

Summary

SYLWIA SWISLOCKA-KARWOT (University of Wrocław) / "I thought red was too brash". A memory of Marian Poźniak

In the following paper the author takes a systematic and descriptive approach to the oeuvre of Marian Poźniak, an outstanding painter, a former longstanding scholar at The Wrocław University of Science and Technology, a member of Wrocław Group which gathered the most excellent personalities of Wrocław art. He seemed to stand aside the conceptual tendencies vivid after the mid 1960s. The artist remained a painter till the very last days of his life. He was a groundbreaking, original artist whose art was admired by both laypeople and contemporary art critics. Marian Poźniak never followed a strategy codified in a certain style of painting. He always treated a picture as a vehicle for traces left behind relations between a world of ideas and a world of people. Therefore it may be said that Marian Poźniak's creative process used to begin not at the moment of haptic recognition of the world but at the moment of concentrating the reflections on the world, of defining the e n d o f r e a l i t y (its essence), which becomes at the very same moment the b e g i n n i n g of a new being – an autonomous p a i n t i n g. The artist is not interested in temporality of the reality. This feeling forced him to apply experimental techniques. These techniques allowed him to create paintings of disintegrated and fragmented form. Only such approach to a creative process guarantees the state "of being on the way". It defines a formula of being incapable of getting used to anything, and an endless escape from what already was, what had been captured in a brush's touch. Only this attitude prevents from depriving of freedom. Marian Poźniak appears to be a nomad who discovered within himself a memory of ancestors, which gave him strength to escape beyond a stable system, and an official art order. It is worth mentioning that this sort of journey does not equal resistance to the world. Just on the contrary, thanks to this resistance, the artist has gained his fluid identity. By creating he liberates himself from himself and also from the identity constructed by the others' expectations. He simply "does his job".