, caring, and understanding partner (thank you, Kamilka!). The second thing that undoubtedly affects shiny, healthy eyes is possessing a hobby. In my case, photography, writing, and running this website is my choice for self-realization.

Nevertheless, we cannot forget about people who do not have a sparkle in their eyes daily. For example, these are people suffering from diseases or victims of wars or various political and economic crises. Why should we help them? Seeing the spark in the eyes of someone who has previously lost faith in other people can bring us to find the meaning of life. The twinkle in the eyes brings dignity, awareness, hope, and wisdom to the owner. Charming looking into the eyes is the essence of human coexistence. Having sparks in my eyes is just a symbol of life, health, and happiness for me.

"OF WOLF AND MAN"

I was inspired to write another post by Metallica's song called "Of Wolf And Man." I remember hearing this song for the first time in 1992. A year has passed since the band's publication of one of the most famous albums entitled "The Black Album." I was seven then. Since then, I periodically go back to this album and rediscover it. For me, this is without a doubt one of the best energizing albums ever to come out. I know some of the "hardliners" Metallica fans consider this album a negative turning point in the band's work. Still, I'm not a diehard Metallica fan. That is why I am writing directly that this album is legendary for me. While listening to it, I often receive spectacular inner powers that stimulate my imagination and mobilize me to create new things.

• *Post „Of Wolf And Man“*





• *Post „Of Wolf And Man“*

"OF WOLF AND MAN"

I believe that the lyrics of the song "Of Wolf And Man," which appeared on the "Black Album," can be interpreted in many different ways. For example, we can look at the song as a scary horror movie. Alternatively, it can be viewed as an allegory of a man in which two opposing forces clash, two contradictions, ambivalence of human nature. I want to emphasize that the title song always gives me energy. It gives me the power to start doing something in my life. For example, to be active in sports and self-development. This development is mainly related to artistic passion. For me, one of the quotes in the song (*So seek the wolf in thyself*) is the essence of why I want to develop my interests for the rest of my life. Of course, the text can be interpreted differently. For example, that we should act more expansively to find answers to existential questions. The above interpretations are one of many possibilities.

"OF WOLF AND MAN"

The song "Of Wolf And Man" also tells me not to forget about the nature that lives in us. We should not ignore the primal instincts that lie dormant in us all the time. The more we are aware of their existence, the more adequately we can harness and control these instincts. I believe that creating art can stimulate and develop the enigmatic elements of our soul, sometimes also the primal ones. That is why all great artists (e.g., Hieronymus Bosch, Frederic Chopin, Fyodor Dostoyevski, Salvador Dali, Stanislaw Lem, Zdzislaw Beksinski, Michael Jackson or David Bowie) saw and in some elusive way "felt" more than their contemporaries. They probably more or less consciously searched for themselves, i.e., in their imagination, mind, and soul, that proverbial wolf. I want to do the same. That's why I sometimes go back to the song "Of Wolf and Man" to stimulate my creative powers and remind myself that I am human, but not entirely normal.

• *Post „Of Wolf And Man“*



SHOOTING PICTURES OF THE STRANGERS

Sometimes I wonder why I rarely take classic street photos. By writing this kind of photography, I mean taking pictures of strangers in public places. Henri Cartier-Bresson, Garry Winogrand, William Klein, or Josef Koudelka are typical examples of photographers who have dealt with this type of photography. As for me, there are undoubtedly a lot of reasons why I try to avoid putting people in my photos. I will write a separate post about the first and most crucial reason in the future. It will be a long story, and it is related to my thesis. The other reasons are quite clear. The decision not to take photos of other strangers often is my artistic choice. That's just my style. The truth is, I practically always analyze the sight in front of my eyes as if there were no people there. If people are in the picture, I wait for them to disappear. Fortunately, taking photographs of Poland's streets is legal. We can easily take photos of all people around us in public spaces.

By the way, while photography is legal, publishing this type of work may be more difficult. If we want to do this, we must have the person's signed consent in the photo. In this document, the person who was photographed should sign an authorization to publish his photo. I wrote this post on April 24, 2018. All European Union countries implemented new regulations regarding our privacy, including on the Internet (GDPR). While writing this post, I was not aware of the potential further details of the rules governing posting photos of other people. I assumed nothing would change.



SHOOTING PICTURES OF THE STRANGERS

All I know is that Facebook asked me one last time if I wanted to introduce face detection on my private profile. I agreed. From now on, the portal will inform me if someone adds my photo to their profile. I am happy with this option, and at the same time, I am afraid of all these changes related to privacy. However, I know one thing: I'm honestly glad that I didn't create too many street photos with visible human faces. If these kinds of images were the core of my passion, I would now have a hard time publishing these images. I'm glad I don't have too many problems with that right now. Overall, taking photos of other people is not my greatest passion. I think the people who do traditional street photography had more obstacles in doing their job. Upcoming regulations will not make their lives easier.



• Post „Shooting pictures of the strangers“ (also p.15)



• *Post „Wherever I May Roam“*

"WHEREVER I MAY ROAM"

One of Metallica's most famous songs could be an anthem of my creative activity. The piece "Wherever I May Roam" has undoubtedly left its mark on my photographic passion. In the post entitled "Of Wolf and Man," I mentioned that I am rediscovering "The Black Album" for myself. The title song could be a symbol of my artistic activity in two ways. The first one is closely related to my wandering through the streets of Warsaw. When I go hunting for photos, I rarely know the purpose and direction of my walk. I always only know the starting point. The direction of my walk is often unknown to me. I have an initial plan where to go, but never rule out the possibility of change. Taking pictures in the streets, I feel like a "Rover, wanderer, nomad, vagabond," quoting the title song. While wandering, I feel 100% freedom in my soul. This is the time when endorphins are nourishing my brain. In short, I am in an ecstatic mood. As I walk, I can feel the blood flowing through my veins so that all cells are properly oxygenated.

"WHEREVER I MAY ROAM"

I just feel alive. Now I know why Metallica recorded her song with such passion and importance. The second reason why the song "Wherever I may roam" can be an anthem of my work is that running my website brings me joy and freedom. I found my place where I can be wholly independent and creative. This is where other people's opinion becomes secondary. Of course, that doesn't mean I want to fight others. I care about third party opinions, but not as much as I used to. This site aims not to destroy relationships with other people but to build, develop, and cement them. I want to strengthen these relationships with art. My primary tool is photography and writing. Music is Metallica's way. Songs such as the magical "Wherever I May Roam" will forever remain in the memory of mankind and will last much longer than the lives of modern humans. I believe that my artistic activity will be appreciated by posterity as the work of Metallica.

• Post „Wherever I May Roam“



GOD AS AN ACCOUNTANT

I wrote about a fascinating concept of God in the post "God as an Accountant." One of the archival statements of Zdzislaw Beksinski inspired me to write this text. In one of the conversations with Piotr Dmochowski (the promoter of Beksinski's works), the Polish painter described his feelings about religion quite accurately. In his concept, I see some similarities to my beliefs. Both Beksinski and I were brought up in the spirit of Catholicism but without excessive pressure from the environment. Beksinski left Catholicism as a relatively young man but did not convert to other religions. Personally, I also do not go to church, and I do not plan to do so. Later in the text, there are more differences between Beksinski and me. The painter took a substitute form of religion (he even called it metaphysics), not very precisely defined - he manifested this kind of belief in his paintings. He claimed that all Catholic rituals were indigestible to him.



GOD AS AN ACCOUNTANT

When he tried to adopt one of the Far East religions, he found that kind of faith too foreign to him. Generally, when it comes to religion, Beksinski realized that he was left alone. I believe that his loneliness can be found in his paintings. The works helped him establish a relationship with eternity. Nevertheless, God was something entirely incomprehensible for Beksinski. To him, God was kind of like the chief accountant in a dairy store. The heavenly financier had all the pros and cons of the chief accountant. This type of personality represented by God was something extraordinary for the Polish painter. In Beksinski's vision, God became the manager of the store responsible for settlements. For the Polish painter, God continuously records, counts, analyzes, and settles all people's sins. The Polish artist did not quite know why he should appreciate and worship this kind of existence. At this point, another Beksinski's worldview came to mind. Well, the famous painter stated that at first glance, humanity resembles someone else's (more or less successful) work, an effect, and not the result of chance or chaos. I wrote a similar theory in one of my previous posts ("Diaries" of March 2018) that our world consists of apparent chaos. I am convinced that we cannot understand and find the most essential answers and solutions to our existential problems. For Beksinski, we are all like primitive works of art by an unknown artist. For me, one of the most famous Polish painters' religious beliefs is one of the most intriguing views on faith. At the end of the text, I mentioned that in the literary works of Stanislaw Lem, people are often presented as a race who is unable to learn elementary knowledge about the world around them. Why? Because we don't know, as a species, how we appeared in this world.



THE END

• *Post „God as an Accountant“*