

I am BURNING

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The most important part of my PhD is the presentation of the *Last Judgment*. It is a monumental realization hung over the heads of the audience on the third floor of the *State Art Gallery* in Sopot. It is a black and white print on a mesh grid consisting of my original drawings, combined with medieval woodcuts. Its total area is 143 m². The composition of the *Last Judgment* is based on the composition of the *Last Judgment* by Giotto di Bondone in Scrovegni chapel in Padua, combined with a nine-storage vision of hell from the *Divine Comedy* of Dante.

The main reason for the creation of the *Last Judgment* is the thesis that I am trying to prove. I am deeply convinced that THE END OF THE WORLD IS NOW. And since it is now, it means that when the process of devastation of the earth comes to an end, the *Last Judgment* awaits us. Many researchers and scientists suggest that the present geological era should be called the *Anthropocene*, the *New Human Era*. *Anthropocene* is defined as the time in which we observe the active interfering of human kind in the processes that guide the geological evolution of the planet. *The Anthropocene* begins with the beginning of the industrial revolution and I try to prove that it will not last as much as the previous geological eras, eg *Pleistocene* (2.58 million years).

I give examples of artists dealing with the problems of global warming. Apart from Olafur Eliasson, I mention street artists such as Blu and Banksy. I think that the artists too slowly approached the problem of global warming. I try to find the reason in Nicolas Merozef's book: *The world is changing*. The author notes that, for example: a painting *Impression Sunrise* by Claude Monet, is widely regarded as beautiful, and in reality glorifies the domination of man over nature, and the pollution of the natural environment. The author, wonders if it is not that these types of pictures have preserved our views of environmental transformations as something positive?

In my written work, I notice that before Christianity there were also images of the *Last Judgment*, eg the Egyptian court of Osiris, who weighed the heart of the deceased on the scale, on the opposite side, putting good and justice.

I devote a lot of space to justice, a term that necessarily connects with the judiciary. My *Last Judgment* condemns mankind only to hell. I am also writing about social justice, trying to find an analogy between the medieval social stratification (king-subjects) and today's, when three people have property equal to the wealth of half of humanity. Because of that (among other things) in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the *Last Judgment* was such a popular topic. *Last Judgment* gave people hope for justice.

I am also writing about all kinds of sins. Again referring to Dante, in the ninth lowest circle of hell there are traitors, including traitors of art. I write which artists, by whom and why they were described (or are) as traitors and what it can lead to. I describe the history of the German painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. His removal from the *Prussian Academy of Art*, from the museums of the Reich, the destruction of his works and, consequently his suicide. The first two chapters describe my current artistic path, recalling the history of bands in which I participated. The group *Nagrobki* was supposed to be a purely musical band, and it became an artistic group successful in the field of art. I am also writing about other musicians, graduates of various types of art schools, such as John Lennon, Keith Richards, Kim

Gordon and David Bowie.

I recall the history of the *Krecha* group, which published an art magazine in 2006-2016 and about how participation in this project influenced my aesthetic choices I use when working on the *Last Judgment*.

I am aware of the fact that the *Last Judgment* is an extremely broad and complicated matter. Both through his popularity in the history of art and the complex concepts that are associated with him: justice, morality, ethics. I decide to narrow this broad spectrum to the most important issues, while giving up the universal message of my work.

I end the dissertation by quoting Dante, who ends each chapter with the word star. Coming out of hell, Dante saw the stars. We do not actually see stars in cities anymore.

I express deep concern about whether we will be able to see them in the long term due to air pollution.

*The Guide and I into that hidden road
Now entered, to return to the bright world;
And without care of having any rest
We mounted up, he first and I the second,
Till I beheld through a round aperture
Some of the beauteous things that Heaven doth bear;
Thence we came forth to rebehold the stars.¹*

¹ *Divine Comedy*, Dante Alighieri, english translation: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow