

Józef Robakowski

Own Cinema (1978)

OWN CINEMA is realised when it doesn't pretend anything. By its very existence, it is a fact, although it doesn't have to relate to the facts of life. This doesn't mean that it deals with the recording of nature, since nature itself is included in its sense of existence. Thus, it has all the potential to still be cinema, but an OWN CINEMA – that is, a direct projection of the filmmaker's thoughts. Freed from all aesthetic fashions and rules as well as established linguistic codifications, it becomes close to the filmmaker's life. It can be said to be his love and passion, but it is also often a distorting mirror. So we film EVERYTHING, and it turns out that we are always filming ourselves. Such a filmed person only lives fully on the screen and has a similar stature to you but a different character and personality. It is extremely interesting to be able to argue with oneself through the screen. So, film and look at yourself critically with the full awareness that YOU from the screen are more magnificent than in nature because you have a greater capacity to remember the past. Finally, consider that your memory often becomes the memory of those watching these films.

[Source: *Sztuka to potęga / Art is Power. Józef Robakowski. Film–Fotografia–Video 1980–1985*, BWA Lublin, Fundacja Lubelska, Lublin 1989; translation modified]