

ADAM MAZEK

Diaries

07.2019 - p. 1



CHILDHOOD

As we all know, childhood plays a crucial role in everyone's life. It is undoubtedly the most essential stage in the formation of a person's character and the whole organism. Practically everything that happens in childhood will play a vital role in the future of mature people. Take the youth of Fyodor Dostoevsky as an example. Well, when he was a child, he often went to theaters. In addition, when he was twelve years old (!), he read all the novels of Walter Scott. Using this particular example, we see how important it is for a child to grow up in a quiet place where there is an opportunity to develop interests. The life of the Russian writer is the best proof of this.

Another excellent example of being raised in a quiet place conducive to overall development is Salvador Dali. The Spanish artist also had the opportunity to develop his talent when he was a child. Dali was artistically prolific while in his teens. Another example of a man who had opportunities to create extensively during his childhood and youth is Stanley Kubrick. The American director dabbled in photography in his youth. For example, he took pictures for a magazine published at his school. All of the geniuses, as mentioned above, are excellent examples of how children's needs should be met. They are probably a good example of how a child's imagination should be properly satisfied and shaped according to the nature of the child. All indications are that if a child is allowed to be creative in his or her own youthful way, a new artist is likely to emerge in the cultural world. I think this is the perfect opportunity to thank my beloved Parents for everything they have done for me. My Mom and Dad provided me with a peaceful environment in which I developed. I know that they did everything to accomplish this arch-difficult task. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for all the patience, tolerance, understanding, and knowledge you gave me in my childhood and throughout my life.

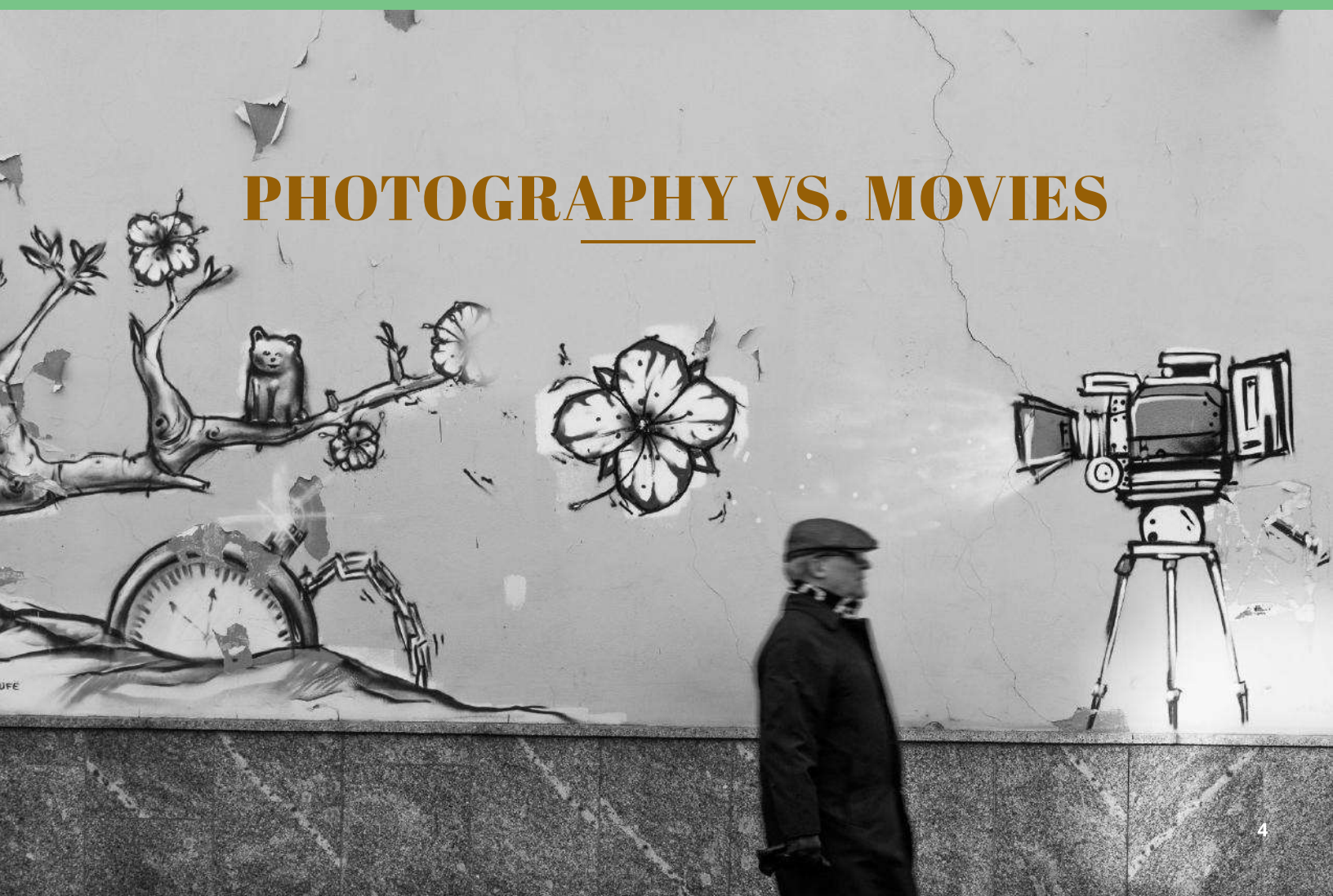


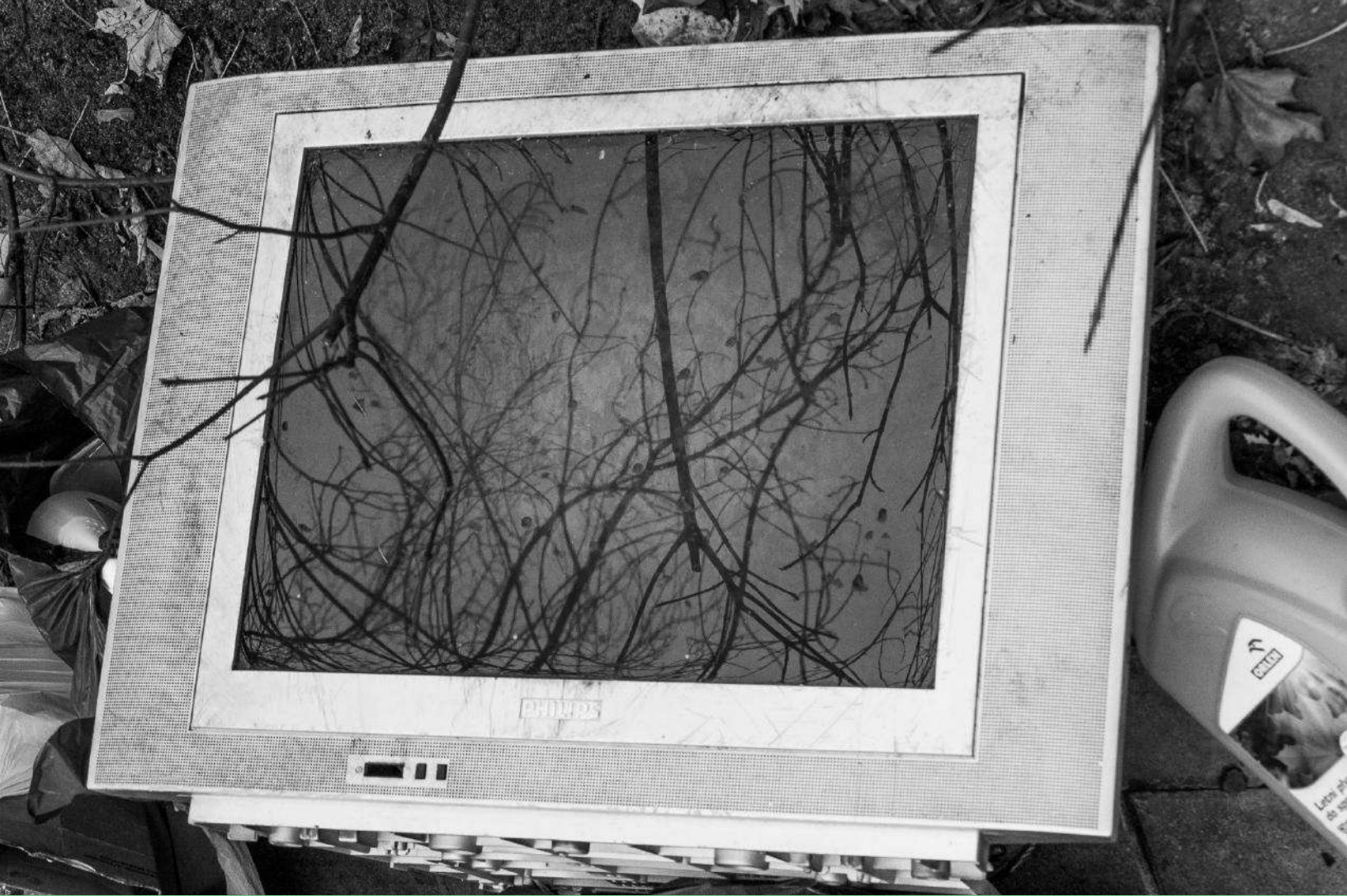
CHILDHOOD

Sometimes I wonder who would win my imaginary skirmish over which is "better": photography or cinematography. After a moment's reflection, I conclude that this confrontation is pointless. Every kind of artistic expression has its own advantages and disadvantages. Comparing related but completely different forms of visual and audiovisual expression is challenging. It is impossible to say which style is "better" in the confrontation "Photography vs. movies" Both forms play a huge role in the cultural world. It seems that films' important goal and achievement is to create an image of new stars.

On the other hand, photography's role is to sustain the visual cult of artists and celebrities more widely. Both cinema and photography, as it were, keep stars alive, even after their death. I sincerely admire artists that people watch, listen to, or read even decades after the artists' deaths.

PHOTOGRAPHY VS. MOVIES





- Post „Photography vs. movies“

PHOTOGRAPHY VS. MOVIES

Time plays a crucial function in whether a particular actor or photographer can be defined by the fact that he was appreciated. Therefore, in today's text, I will give examples of stars who are no longer with us. The first of these is James Dean, a legendary figure of cinematography. His memorable roles in films such as "East of Eden" (1955), "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955), and "Giant" (1956) made him a cinema icon. The legend of the American actor continues to this day. Dean's image has also been sustained by, among other things, photographs by Dennis Stock. A second example of how photography can maintain the myth of a movie star is undoubtedly Marilyn Monroe. Her roles in such films as "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953) and "Some Like It Hot" (1959) were memorable roles that ensured her immortality.

PHOTOGRAPHY VS. MOVIES

On the other hand, photographs taken by Bert Stern (taken shortly before Monroe's death) helped maintain the star's cult status. As seen from the above examples, cinema and photography are wonderfully able to complement each other, in a way "cooperating" rather than competing, for the benefit of the stars and the cultural world. As we can see from the examples of James Dean and Marilyn Monroe, when moving and fixed images work together, then really great, great things can be created. In conclusion, I want to emphasize that there is no winner and loser in the duel "Photography vs. movies." Both visual forms have their masterpieces. If skillfully combined, they can create real gems that mankind will admire for decades and probably hundreds of years to come.

• *Post „Chaos vs. harmony“*



CHAOS VS. HARMONY

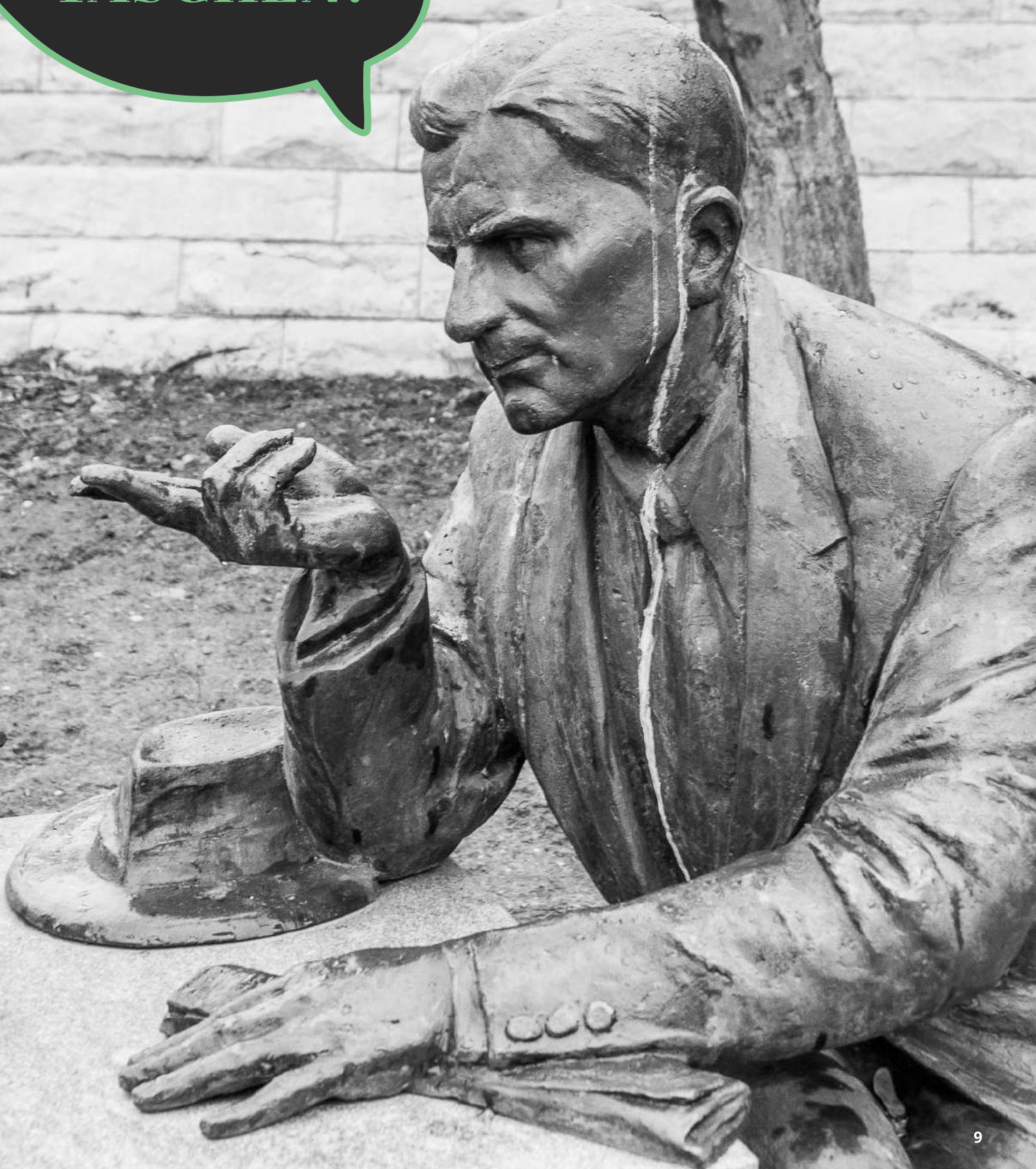


CHAOS VS. HARMONY

I often wonder whether the Universe is ruled by chaos or harmony. Sometimes I see it as a battle between order and chance. After a moment's reflection, my conclusions are usually the same. I believe that harmony rules the world. I will try to explain, my Dear Friend, why I think so. Just because we don't understand something, that we can't explain many of the processes around us, and thus believe that chaos rules our world, doesn't mean that there is no order that we can't grasp with our minds. The limitation of human understanding is not proof that chaos is the answer to many questions. I have mentioned this in previous posts and will continue to write about it because we know very little about the Universe. To me, the chaos that people often talk about is apparent chaos. I believe that there are eternal laws and orders that we do not perceive. However, to me, stars and atoms are symbolic proof of this. Human civilization still has much to discover. However, I am convinced that humans will explore only a fraction of the laws that exist around us. Just because we can't see and understand many processes in both the human body and the cosmos doesn't mean that there are no orders and laws. We, humans, have a limited ability to understand.

Specific laws will certainly never be known by us. We will probably annihilate our own civilization faster. However, I believe that in the battle of "Chaos vs. harmony," the winner is the latter. Even if I can't prove it, I think it's the correct answer. We are not the center of the world. We will never discover many physical, chemical, biological, or mathematical laws. The world will be a mystery to mankind until the end of our days. We will never find proof that the world is governed by an eternal order. However, my belief that chaos is no answer is usually unwavering.

**READ
TASCHEN!**



READ TASCHEN!

I recently realized that in 2018 I read practically only books by Taschen publishing house, which I wrote about in a post titled "Read Taschen!". Reading and analyzing books published by the German publishing company is an excellent feast for the mind, imagination, and soul alike. The exception when I did not read a Taschen book in 2018 was during the vacations. At that time, we went with my beloved Kamilka to the Masurian lakes, among other places. While there, I read a book by Leo Tolstoy entitled "The Kreutzer Sonata." However, it is true that my reading love is burning more and more towards the German publisher. I suppose this feeling will last for the rest of my life. What captivates me about their books? Without a doubt, the answer is the highest quality photos and texts. After analyzing and contemplating virtually all of the books I have at home (more than forty copies, but I have only read some of them in their entirety), I realized one thing. The images in each item and the texts must be presented at the highest possible level. For example, let's look at the artistic legacy of Leonardo da Vinci. Many books have already been published on the subject. There are many albums of paintings and drawings of the Italian genius on the market. Undoubtedly, the Taschen edition in XXL format, entitled "Leonardo da Vinci. The Complete Paintings," is a masterpiece in itself! The authors are Frank Zöllner and Johannes Nathan. When I read this edition, when I contemplate and analyze all the details from the Italian artist's works, I find that this is probably the best way to comprehensively learn about his works. I find it a much more enjoyable and thorough way to learn about da Vinci's artistic legacy than scrolling through a smartphone screen. It also seems to me to be a better way to familiarize yourself with his work than walking through the museums of Europe. Why? First, it is probably impossible to collect all of Leonardo's works in one place. Consequently, there is no way to analyze the details of the artworks in one place. Going back to the Internet for a moment, there is certainly no comprehensive information on the web about individual paintings, as well as the genius himself. In conclusion, I encourage you, My Dear Friend, to read Taschen. Believe me. You will not regret it. If you want to explore the works of the masters in depth, there is probably no better option. I know I'm doing free advertising for the German publishing house in this way. Still, the truth is that their products are most simply worthy of recommendation.

**READ
TASCHEN!**



A black and white photograph of a tree trunk with a large knot hole, overlaid with the name 'SCHOPENHAUER' in green text. The text is centered and has a thin green underline. The background shows a dense network of bare tree branches against a light sky.

SCHOPENHAUER

SCHOPENHAUER

Have I read any of Arthur Schopenhauer's works? Unfortunately, but no. Nevertheless, the famous German philosopher inspired me to write this text entitled "Schopenhauer." I came across the Schopenhauer quote while reading a book by Taschen publishing house titled "D&AD. The Copy Book." What did the section sound like? As follows:

We forfeit 3/4 of ourselves in order to be like other people.

Reading this made me realize that I have been sacrificing myself for most of my life to become someone I don't want to be. However, what does this actually mean? It means that I unconsciously wanted to be an artist for most of my life. I wanted to be someone who creates both photographs and texts, but I was convinced that being an artist was reserved only for people who had been creating art since childhood. Examples include painters such as Monet, Picasso, and Dali. For a large part of my life, I was sure that if I didn't start creating, painting, writing, etc., I would have no chance of becoming an artist. Now I see that I was very wrong. Each of us can become an artist. It's only up to us when we start making something out of nothing. Genius artists are not necessarily born with a sign on their foreheads saying, "Hey, I'm an artist!" Today, I believe that hard, creative, rewarding, and fun work is the central aspect that can make us respected artists. Of course, if you are talented, there is a high probability that you will succeed faster. In some fields of art (such as singing), talent is even essential. However, even talented people need hard work to achieve their goals. I want to make you aware today, my Dear Friend, that we can all create art here and now without waiting for anything.

However, what is art? I have developed this theme in previous texts, including the "Diaries" 01.2019 p. II. In conclusion, I encourage you to be what you want to be. If you dream of becoming a writer, start writing today. Don't listen to me, but rather to Schopenhauer. Ask yourself a simple question: what do I really want to do in my life? Personally, I find that I would like, among other things, to become more familiar with the works of the German philosopher. I am convinced that it is simply worth doing.

SCHOPENHAUER



M.C. ESCHER



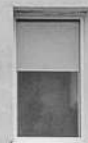
M.C. ESCHER

Last time, thanks to the Taschen publishing house, I became acquainted with the highly inspiring drawings of the Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher. His efforts to depict a three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional plane are a feast for both the mind and the eye. One of the most astonishing facts about M.C. Escher is that he was not a mathematician. Nevertheless, his works were of interest to mathematicians worldwide, including the question of infinity. In my text, I compared the Dutchman's drawings and lithographs with my photographic work. For me, walking the same streets of Warsaw again and again, but at different times of the year, at other times of the day, and in different directions, is like discovering the works of M.C. Escher. Every time I go out to take pictures or analyze the results of the famous Dutch master, I rediscover it all over again. Works of art that show objects that really can't exist, or the exploration of infinity, all performed by the Dutch printmaker, can be interpreted each time differently or viewed and analyzed from an entirely different perspective.

What exactly do you have in mind?

You could ask me, my Dear Friend. I recommend, for example, looking at the works of M.C. Escher every time upside down! Look at one of his most famous works, titled "Relativity." Every time I see this work, I wonder how such an impossible and unbelievable structure can be depicted on a two-dimensional surface! Following a similar line, I wonder how it is possible that walking down Woronicza Street in Warsaw for the thousandth time, I can take a good photo almost every time. In conclusion, I encourage you, my Dear Friend, to get to know the works of M.C. Escher. I am convinced that you will not regret it. I recommend you buy or borrow Bruno Ernst's book (Taschen Publishing House), titled "The Magic Mirror of M.C. Escher." I also recommend photographing the area around where you live. In this way, you will begin to rediscover the reality around you and the dimensions hidden in it.

M.C. ESCHER



TOUGH CHALLENGE

I wrote about how I find it paradoxically hard to focus most of my energy on the things I like to do in a post titled "Tough challenge." Moreover, concentrating your energies on things others will admire is a challenge. So what is this mysterious thing that can give joy to life and, at the same time, give other people a sense of fun, hope, and existential cue? It is, of course, art in the broadest sense.

Why is something you enjoy doing, which is creating art, difficult for you to do?

Undoubtedly, you could ask me, my Dear Friend. The answer is simple. It's all about money. We all have obligations and bills to pay. Photography is not the source of my income. I am an accountant. In this post, I want to express that it is challenging to be a prolific creator and professional accountant. In fact, it takes much less time with friends to reconcile one's work in finance with one's artistic passion. I photograph, write, and run my blog in my spare time. Taking pictures after sitting in an office for 8 hours is still a tough challenge. Do you know, my Dear Friend, why I can still do all this after almost four years of artistic activity? It is because I immensely and consistently believe in myself and all my creative endeavors. Creating something from nothing is undoubtedly one of the main goals of my life. This activity gives me incredible satisfaction and is, for me, like oxygen. Without it, a part of my soul would die. Without sacrificing other things in my life that I used to do before I started regularly photographing (such as meeting friends regularly or going to the pool), I would not be able to create my work.

In conclusion, the main thing that helps me overcome the difficult challenge (balancing my office job and creating art) is that I greatly believe in myself. This is the perfect time to thank my beloved Mom, Dad, and Kamilka for the support and patience they have provided me. It is primarily because of you that I am who I am. Without you, I would not be able to meet the complex challenge of combining my work as an accountant, taking photos, writing, and running the www.adammazek.com website.

• *Images in the p. 19: post "Tough challenge"*



THE END