

Wojciech Bruszewski

## Outside (1975)

Motto:

„This amoral relation [between the nursing and the nursed – WB] is a superior feature of our culture in spite of the advertising of the slogan of art democratization. [...] The peculiar understanding of the process of cognition (which art is, in my opinion) as active participation and self-observation of the junction of the material with the spiritual has a reversed direction; it is an irradiation of the mind with some solid fact from the outside with a simultaneous and nearly automatic exclusion of “intellectual spheres”.

Leo Satz, *The Nursing and the Nursed*, 1971

What I do is based on two assumptions:

1. Duality of the concept of WHAT EXISTS;
2. Belief that mechanical and electronic means of record and transmission (film, video, photography, etc.) operate partially irrespective of our mind.

Re. 1. The concept of WHAT EXISTS has two meanings:

first – WHAT EXISTS – exists beyond me, outside.

second – WHAT EXISTS – is a judgment on what exists.

The judgment is a result, let us put it succinctly, of cultural pressure.

What exists in this sense – is the CONVENTION.

Re. 2. The image of the world communicated to us by mechanical and electronic media is very different from the CONVENTION OF WHAT EXISTS, which we use every day. Our mind is structured in such a way that it accepts and is able to use only those of the possibilities of transmission techniques which do not disrupt the convention. It has a tendency to use the pre-existing rules, whether they retained or lost their actuality.

What I do is nothing short of setting traps for WHAT EXISTS.

I am trying to set the traps in a place of contact between the “spiritual” and “material”, between what “we know and think,” and what “is”.

This practice, carried out systematically, leads as a result to the destruction of the CONVENTION OF WHAT EXISTS, with mechanical and electronic media, as a pure channel and free of patterns of the mind, act as a catalyst of the reaction, and the hypothetical WHAT EXISTS, in the first meaning – outside – as the potential energy of destruction.

[Source: Wojciech Bruszewski, *Outside*, trans. K. Guccio, [in:] *Wojciech Bruszewski. Fenomeny percepcji / Phenomena of Perception*, exhibition catalogue, ed. J. Zagrodzki, E. Fuchs, Miejska Galeria Sztuki w Łodzi, Łódź 2010, p. 112; translation modified]