

The second anniversary of Beksiński's tragic death is coming soon. I would like to commemorate it by acquainting the audience of my virtual gallery with one more form of his creation – the photography. Only now can I publish Beksiński's photos, although chronologically it is the photography that made him enter the world of art for the first time. This form of art was practiced by Beksiński in the 1950s. Then he became mainly engaged in drawing and sculpting. In the second half of the 1960s he took up oil painting on fibreboard, and in the 90s and 2000s – graphics and computer photomontage. Despite the fact that photography was the first form of contact with art spelled with capital A, he immediately took a prominent position in it, which was reflected in the number of awards that he received at different international exhibitions. What is more, until today his photographs have retained their original character despite all the novelties appearing in this field all over the world since that time. Although from the point of view of the tool they differ from painting, these works foreshadowed his later art, as they were rather formal compositions than successful reports. In these compositions human figures and faces are merely props the arrangement of which, lighting and framing are supposed to directly lead, without any stories, to the gist, that is to the impression of beauty.

His models were usually his wife and other close relatives and friends who surrounded him in his youth in the family town of Sanok. However, despite the fact that in Beksiński's art they are merely a pretext for the play of form, it is not „cold” photography. On the contrary, apart from the impression of beauty through the play of colours, the artist also attempts to evoke the deepest feelings in the viewer's psyche. In those years Beksiński was still a young man, but his art revolved around the fear of death that he desperately wanted to forget throughout his life by unceasingly talking about it.

I would also like to mention that the original positives of the photographs I am presenting are housed in the National Museum in Wrocław.

Piotr Dmochowski