

JUDYTA PAPP'S DREAM

interview by Marek Łuszczyna

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Janusz Głowacki would keep opening one eye and say: „Judy, that's enough, OK? it's so intimidating to me”. Thanks to him and to all who contributed to organising this auction in which photos from the „Dream” album will be sold I once again want to live and work in Poland – an interview with Judyta Papp, an artist. Why does everyone have closed eyes?

Because most people sleep with their eyes closed. Are you asking why I gave up a stereotype portrait of a man and got interested with the sleep motive?

Well, yes. „Why does this photo reporter always do faces with their eyes closed” I once heard of a colleague, at one newspaper. They say „there's nothing in the photo then”.

There's something else; when a man is closing his eyes, it's as if he was looking inside of himself. The setting of his body is changing then, his emotional state. Very important was the context and subject of the photo. I tried to put each character in a proper setting, fitting his person, in a most personal position, situation.

Katarzyna Kolenda-Zaleska, the reporter, looks like if she was having a little nap, ready to launch a charge immediately, while Janusz Głowacki sleeps a sleep of the just, resembling Flea of the „Antigone in New York”.

He would keep opening one eye and say: „Judy, that's enough, OK?, it's so intimidating to me”. Photographing a man without eye contact turned out to be something fascinating, allowing to draw from his face some previously unknown expressive values, not dominated with eyesight, undisturbed with a look. Because eyes say a lot but not everything: in a situation of sleep an intimate language of the body speaks up.

And everything is new in your work, except standards. Was it hard to work with your models?

Surprisingly – it is harder to work with a model who is a good friend of yours since they can be distracting. They would say: I will lie down on the grass with my eyes closed, you do your thing and we go for coffee. But I need time. A conversation generally disturbs a session, photography demands a lot of concentration – both mine and of the Photographed ones. It wasn't about a photo with eyes closed, it was about dreaming – and that is an acting challenge...

But with Anna Dymna, who is a friend of yours it went smoothly.

Anna is an outstanding artist, a true professional. The camera loves her.

And didn't you think of persuading your characters into an authentic night session, during authentic sleeping?

What for? This was not a photojournalism task, it wasn't about naturalism, it was about art. About beauty. I wanted to carry out an artistic project in a given convention, and not a superficial peeping at intimate life, which surely includes sleeping. I think that what I was looking for will be fully visible in the „Dream” photo book in which the whole idea will be contained. You will be able to see it soon...

13 sleeping characters will find their way to the auction organised in May for the TVN Foundation.

Yes, the project is carried out for the TVN Foundation, which will be its beneficiary, but Anna Dymna as the cooperation between these charity organisations, lack of competition or rivalry is an important value. There is no problem of competition; we can do something together, so we're doing it – this is a way of thinking very familiar to me. I am also glad that the Metropolitane of Warsaw – Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz accepted patronate over the whole auction and it shall take place at his Curia. For me there is a special significance behind the presence in this auction of a photograph of Czesław Miłosz: I took it in my first session with the Poet, whose poems on dreams are wonderful.

Was there anything that disturbed your sleep during preparations to the auction?

That we have a global crisis and that many companies were forced to cut their advertising budgets and funds for charities. While the crisis could bring people closer, make them share initiatives aimed at mutual support. Despite hard times – we managed, thanks to the many good-willing people and companies, to get some aid, among others like Qumak Sekom. Persons starring in the photographs also deserve credit as well as the magnificent stars of the TVN who will lead the auction. Also Adam Sztaba who will present a recital with Michał Rudaś from his recent record. All who participated in organising the auction understand the importance of sharing with fellow humans. Therefore, thanks to such people and their passion it is so nice to live and work in our country.

For what other reasons you cannot sleep?

I nearly don't sleep at all, I often work till 3 a.m. -the night I is more peaceful, besides this is almost half to four, America is waking up, when you have to disconnect Asia is waking up and there are a lot of issues to discuss. I sleep very little but I don't suffer because of that. Sleeping is dying for a while. Right?

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