

**Photography and Graphics: “Islands of Happiness”
and “Anatomy of the Apocalypse”,
The State Gallery of Art, SOPOT, 2018.**

The exhibition presented here consists of two parts which are like two sisters: the first one is named “carelessness” while the other- “care”. This dichotomy results from the observation that there is **an immeasurable difference between what people are seeking and what mankind is heading for: people strive for happiness and humanity is heading towards self-annihilation.**

Created in the atmosphere of carefree and fun, full of colour and forms inspired by the imagination, the collection “Islands of Happiness” refers to the human dream of happiness. One of its contemporary exemplifications are the trips to exotic beaches, where in mental bliss the millions can splash around in the warm turquoise waters, sunbathing on deckchairs, sipping cold beer. The title of this collection clearly refers to the book by Abraham Moles “The Psychology of Kitsch”. Kitsch is an important part of our culture: aren't the gardens of happiness described in Qur'an as well as the biblical Paradise a model, well grounded in the culture, kitsch that millions of people dream about? Some elements of kitsch occur across the whole field of art, even in the so-called high art. Being aware of this fact is essential for the proper functioning of our criteria of appraisal and acceptance.

The collection “Islands of Happiness, as well as “Rosarium” before, is my voice in the discourse on the limits of photography. The term “photography” has never been unambiguous. If we identify this concept with the colloquial meaning of the term “photo”, it must be clearly stated that this collection does not consist of “photos”. If, on the other hand, we understand the term “photography” rather as a technology for obtaining an image then, such an approach describes better the works included in this collection. They remind us of paintings or graphics, yet they are not ones in the strict sense. It seems to me to be more appropriate to include them within digital graphics, where a “photo” is a starting point.

“Anatomy of the Apocalypse” is above all my rebellion against what is happening in the world today-and especially in Poland. It is the revolt not only against common apathy but also infantilised elite- these phenomena lead humankind toward destruction. Pandora’s box is now wide open and nothing will change it. The devastation of Earth’s eco-system is progressing with an increasing speed- like a deadly ball on the slippery slope; nothing is able to stop it. Today, it is already certain that anthropogenic emission of carbon dioxide is the main cause of the global environmental catastrophe. This emission is now growing by 2,8% per year. If this level continues, the emission will be doubled in 25 years, quadrupled in 50 years, reaching the level eight times higher in 75 years’ time. It is pathetic that the Kyoto Protocol (1997) did

not make the world politics realize anything, whereas a recently signed Paris agreement (2016)- although binding for countries responsible for 55 % of emission- does not give any hope of stopping the global catastrophe.

The Earth's nature is in its caricature state: 60% of mammals are breeding animals (mainly cattle and pigs), 36%- people, only 4% are wildlife . The state of the Great Barrier Reef is significant: a third part of coral in its northern and central parts is already dead, and over 90% of the remaining corals is getting whiter what means they are dying. It is 25 million years old- the humankind needed barely 200 years to destroy it. Glaciers are melting faster and faster, the lack of drinking water and hunger caused by drought will affect billions of people; the level of the oceans is increasing- migrations on unprecedented scale are inevitable. Bangladesh is the first to sink- the relocation of 50-100 million of people will be essential.

Poland is a country with the most polluted air in Europe. For more than a quarter of the century the authorities have been deaf to the warnings of the scientists. The ignorance of people, who never doubt their case, does not prepare the country for what will happen in the near future. In the draft of such an important document as “Environmental Policy of the State 2030” no responsible concept of decarbonisation of Energy and heating is presented. There are 50 nuclear reactors and 150 000 heat pumps

in France. Whereas we have Bełchatów, the deadliest power and heating plant in Europe, that burns 10 000 tons of coal daily every winter, emitting 33 million tons of carbon dioxide and 3 tons of mercury yearly.

We are all responsible for what awaits the next generations. The society needs to be woken up by presenting and promoting the truth of the scientific research. And the elite finally needs to understand that politics- just like religion- must not contradict science.

The key essential for understanding the message of the exhibition “Anatomy of the Apocalypse” is the author’s vision described in the following words: **“Somewhere in the XXII century. The air contains less and less oxygen and more and more carbon dioxide. Global Ocean is dying of acidification, merciless radiation burns away the remnants of life on Earth. The last, tormented victims of this hecatomb send us a simple and concise message: BE CURSED!”**

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