

ABSTRACT. Leszkowicz Paweł, *Nagi mężczyzna. Akt męski w sztuce polskiej po 1945 roku*. [Naked Man. The Male Nude in post-1945 Polish Art]. Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza (Adam Mickiewicz University Press). Poznań 2012. Pp. 572. Seria Historia Sztuki nr 35. ISBN 978-83-232-2363-4. ISSN 0556-1019. Text in Polish with a summary in English.

This study explores the category of the male nude and, more specifically, representations of the naked male body in Polish art from 1945 to the present. The problem of the male nude serves as a springboard for reflections on Polish political, cultural and moral history, on the limits of artistic freedom, and on changes in male subjectivity within the context of both the politics and the aesthetics of gender and sexuality. Analyses of the male body offer insights into the body politic of Poland today. The author argues that the paradoxical status of the male nude lies in the fact that it constitutes a symbol of power and of opposition alike: it is a very official genre and – at the same time – disturbing, obscene and frequently banned. Therefore, this book discusses the male nude in both its genital fullness and prude concealment, nationalist hubris and anarchist protest, painful nudity and blissful sensuality. Consequently, this study deals with trauma and ecstasy, politics and eroticism, the official and alternative character of the male nude, examining the cases of it in the works of Poland's women and men artists. The central historiosophic argument put forward in the study is that the male nude in Polish culture has problematised either individual or collective freedom, while the fact that it has flourished after 1989 can be associated with political and sexual emancipation as well as the democratization of sex roles.

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Na okładce

Krzysztof Jung, *Mężczyzna z opuszczoną głową* (Autoportret?), ok.1990, ołówek, karton, 72,7 x 52 cm, fot. Muzeum ASP w Warszawie [*A Man with a Lowered Head* (Self-Portrait?), 1990, pencil on cardboard, 72,7 x 52 cm, courtesy of the Academy of Fine Arts Museum in Warsaw]

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