

Jarema Drogowski

"Open
space



closed
space



“Open space - closed space”
screen print, paper, 2 x 80cm/120cm

That work consists of a number of questions and observations coded in paintings which are a cycle consisting of a collection of thoughts which have been bothering me for a while. The arguments and conclusions I formulate don't result from laboratory research, but from the artistic analysis and philosophical penetration of the modern world and of people. The cycle of works with complementary plots that picture a few important aspects that, for me, provide the idea of human nature. Due to the form and contents of that work, I'm leaving it without a univocal summary, thus making it open.

“Open space - closed space”

To take the picture for that graphic I used the Mamiya RZ 67 camera with the lens with 65 mm focal length. The picture was developed from a black and white plate. I use analogue photograph when I want the material to be recorded on a photosensitive material with a physical process, without the use of electronic interpretation like in the case of digital photo cameras. Analogue photograph provides the most direct transfer. With the combination of a physical and chemical process, we thus arrive at the most objective medium.

It's striking that in the society there exists the criterion of “good and evil” based on which it is able to indicate which entity deserves correctional isolation. Another striking thing is that the criterion for that assessment is not stable and may change based on circumstances. For example, during war there is a general consent for killing, robbing and appropriating space. In turn, if the same entity performed these acts in “times of peace”, it would be punished with imprisonment. Leaving aside the issue of the very criterion of assessment and the disputable impartiality of the bodies establishing that criterion - I'm rather interested in another aspect of isolation.

In that work I analyze the limitation of personal liberty. For the first time this problem struck me when, together with a film crew, I entered the film set inside a prison cell. At the gates I had to leave my phone and other electronic devices with the guard. After that I was allowed to pass through further gates, doors and barriers - and each time I kept feeling that I was immersing in an enslaving space. I found myself as if in a different world. The space with rules different than the ones that exist everyday. What was striking was the claustrophobic offensive of the system aimed at isolating the prisoners, and at that time - also isolating me. Inside the building I stood at the doors

behind which there were prisoners. The physical distance between us was about one metre. The distance of a stretched-out arm.

It was in that space that I could best feel the electrifying power of the border between freedom and captivity. Although the distance of one step is small for an ordinary citizen, in that case the one step, understood as the inability to make it, became an insurmountable barrier. The barrier that divided the space not only in the physical, but also in the absolute sense. The total division between the worlds based on completely different conditions. And between the units living in two completely different types of space. The prison at the Rakowiecka street is a place in the city similar to a black hole in space. It's a zone of an independent, different being. And the people staying in prison are not actually isolated, but placed in a different world. The human body, created to move and act, becomes bound to the area of the several square metres of a cell. Based on the generally accepted, common law that is in force "there", outside.

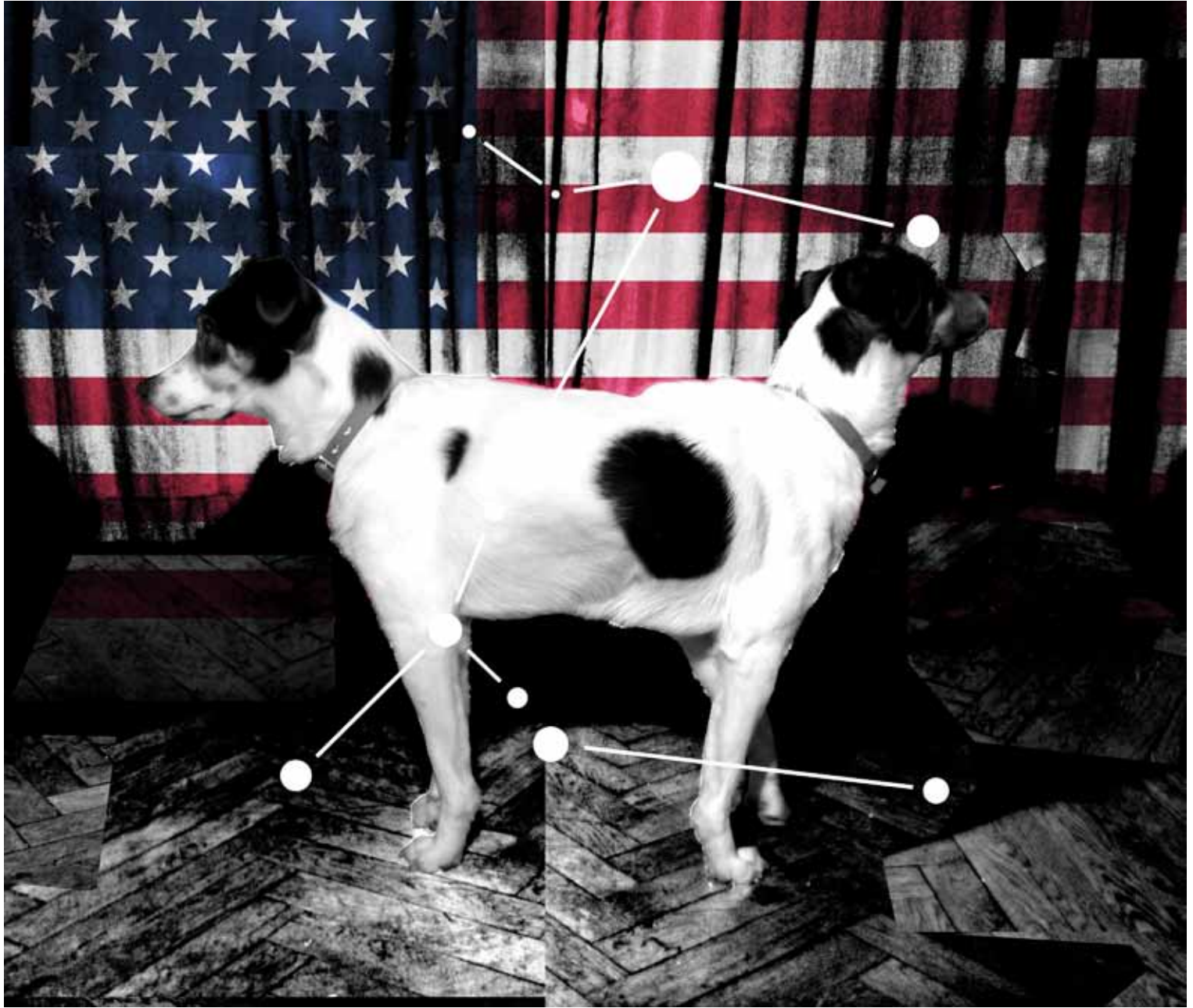
What is an especially shocking case is the penalty of life isolation. As a result of some behaviours or acts, a man becomes isolated from the rest of the society until the end of his life. Such a person retains the right to exist, but his world will now be a closed space. I don't understand temporary isolation as a fragment of the whole, as the back of the coin with freedom on its front. The people placed in isolation are bound by the rules that are completely different from the people living in freedom. You can't understand such life as a punishment, but rather as a transfer to a different world. A top-security world. Such a world may be understood as a completely independent being. The space that exists just for itself, and in the case of a life imprisonment - becomes the ultimate shape of the world.

What I pay attention to in my work is the power of human mind. Like a mouse running in a spinning wheel which creates a semblance of freedom, the man in a closed space that's full of limitations is still able to create something of a tunnel between him and freedom. Or rather a portal allowing him to be transferred to another dimension. The "squash" game is a kind of such a tunnel.

The game was invented by the prisoners in "The Fleet" prison in London. Its appearance was due to the need for movement. That version of lawn tennis, known today all over the world, was created from the determination of the men who wanted to open the closed space. The prisoners who stand

on the court (in the prison yard) are transferred into another dimension, free from prison isolation. Different rules apply to them then - the ball may not go out or hit the ground twice. Apart from that there exists a point system that allows one team to win and to open the space.

The actual sense of the “Open space - closed space” work refers to the fact that if we have open minds, then we’re able to exceed our capabilities despite our limitations. And that rule, presented with squash, is universal and functions in all worlds, at all levels. Human mind is able to construct such a tunnel. It’s like making a hole in a hole.



“Orthrus”

screen print, paper, 100cm/117cm

“Orthrus”

Heracles, the mythical demigod, is initially supposed to perform ten labours, but then, as a result of two supposed failures - finally twelve labours, for the detestable Mycenaean king Eurystheus. The tenth task was stealing the flock from Gerion, protected by a two-headed sheepdog called Orthrus. Heracles leaves to kill that two-headed “beast” clad in the skin taken from the Nemean Lion. That very durable skin protects the hero from all kinds of damage. Also, the Nemean Lion was the descendant of Orthrus, so Heracles arrives clad in the dead body of his opponent’s descendant. Heracles performs the task obediently and without reflection. If we also remember the fact that Heracles decided to perform the labours due to the qualms of conscience after he murdered his wife and all his children in a furious attack, we’re left with a picture of a rather negative hero.

In that work I resurrect the mythical animal - “Orthrus”, asking whether the mythological fight maybe takes place right here and now. What if we assume that a two-headed dog becomes the symbol of the Middle Eastern countries, and the flock it’s protecting is petroleum for which people fight. Heracles would then be the American soldiers. On the one hand, their acts may be understood as an attempt at establishing order. However, on the other hand, the soldiers do not carry out the missions due to their own, individual reasons, but at the order of the unpopular chief - the king of Mycenae. In that case their acts may constitute an attempt at atoning for guilt. In my work, I do not deliver the verdict: the judgement is left up to the viewers. My aim is rather to indicate the mythological reference which helps to understand universal phenomena.

Both in the case of the conflict in Afghanistan, and in the mythical story, for an average European citizen it’s easy to be in favour of Heracles. The mythical demigod is to establish order and harmony by winning with the terrifying monster. However, if we had the chance to analyze the subject more deeply, we could notice another level of the whole story: it’s a judgment that’s very difficult because the information we receive as the European civilization serves to make our allies look like heroes. But, if we were a little more critical, maybe we should admit that at first Heracles had killed all his children (the Indians in America), and by performing its previous labours it was the first one to drop the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



„Bodybuilder“

screen print, paper, 80cm/120cm

“Bodybuilder”

The body is a tool with which we function on this planet (and only here). It allows us to perform all the activities which are necessary to live in the specific environment. The SELF controls the body through a transmitter, i.e. the brain. In every person's brain there is something we might call a cosmos or an entity - understood by all the religions as a soul. Souls are just very condensed clouds of thoughts. Everything we have in our heads, also what we're not aware of at the given moment, is included in that cloud. That cloud should be understood as our real SELF.

In the reincarnation process that cloud transfers from one body to another in accordance with the vague pattern, based to some degree on the development of the given SELF, and lands in a tool (body) that's adapted to a higher or lower degree. The clouds travel between all living organisms. As a result, we may observe animal features in many people, hanging in their subconsciousness. The subsequent incarnations are to develop the given cloud, which is to lead to increasing the entity's energy and improving its internal consciousness. At a critical moment, the entity which reaches the appropriate level becomes an independent cosmos, and also God itself.

Therefore, life on Earth consists in obtaining more and more skills which will allow us, at the final level, to build our own reality (world, cosmos). Let's assume that, in some way, we managed to isolate the body from the spirit. And we create an organism without a soul. What then...

We get a Body as an organism that acts involuntarily. Without an identity, the SELF. However, that body is able to survive. Organisms contain pre-coded patterns of behaviour that are necessary for survival. To a high degree, those activities are performed by the body automatically.

And these are functions such as: feeding, excreting, breathing. And, more complex ones such as avoiding dangers, consisting of a series of motor and perceptive abilities. An example of such a complex function may be a set of activities that allow us to avoid accidents, burns, or that control the basic automatic functions, such as breathing and excreting. The SELF is our will, our dreams and hopes. All the acts of the internal SELF are, in the case of human beings, decisions based on abstract thinking. The general awareness - what human beings think and do - consists both of the SELF features and of the organism's features. However, in the case of human beings, the SELF should play the dominant role.

The “Bodybuilder” picture presents a contemporary person. A strong and healthy one, but devoid of the head, understood in that case as the awareness, and not a part of the body. A body builder is made of mass. His role as a unit boils down to performing mechanical activities at the lowest possible engagement of awareness. That work is to symbolize a vegetating man, living in vain unawareness. Vegetation means reducing life only to a functioning organism and satisfying the empty needs, just like the empty calories which do not provide the organism with proper nutritional ingredients. A headless person is just a mass incapable of reflection.

The body itself is a kind of a universal medium. However, it has certain individual features that allow the person’s actual shape to be born. Or rather, the body either allows the correct functioning of the spirit, or prevents it. The spirit is our entity, our SELF, functioning while awake, in a body structure, or picking its way among the spaces in the world of dreams or conceptions. It’s very important to join those two elements - the spirit and the body (to adjust them to each other). Only a correctly adjusted set is able to use its abilities to the fullest. And, although our bodies use up and die, the SELF remains ours also after death, as our only form of being.

Our SELF may possess a much greater or much lower power than our physical body. The evidence for the individual skills of the SELF may be the dreams which directly visualize our non-bodily capabilities. That’s why many of us are able to do the things in our dreams that exceed the physical human barriers, such as flying. Flying is natural for birds, insects, and also for people, because they are able to fly with the use of such inventions as airplanes. Therefore, the SELF (present in a person) which can fly in the dreams, has been temporarily grounded by the limitations of its human body.

However, in one of the previous incarnations it had to be a bird, an insect or, in some cases, at least a pilot. The ability of the SELF to fly is registered in the invisible, internal code. The SELF which in one incarnation is a human being, after death or during life decides that it wants to learn to fly. Therefore, in another incarnation it’s born as a bird. Of course, the SELF that exists in a bird’s body is limited by physical constraints, just like in the case of a human being. However, its SELF has a store of information acquired when it was in the form of a human being, temporarily forgotten during the bird incarnation. It results from the functioning of the brain which blocs the information that’s not useful for the given incarnation, for example due to physical conditions.

However, our body doesn't always restrict us, sometimes it has a higher potential than the internal SELF. Let me refer to dreams again. Moving in dreams or other, apparently easy activities, may be inefficient or slow, and they don't produce the desired result. As a result, our SELF may not have the ability to control the given motor functions. The strength of the internal SELF is often lower than that of the potential power of our current organism. In that case, developing our physical skills during life will allow our spirit to function better at the motor level also after death.

It's worth mentioning that also children have invaluable capabilities. Their SELF is often much more manifested until maturation. Children don't perceive the world as a structure that we see during adulthood, and in a way they move in a different world that is much more similar to its real form. Most information acquired by children results from remembering the knowledge and skills from previous incarnations. Most information is refreshed rather than acquired. That's why children "gain" an incredible amount of knowledge in a very short time - such as learning to walk, talk and perform basic activities.

It's similar when it comes to the natural predisposition to quickly learn things like languages or maths in adult life. The knowledge that we acquire quickly is just refreshed, while the knowledge that's most problematic for us develops us most, because it constitutes the acquired knowledge which is completely new. The individual predispositions for certain features and skills result from the heredity of the knowledge possessed by the SELF, and from the individual skills of the inhabited organism (entity).

Some features may appear only in a properly functioning organism which is correctly adjusted to the abilities of the spirit. Just like our SELF may develop in the body on Earth, it may also degenerate due to the negative influences of the environment or due to undesirable random events. Such influences may lead to various complications and commotions resulting in much more than successful or unsuccessful earthly existence. That's why it's so important to live consciously, as what's left from us after the current incarnation will stay with us forever. It may influence the inheritance of the character that doesn't come from our parents' features, but from our previous incarnations.



„Identical Twins, Diane Arbus / Only Child, Jarema Drogowski”
screen print, paper, 120cm/80cm

“Identical twins, Diane Arbus / the only child, Jarema Drogowski”

That work was created as a result of the analysis of the information and photographs from the Internet, associated with two girls - Cathleen Wade Mulcahy and Colleen Wade Yorke. One may notice an intriguing difference between the apparently identical girls. In medicine, identical twins are an unexplainable phenomenon. There is no unequivocal answer to what makes the embryo “decide” to divide into two. That case is hard to solve medically, but may have a rational natural justification. The conclusion from my work is based just on the comparison what the photograph’s author did herself, but by the comparison of the two girls.

I prepared the conversion in the simplest way possible, the cut “at the axis” allows the viewer to notice the borderline between the two fragments of the “Identical Twins” photo. However, the people who are less perceptive or the ones unfamiliar with the works of Diane Arbus, may not notice my interference. That work then becomes a simple, classical photo of a seven-year-old girl. With that operation, I concentrate on the phenomenon of identical twins - I formulate the following questions: How can we explain the birth of identical twins in Homo sapiens which is a mono-ovulation species? What makes the embryonic cell “decide” to divide itself, if in most cases it remains just one being? Is it only a physical division? Should we understand it as an example of splitting one body for the purposes of two souls? Did those souls had some kind of an argument in the spirit world about the possibility to be born in the given form?

I’m inclined to state that one soul, as a result of some internal inconsistency, decided to be divided by “budding” at the prenatal stage into two separate beings. It’s a need resulting from the natural spiritual development. And it doesn’t result from any spiritual defect. Such a situation should rather be understood as a result of spiritual development, associated with continuous maturation which, all in all, doesn’t end during lifetime, but continues in the cycle of reincarnation. That division takes place gradually, and may even start at the stage of the previous incarnation. But it isn’t manifested physically, but rather as a kind of spiritual splitting, an inconsistency felt by many of us. Therefore, that division is not a painful disruption, but a natural process.

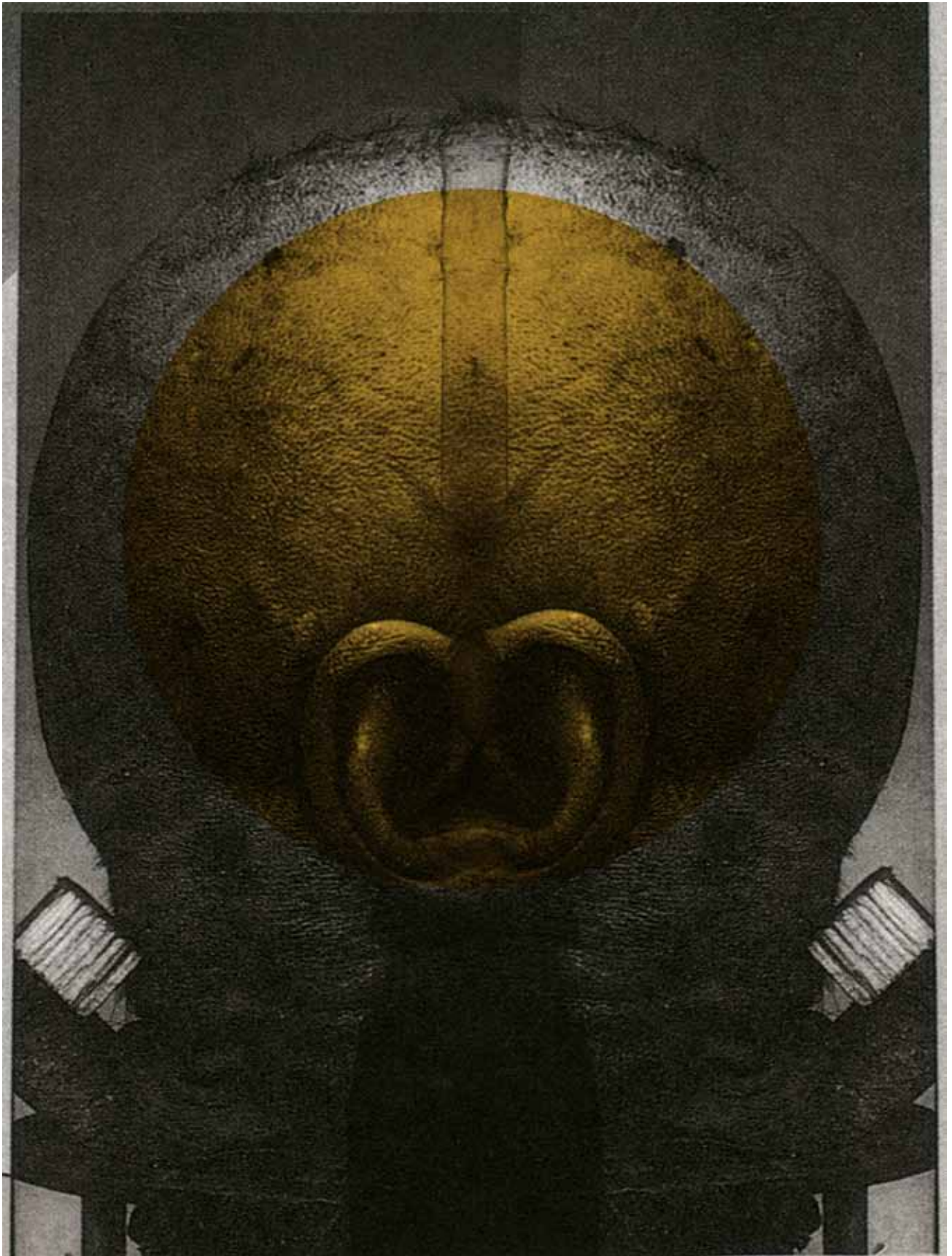
However, in the case of failure at the attempt to split into twins, a series of complications may occur such as mental illnesses - schizophrenia, split

personality or bipolar disorder. Those ailments might be associated with the stage of division of an inconsistent, evolving spirit. That state shouldn't be perceived as a disease, but rather as a natural mental state. The patients shouldn't be treated pharmacologically, but rather spiritually joined or split, so that both parts may follow different paths.

In the "Only Child" work I didn't allow such a division. I worked with the photograph like a shaman who joins the split beings in a voodoo act. I resorted to the simplest artistic measures to join the two girls together. I want the girl created this way to start existing in my consciousness and, gradually, to creep into the consciousness of the viewers. The result is the establishment of a picture of a new person, a hybrid with the features of two beings. Two people conflating into one. I perceive the Wade sisters as two identical semitransparent vessels into which two substances with different colours have been poured. In that case the twin girls immortalized by Diane Arbus allow me to perform a comparative analysis of two beings with identical DNA code. Finally, what's significant is not the shape of the vessel, but its contents. The division shouldn't be understood as the outcome of a positive or negative influence of the spirit. The division may result from a completely neutral evolution. A lot of research suggests that twins constitute something of a unity.

There is a reason why twins are the most intimate siblings. Due to a relatively "fresh" division of the SELF, the twins adhere to each other as if to the other part of their own personality. The research conducted by professor Thomas Bouchard, published in "National Geographic", describes many cases of twins raised separately as a result of adoption. The most incredible case is of the Jim brothers: "Jim Springer and Jim Lewis were adopted as infants by two different families which gave their children the same first name. When Jim Springer met with his brother in 1979 (at the age of 39), he discovered a series of similarities. Both were 180 cm tall and weighed 82 kg. When growing up, they both had a dog called Toy, and spent their holidays in St Pete Beach in Florida. As young men they both married women named Linda, and then got divorced. Their second wives were named Betty. They called their sons James Alan and Alan James. They both worked part-time as sheriffs, liked do-in-yourself work, had persistent migraines, smoked Salems and drank Miller Lite." 4

In one of the studies, the employees of the Minnesota Study of Identical Twins Reared Apart (MISTRA) Institute stated “(...) that the probability of committing a crime by an identical twin with a brother or sister with criminal record, is 1.5 times higher than in the case of fraternal twins.” That example, although a little drastic, is a suggestive evidence of the untypical bond between two independent beings. The birth of identical twins is a kind of natural cloning process. However, there is a fundamental difference between twins and an artificial clone created by people. During cloning, the nucleus of a somatic cell may be placed in a cell from which the genetic material had been removed. By artificial stimulation, such a cell may be “reprogrammed” so that specific stem cells are obtained. Or even so that a fully functional organism is created. In accordance with my assumptions, such an organism is deprived of the internal SELF. It functions like a machine that only performs the basic functions encoded in the brain, necessary for survival. Such an organism is a useless entity - a vehicle without a driver. The higher its level of development, the more useless it is. It's natural, just like in the case of simple organisms that reproduce by “budding”, because the individual SELF is practically nonexistent in those beings, but, just like in the case of plants, there exists the collective SELF. However, in the case of complex organisms, such as mammals and humans, the functioning of an organism without the SELF, i.e. of an artificial clone, is unnatural, and that clone dies much faster than its original counterpart. Therefore, the more developed the organism, the more necessary is the functioning of consciousness. An effective division in humans may only take place at the early, short stage of embryo's development. A division after that stage may lead to a series of undesirable complications, such as an incomplete division resulting in Siamese twins.



"Craniopagus"
screen print, paper, 100cm/70cm

“Craniopagus” - that name denotes Siamese twins conjoined at the heads. The division of the SELF into two separate beings may be unsuccessful. In that case the division took place too late - i.e. after fourteen days from fertilization. I perceive that case as the occurrence of a very malignant tumour, where both siblings act as neoplastic diseases for each other. In the process of development of identical twins, the stronger foetus may steal, or even absorb, the other twin. In such situations a person may normally function after birth, and only after some time discover that it has a sibling inside its own organism.

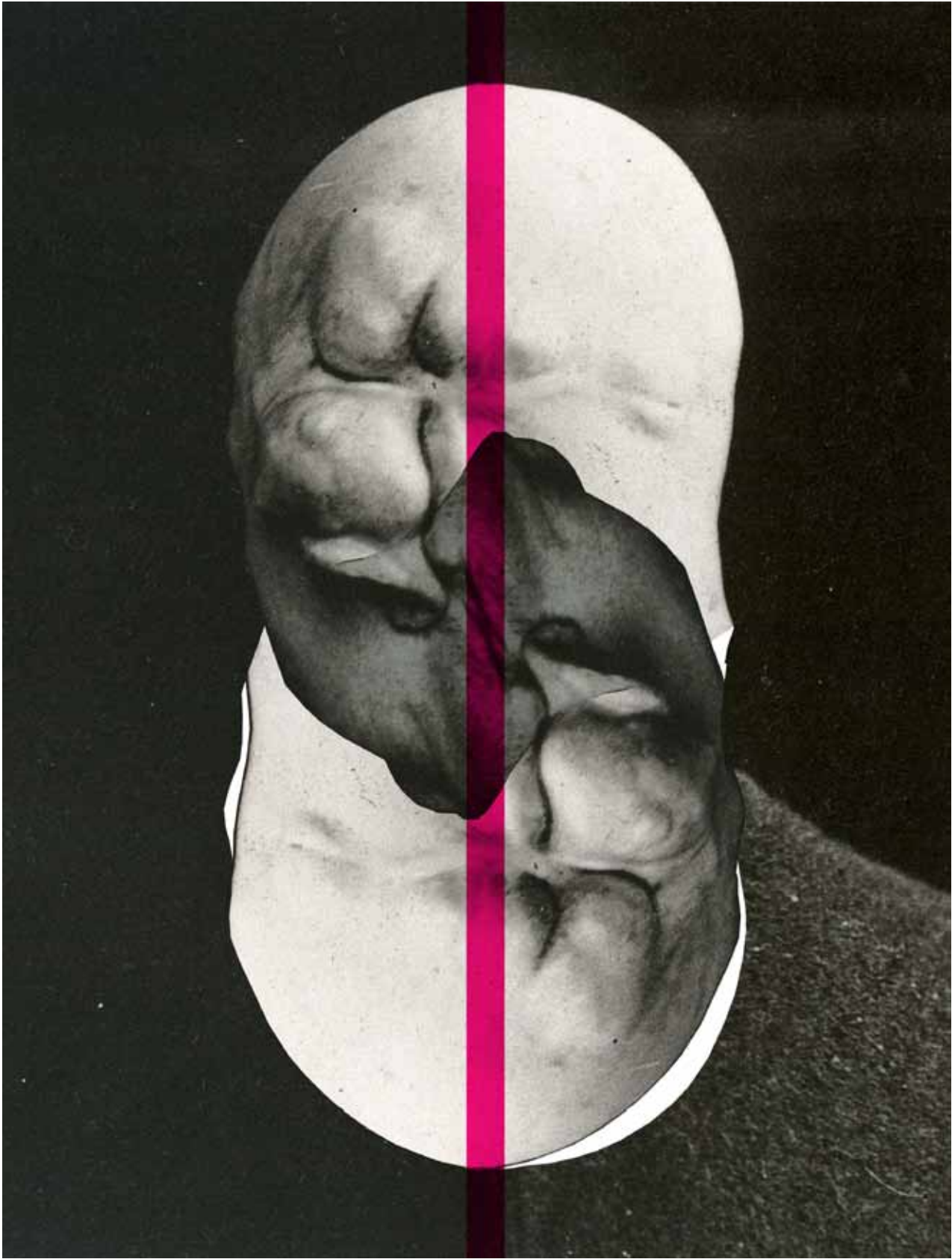
The bonding factor in my work is the neoplasm called mature teratoma, which develops in an organism up to the form that is able to produce on its own the fully differentiated endodermal tissues. “Mature teratomas (lat. *teratoma maturum* albo *teratoma adultum*). In accordance with the recommendations for classification of neoplasms, a mature teratoma contains a structure of mature (i.e. fully differentiated) endodermal tissues (glandular epithelia, for example of the salivary glands, layers of endocrine glands, intestinal epithelium, ciliated epithelium of the bronchi), mesodermic tissues (e.g. cartilaginous foci, smooth muscle cells, fat tissues) and ectodermal cells (the epidermis, the glia). The most frequent type of mature teratoma is dermoid cyst (lat. *cystis dermoidalis*) which develops only from ectodermal structures (mainly of the epidermis and its appendages). Dermoid cysts contain fully developed hair, sebaceous glands that produce the epidermal sebum, sweat glands, and sometimes also deformed teeth. The classifications recommend that they be considered as a separate type of tumours, but in fact they are mature teratomas from one primordial cell layer. Some of the tissues that generate mature teratomas may produce excessive hormones, thus leading to hormonal imbalances. Usually they are thyroid hormones and serotonin. A mature teratoma with a layer of thyroid tissue is called ovarian struma (lat. *struma ovarii*) and it may cause the symptoms of hyperthyroidism.” 5

Therefore, there is a certain correlation between the development of twins and of cancerous cells. Just like in developing identical twins, in the prenatal stage there may occur the mechanism of stealing which, just like in the case of a neoplasm, has the ability to feed on other cells. It's the process called neoplastic angiogenesis and consists in forcing the neoplastic tissue to produce new blood vessels so that it's supplied with blood. Neoplasms even have the ability to produce hormones. It's the aspect that's deludingly similar

to the early stage of development of embryos in humans. It leads to the generally simple conclusion that humans are basically the organisms which are able to “let’s say bud” and that process doesn’t end at the stage of twin splitting in the prenatal stage, but may continue in the shape of something mistakenly called a neoplastic “disease” or cancer. Cancer may not be treated, because for the organism to be treated for something, a disease must first occur. And in the case of cancer no disease occurs, because humans don’t have a homogenously specified sovereignty as organisms. On the contrary, they’re able to mutate in the process of evolution.

Neoplastic changes result from spiritual transformations which translate into the functioning of organisms and, just like in the case of many other diseases which result from the complex dysfunctions of the internal SELF.

Here I state the thesis that neoplasms and identical twins are, to some degree, the same thing. Neoplasms are uncontrollable divisions of cells inside our organisms. It’s something that’s both a part of our organisms, and on the other - tries to become independent from it.



“Undesirable mutation”

screen print, paper, 120cm/80cm

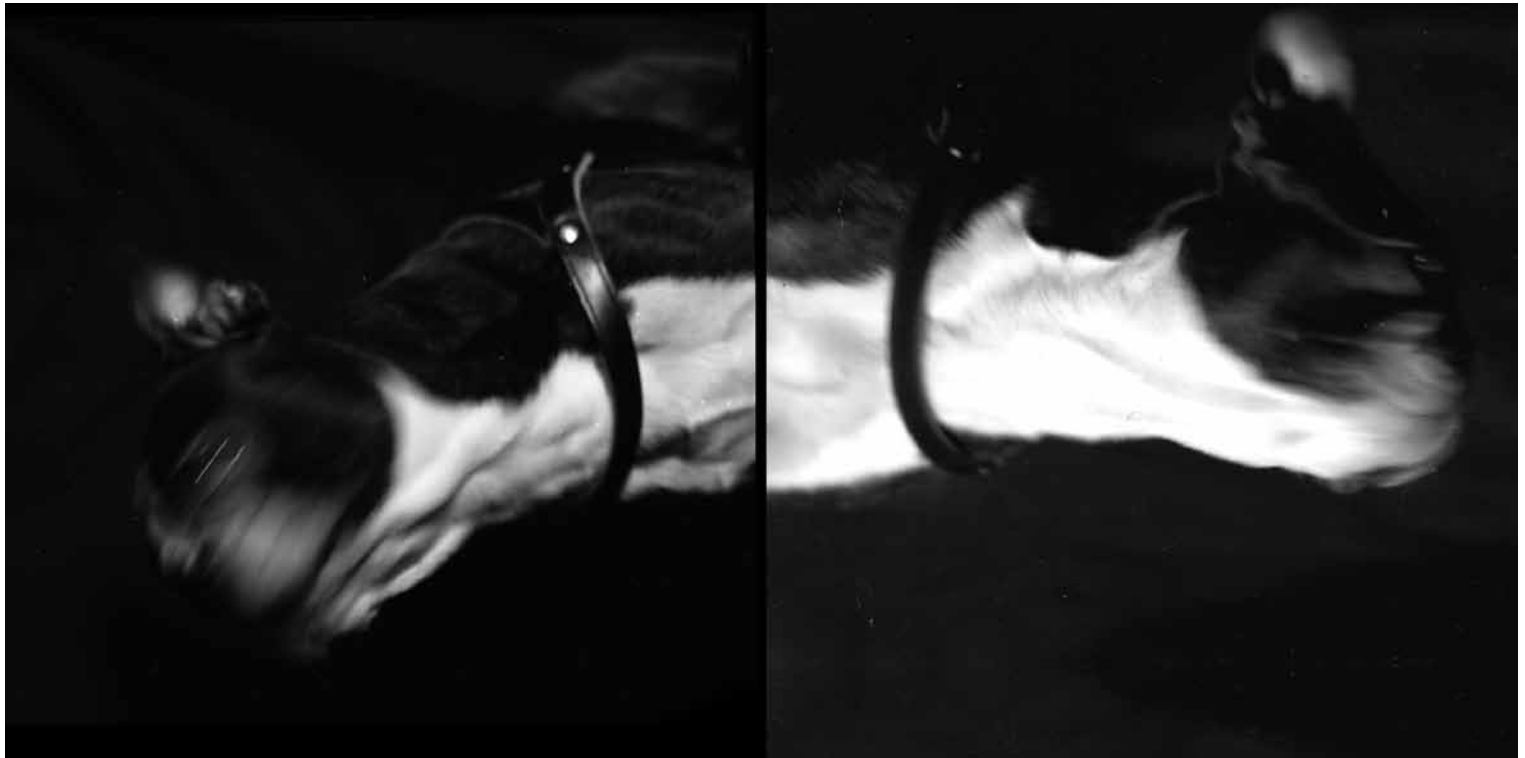
“Undesirable mutation”

A photograph transformed so that the portrait of a person with a tumour is changed into an almost abstract picture. So that in that case the tumor is a developing tissue is restrictive and, despite its negative, and sometimes deadly, consequences, it should be perceived as an element of the creative nature of living organisms.

The general intolerance of humans towards all kinds of physical dissimilarity and mutation is associated with numerous negative consequences of such changes which, in many cases, lead to death. However, we should bear in mind that people change all the time and, like all living organisms, must be subjected to gradual changes and mutations. It is only because of that that they're able to continue existing in constantly changing conditions. Mutation is a process in which organisms are distorted - in the case of humans it's usually understood as improper development. It may result from proliferation of cells that form the neoplasm which has no use in a correctly functioning human organism. A neoplasm is not a foreign body, but a part of the organism not originating from an external source but generated autonomously inside the living organism. As a result, such a change may be understood as an individual feature of the given organism, conditioned by organism's physical factors and hereditary predispositions. However, neoplastic changes shouldn't be understood as a disease. A disease is a state in which an organism is attacked by external organisms and tries to counteract in a natural manner. In turn, in the case of neoplasms, an organism doesn't defend itself against any external attack, because there's no such an attack. Neoplastic cells aren't recognized by the immune system as foreign cells. Therefore, in a way our organism has no one to fight against. In the case of a neoplastic disease, we should go back to our heads, to our SELF. Our organism doesn't act in isolation from what is inside our head, but rather it's somehow subordinate to it. Therefore, if there occurs an internal wish for a change or even autoaggression in our subconsciousness, then in our organism there may appear changes recognized as neoplasms.

What's interesting is that “Lymphocytes separated from a surgically removed metastasis, and then added in a laboratory to the neoplastic cells from which they were taken, are able kill them. However, for some reason that mechanism doesn't function inside an organism.”² Pharmacological treatment of neoplasms consists in ruining two bodies: ours and that of the neoplasm.

As our body is stronger, often the neoplastic body may be destroyed before we die ourselves. That treatment demonstrates that we actually fight with ourselves. We should understand that's it's not the body that's supposed to start fighting with itself, but it's we who're supposed to fight with ourselves. The problem of cancer recurrence results from the fact that our organism may not remain healthy if forced by our SELF to change or autodestroy itself.



„Muffin“

screen print, paper, 80cm/160cm

“Muffin”

To take that photograph I used the Mamiya RZ 67 camera with the lens with 110 mm focal length. It was developed on a black and white plate. The design presents the relations between people and animals, in the general sense. The humans “coexist” on Earth with other species of animals, insects and plants. As rational beings, they left behind the other species and scored an unqualified victory against them. The relations between people and animals transformed from a level of coexistence of two living organisms to a level of domination and total subordination.

In that world animals, plants and insects lost the status of beings created by God and became walking food or mascots. People transform the natural environment for their own use, and by omitting all the long-term consequences they cut the threads of life of many species of animals created by nature which have existed on that planet for millions of years. People learned to influence the genetics of animals so as to domesticate them and change into the form that suits people best. By shaping them so that people’s needs are met, mainly by creating accelerated growth and increasing the weight of farm animals. And, by creating proper “mutants” that are able to perform specific functions. The balance is lost somewhere in all that behaviour...

Indians and many aboriginal peoples worshipped the hunted animals whose bodies they would eat. They thanked them for the energy they provided and apologized to the dead souls for taking away their capacity to live. This demonstrates how big the responsibility of the people while eating any living organisms is. People have the right to initiate and end life. To put it in a more graphical way - people have the right to “have” dogs, as well as the right to have them put to sleep by a vet at any moment. What intrigues me is the nonchalance with which people decide about death, and even about the shape of such animals.

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