

The University of Rzeszów
The College of Humanities
The Institute of Fine Arts
Rzeszów, 2019

Doctoral Advisor
Professor Marek A. Olszyński, Ph. D, the University of Rzeszów

Abstract

Małgorzata Józefowicz **„Phenomenon of Podlasie existence”**

Abstract

The work of art, which constitutes the key part of this doctoral thesis, is a cycle of ten graphics made on positive offset plates. This work is supplemented by an artbook titled “Closer brings further”, created as a digital print, as well as a self-commentary of my works. The commentary begins with the memories of my childhood, and then goes into the description of existence in Podlasie in its historical, cultural, anthropological, and personal aspects. All this is one creation titled “The Phenomenon of Podlasie Existence”. The doctoral thesis is a summary of the analyses and research; a somewhat violet encounter with various inspirations, people, adventures, stories, observations of everyday life, and simply being in Podlasie.

The main idea behind this project is an attempt to capture the Podlasie existence – individual ‘being’ –personal nature against many possible sounds and colours of Podlasie. A person lives here, in a place where contemporary world of civilisation and technology meets tradition, nature, superstition, and folklore. The existence in Podlasie seems to be surrealistic and primitive. Surrealistic and strange, impossible to comprehend with cold logic. Primitive – primevally remaining in an inseparable contact with nature, tradition, rituals, and rites. I attempt to express this primitive relation with nature and tradition, surrealistic mixture of technology, modernity, magic, and wonder, in my works – capture the colours, the atmosphere of individual Podlasie experience.

Artistic work is my way of expressing my approach to “Podlasie-ness” through the language of graphics; retelling of what is happening in reality and beyond it.

The diversity, contrast, characteristic both of Podlasie and my works, the combination of literalness and understatement, is also an invitation for the audience to build their own spaces and stories.

