

04. 2019

p. 11

ADAM MAZEK

Diaries



INSTAGRAM

I started the "Diaries 04.2019 p. II" with a post titled "Instagram." The truth is, before I created a website, I didn't know how I wanted to publish my photos. So how did I come up with running my own website? Eric Kim's blog was vital here. Eric convinced me that showcasing pictures on social media doesn't make sense in the long run. So I launched www.adammazek.com in September 2017. My website is a lifetime project. I intend to run it for the rest of my life. Nevertheless, a year after launching the website, I decided to create an account on Instagram. Did it help me with anything? Only partially. I have already written one post (entitled "Social Media") about social media the year before ("Diaries" 04.2018 p. II). In the 2018 text, I mentioned that I don't want to have an account on Instagram because:

1) I don't have complete control over the content (we don't own the service);

INSTAGRAM

2) the numbers (e.g., number of followers) presented on Instagram are irrelevant to me;

3) I do not have enough time to maintain a profile on Instagram.

Has anything changed since I wrote the text entitled "Social media"? Actually, only point number three. After a year of running a website, I had more time because I graduated from photography school in June 2018. However, points 1) and 2) are still valid for me. So why did I start a profile on Instagram? The truth is that running www.adammazek.com is much more rewarding and challenging. In fact, I was persuaded to do so by my colleagues at work (thank you, Ania and Madzia!). Instagram has helped me with one thing, though.

• *Post „Instagram.“*



INSTAGRAM



It allows me to put all my cards (*photos*) on the table. I treat Instagram as an extension of the online gallery with my portfolio. The fact is, most people view pictures on their smartphones. By creating a gallery on Instagram, I help those people see the essence of my photography. The fact is that even if Instagram radically changes something in its policy and I have to cancel my account there, I will not cry. Social media is just an addition to my passion. My website is and undoubtedly will be the essence of presenting my artistic skills online.

ADAPTATION

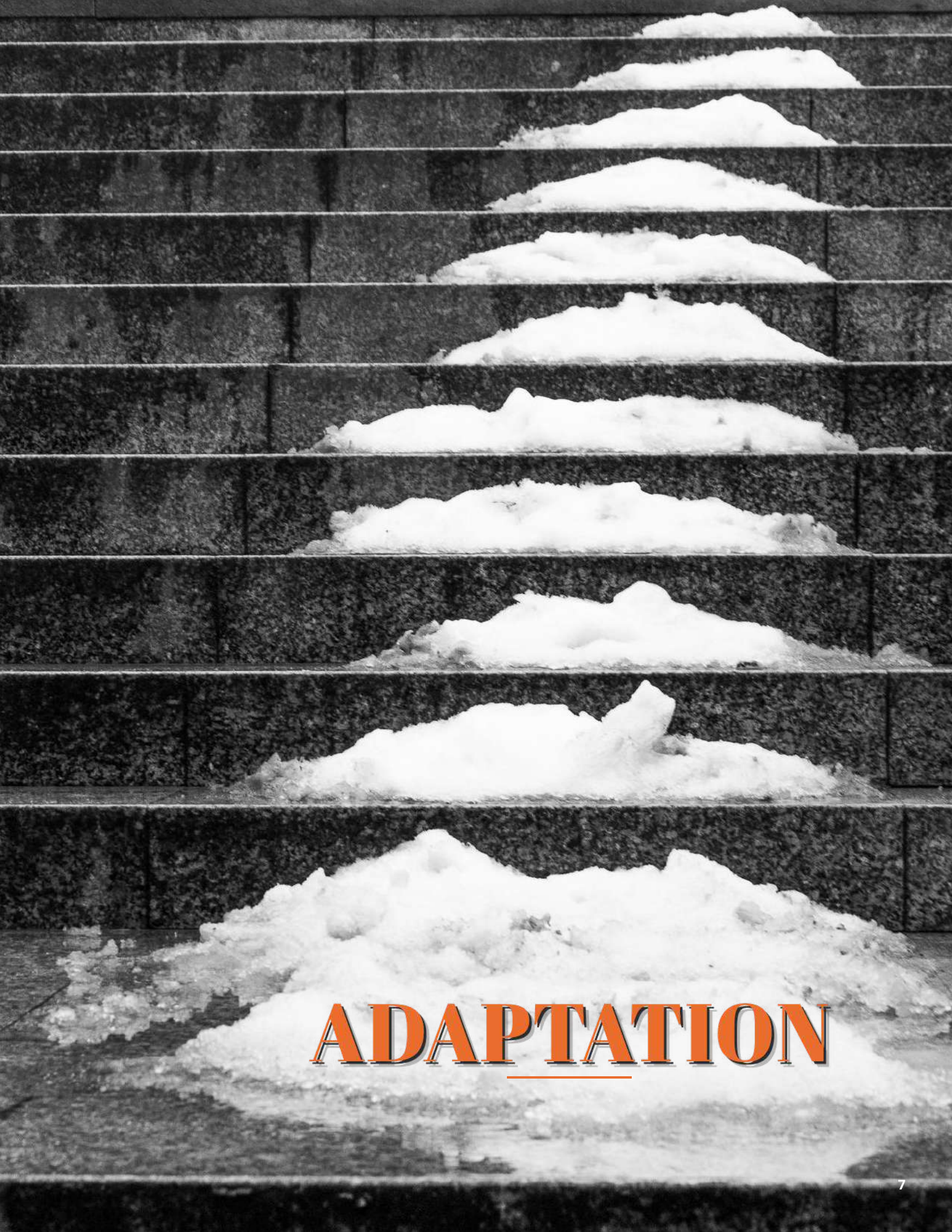
**Droga
Wewnętrzna**

**Droga
Wewnętrzna**

ADAPTATION

I believe that the keyword to succeed in the modern world is the word "adaptation." For the umpteenth time in my life, I remembered the words of the famous American actor who came from Hong Kong, Bruce Lee. In one of my previous posts, I already wrote that we should try to be like water ("Diaries" 12.2017). What exactly does that mean? Today I will try to explain it, using sports as an example. For today, my main "workout" is walking with a camera in hand and stretching on a mat at home.

Nevertheless, in autumn and winter, I spend more time at home. I don't have as many opportunities to take pictures as in the spring or summer. This is the moment when I train my muscles more intensively at home. This is how I adapt to the winter season, wanting to stay physically active and not get fat. I try not to think about or worry that I can't walk as much as I'd like during the fall and winter seasons. In winter, the days are not as bright as in summer, so I just walk less often and stretch on my mat more often. The example given is, of course, just one example of how we can adapt our lifestyles to factors beyond our control. Fortunately, many different ideas come to me while stretching, including writing new texts. This post is an example of that. When adapting my workouts to the seasons, I try to be like water. It's a moment where I focus on the benefits of the seasons rather than their drawbacks. This is a principle I have tried to implement throughout my life. I always try to remember the words of Bruce Lee ("Be like water," which means do not treat the blows inflicted on you as a blow but as something to be adapted to). I treat all the obstacles that I encounter in life not as problems but as opportunities to develop my mind, soul, and body.



ADAPTATION

I was inspired to write the text entitled "Emotions" by one of Zdzislaw Beksinski's interviews. The Polish painter said he saw no reason why he could not transfer his emotions into his paintings. Undoubtedly, a lot of feelings can be seen in his works. I think it is the same with my artistic activity. One of the purposes of my passion is to show emotions in photographs. If there are no people in my pictures or they appear there rarely, does that mean there is little emotion in my work? No. Even if there are no people in the works (the paintings of Zdzislaw Beksinski are the best example), they can still show emotions and release certain feelings in the viewer. I want my pictures to be not only beautifully composed. I want them to reflect on my feelings through my personal and visual voice. I envision my works as a reflection of my emotional state. It doesn't matter if the landscape is lined with trauma, humor, joy, conflict, doubt, or happiness.



EMOTIONS

EMOTIONS



I want my emotions to be the basis of what I think makes a particular photograph great. Of course, one of the most notable examples of how I have transformed emotion into visual language is my thesis entitled "Farewell" ("Diaries" 09.2018 p. II). I consider this set of photographs one of the strongest I have made to date. Does this mean that I will not create another vibrant collection of photos in the future? I hope to prepare even more powerful and interesting ones in the future. "Negation of the End" ("Diaries" 02.2019 p. I) was the next step to do just that. The truth is that it is only up to ourselves how we transfer our emotions into photographs. I try to do that and hopefully inspire other people to do the same. In the same way that I am inspired by the work of Zdzislaw Beksinski.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



Adam Mazek

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

In the following post, I presented the third (after "Farewell" and "Negation of the End" mentioned in an earlier post) set of photographs. The title of the work is "Street Photography." Below you can find its full content and the collection of pictures.

The set of photographs entitled "Street Photography" is a tribute to the pioneers of this genre of art, namely French photographers Eugène Atget and Henri Cartier-Bresson. The central theme of classical street photography is usually people. In my pictures, we rarely see people. Unlike the classics, I avoid depicting human silhouettes in my photographs. Nevertheless, the work "Street Photography" is an exception. The twelve images that comprise it refer to the traditional French school of street photography. It is estimated that Eugène Atget took ten thousand photographs in his lifetime. Because he did this at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, his effort should be considered titanic in the era of analog photography. With his work, he preserved Paris and its inhabitants for all time.

On the other hand, for Henri Cartier-Bresson, capturing the decisive moment was the essence of street photography. Many of his photographs, with people in the lead role, became part of the genre's canon. The images of the French photographer became an endless inspiration for subsequent generations of street photographers. Adam Mazek's photographs were taken on the streets of Warsaw (the vast majority of them), Vilnius, and Gdansk between 2016 and 2018, and we see people walking, standing, and even a staggering individual. In some of the photos, people are just a complement to the frame. However, this "human element" plays a critical compositional role. Together with silhouettes of people, the images form a complete and balanced whole. In Adam Mazek's photographs, people are presented near concrete, minimalist, and bare walls. Human silhouettes can also be found between the trees. Only their shadows and contours are visible in the inaccessible urban landscape. The vertical frames make people feel isolated and alone in a specific, often ominous, urban landscape. Watching the pictures, the viewer might ask himself whether he sometimes feels similar to the characters from the photographs in the urban jungle? Are solitude and anonymity an integral element of life in large agglomerations? Are we afraid of something or someone while walking in our neighborhood? Or maybe the fact that someone is constantly monitoring and observing us makes us feel safe? Or is it a threat to us and a reason for concern? The photographs by Adam Mazek do not provide any answers. Analyzing them, only questions and doubts emerge.



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY







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ADVERSITY

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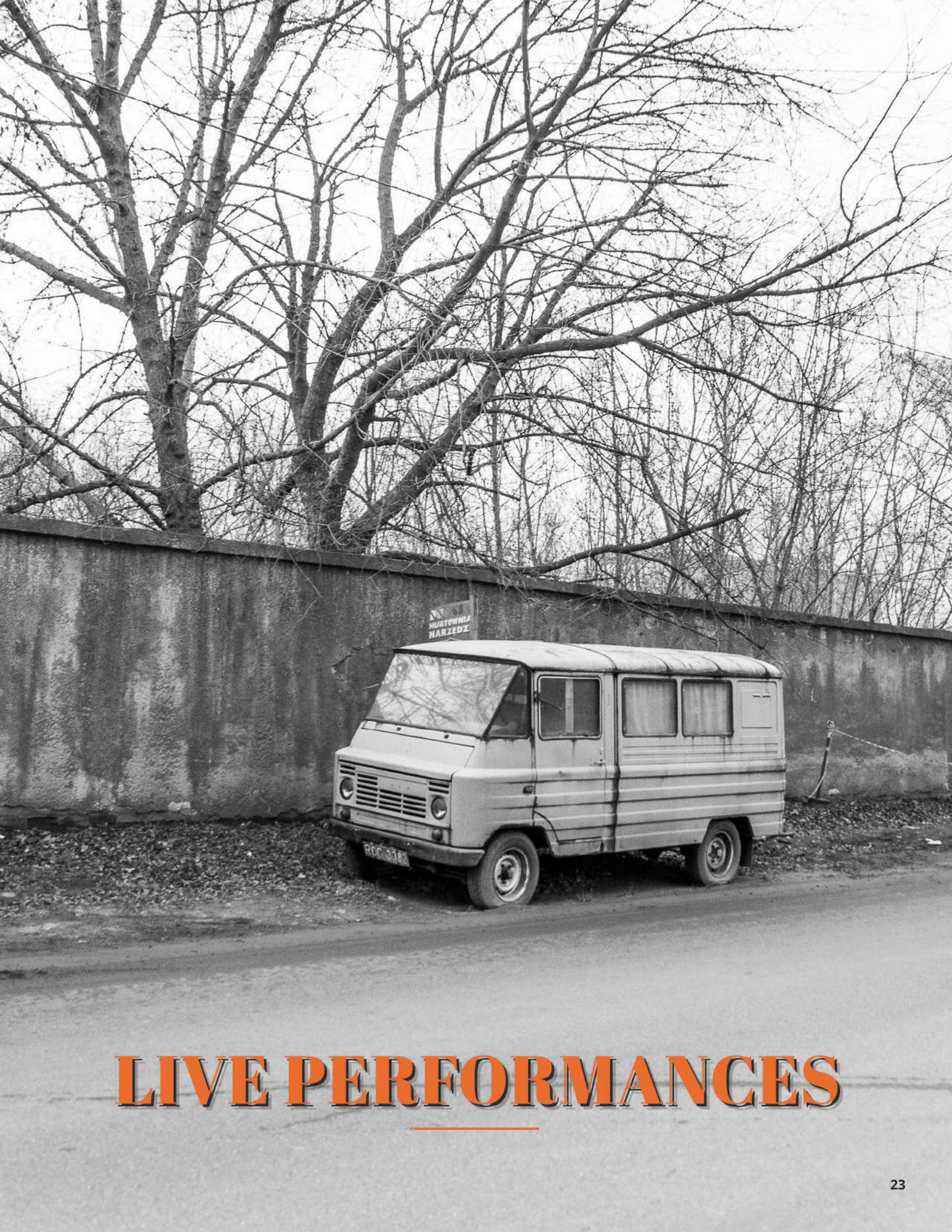
I wrote that we can hear from many sources these days (especially those associated with the mainstream media on the Internet or television) that adversity should be avoided in a post titled "Adversity. The media and many people will tell us that our lives should be full of joy and happiness. Smiling faces on billboards tell us that we will be happy if we buy a product from an "X" company. In a post about adversity, I wanted to present some facts about the life of Fyodor Dostoevsky. Here they are:

- the Russian writer in his youth was accused of conspiracy against the Russian Tsar and sentenced to death;
- minutes before his execution, he was pardoned and sent to a remote corner of Siberia for hard labor;
- He spent ten years of his life in exile;
- After returning from Siberia, he had two wives;
- after the death of his first wife, he became depressed;
- the famous Russian writer became addicted to gambling;
- he had to emigrate because of debts - he lived in Western Europe for several years;
- one of his children died at a very young age.

Why did I write about all these facts? Many of the themes mentioned above appear in Dostoevsky's works. I want to make you aware, my Dear Friend, that joy and happiness are only one of the many elements of human life. The truth is, however trite it may be, that it is adversity that makes us stronger, as long as it doesn't break us. Success is often created in pain and sweat. The example of several facts from the biography of the Russian writer perfectly proves this. The truth is that Dostoevsky experienced many unhappy moments in his life. Still, at the same time, he was an extremely prolific, brilliant writer. Today he is a true legend among the creators of the written word and permanently inscribed in the annals of history, not only of literature but all of mankind. What lessons can we draw from the text entitled "Adversity"?

ADVERSITY

- 1) Don't listen to the commercials and most of the nonsense you will see and hear on the screens. Above all, listen to your inner voice. Answer yourself honestly about what you would like to do in life and pursue it.
- 2) Accept adversity, no matter how big the problem. Try to overcome adversity with confidence that you will become stronger. I know some situations can overwhelm us. Nevertheless, keep fighting (especially with yourself, i.e., your own weaknesses) - for yourself and your loved ones.
- 3) Don't follow luxury and comfort by force. By acquiring them, you can easily rest on your laurels. You can be happy without them. I encourage you to have a more noble, valuable (not to be confused with profitable) and meaningful purpose in life than acquiring a fortune. The seven deadly sins, after all, were not sent to us by carrier pigeon from heaven. What's more, none of us were told about them as part of a starter pack right at birth or via email. They were invented and written down by a clever (emphasis on that!) human mind.
- 4) Create. This is one of the best ways to remain immortal after death.
- 5) Remember that your life will end in death sooner or later. This kind of thinking makes you change your perspective on many things, and the problems of everyday life usually turn out to be mere trifles.
- 6) Don't listen to me. Better study the biography of Fyodor Dostoevsky and learn from his biography.



LIVE PERFORMANCES

LIVE PERFORMANCES

The last post published in April 2019 was called "Live Performances." I wrote that I like to watch "live" performances most on the YouTube platform because I don't like crowds. When I wrote about live performance, I didn't mean live streaming on YouTube - I don't watch that kind of streaming. As for me, there are too many of those kinds of things, and watching them is not the purpose of my life. Nevertheless, in the post "Live Performances," I wrote about my favorite live performances available on YouTube that have taken place in the past and even in the somewhat distant past. Here are examples of songs I like to revisit in the virtual space:

- 1) Sugarcubes "Cat" - I love admiring Bjork's youthful energy displayed in the video. According to the YouTube description, the concert took place in 1988.
- 2) Rage Against the Machine "Killing in the name of," - an energetic performance from 1993, creates a desire to act, be active, and create something from nothing.
- 3) Madonna's "Into the Groove" - This concert took place in 1985 as part of "The Virgin Tour." I love admiring Madonna's enthusiasm and how touring makes her happy.
- 4) Queen "I'm In Love With My Car" - I published a separate post about this performance, which took place in Montreal in 1981, in the "Diaries" 03.2018 p. I.
- 5) Manu Chao's "Bobby Marley" - The positive message and energy that comes from this song often make me feel better by now.

I'm curious, my Dear Friend, what are some of your favorite live performances? There are undoubtedly many more performances of this type worth seeing.



THE END
