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Special Report On ZDZISLAW BEKSINSKI

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Zdzislaw Beksiniski, a leading Polish surrealist painter known for his images of death, was found stabbed to death at his Warsaw home on Tuesday, police said. Beksiniski, 75, was considered one of 's leading contemporary artists. He emerged on the Polish art scene in the 1950s and was best known for his abstract renditions of skeletons, monster-like creatures and other apocalyptic images evoking death and decay. Relatives found Beksiniski's body overnight, and "everything indicates it was murder," police spokeswoman Zuzanna Talar said. He suffered multiple stab wounds, and police said there were no signs of forced entry or robbery. Three days later, police charged two teenagers with the slaying. One suspect, the son of Beksiniski's friend and aide, confessed

to killing the painter.

Born in Sanok, Beksinski studied architecture at the Cracow University of Technology. He soon developed a passion for artistic pursuits, such as painting, sculpting, photography and drawing. Working to the strains of classical music, Beksinski created intricately detailed pieces of surreal art. In the 1970s and 1980s, he became popular in fantasy art circles for his nightmarish paintings of cemeteries, alien creatures and apocalyptic scenes.



Although he was often compared to Ernst Fuchs, the Austrian founder of a fantastic-realism school, and Swiss artist H.R. Giger, Beksinski was a contemporary master in his own right. Exhibitions of his always-untitled work appeared in the , Europe and , and collectors paid thousands for a single canvas. His book, "The Fantastic Art of Beksinski," was published in 1998. "We all see death before our eyes," Beksinski said at the opening of an exhibition of his work at Warsaw's Zacheta Gallery in 2002, the news agency PAP reported. "I am not an exception." "Personally, I am more afraid of dying than death itself. This is not a fear of emptiness but of suffering – and this is what I am most afraid of." Prior to moving to Warsaw in 1977, Beksinski burned several of his paintings because they failed to meet his exacting standards or were "too personal." His wife, Zofia, died in 1998. A year later, on Christmas Eve, his son Tomasz committed suicide.

Sources & Images originally found at: [fancy_link color="white" link="<http://www.beksinski.pl>"] Beksinski's Official Web Site [/fancy_link]
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