

## works and laziness

I am a witness of <Works and Words: film and art from 1970's Central Europe> which took place at the EYE film museum, 19:30 9th October 2018. Vladimir Havrilla, Ivan Ladislav Galeta, Dóra Maurer, Józef Robakowski, Mladen Stilinovic, Tibor Hajas, Dobroslav Zbornik and Zofia Kulik, eight artist's films and Wojciech Bąkowski's performance were presented.

I found the letter from Wojciech Bąkowski who performed that night with his music and poetry. He is an artist, filmmaker, musician and poet. The letter is about his high school teacher who was lazy. I want to start from this lazy teacher. He was a photography teacher and would arrive for the class with a coffee and a bun to read the newspaper. Maybe he often woke up late and couldn't have breakfast, so he had to bring it. While reading newspaper and having a coffee, he turned on the VCR for his students, because he wanted to keep them from getting bored. And all he brought was avant-garde films, mainly from the Workshop of Film Form (WFF) -an art group active between 1970-1977 in East-Central Europe. All the students were lying with their heads on the desk, it could not be better than this for them, it was in the morning. I can imagine what the classroom looks like. Even though I don't know the teacher, the word „lazy“ which Wojciech Bąkowski uses to describe his teacher feels so cool. It seems like there is some relation between „lazy“ and „avant-garde film“. It could be a just coincidence that lazy teacher showed his student the avant-garde film, which were the only ones he had. But it's hard to say. Mladen Stilinovic whose film Run Away (1973) was presented that night, wrote The Praise of Laziness.

*Laziness is the absence of movement and thought, dumb time.. It is sheer stupidity, a time of pain, futile concentration... It must be practised and perfected... Artists from the East were lazy... Therefore they had time enough to concentrate on art and laziness. Even when they did produce art they knew it was in vain, it was nothing... To be lazy... There is no art without laziness.*

And he comments that artists in the West are not lazy and therefore not artist, but rather producers. It seems quite controversial but it is understandable to some extent. Can laziness be considered one of the keywords which penetrates avant-garde films in 1970's east central Europe? Yes, I hope so. But, someone else might not. Because laziness is considered mother of all vices. I'm from Korea which is notorious for having the longest working hours in the world, everybody seems so busy, artists are no exceptions. So, when I encountered the word „lazy“ in the letter it felt lovely. It cannot be the mother of all vices. On the contrary, there seems to be a certain love of life which can be possible in the state of doing nothing. That night at EYE eight short films were presented, most of them were about the gaze of daily life and full of wits. Of course, it can be seen in terms of deconstruction of tradition that's why we call it avant-garde. But I prefer to use the word „lazy“ more often. I don't know why. Maybe I'm trying to free that word from being conceived as a vice. Because I'm in love with that word, furthermore, everything connected with it. It all started with Wojciech Bąkowski 's lazy teacher, without him I would never have considered laziness. To be frank, I'm a hater of laziness.

I imagined that I was in the classroom watching the eight short films that were presented that night and also imagined the lazy teacher who was reading the newspaper somewhere in the classroom. I understand more and more why it's difficult for him to escape from that aesthetics. In the letter, Wojciech Bąkowski confesses he unconsciously recreated the atmosphere of those works, especially the works of Józef Robakowski who was a leading member of WFF. It's all thanks to the lazy teacher. Viva Laziness Viva.

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