

IN THE STEPS OF A LEGEND ...

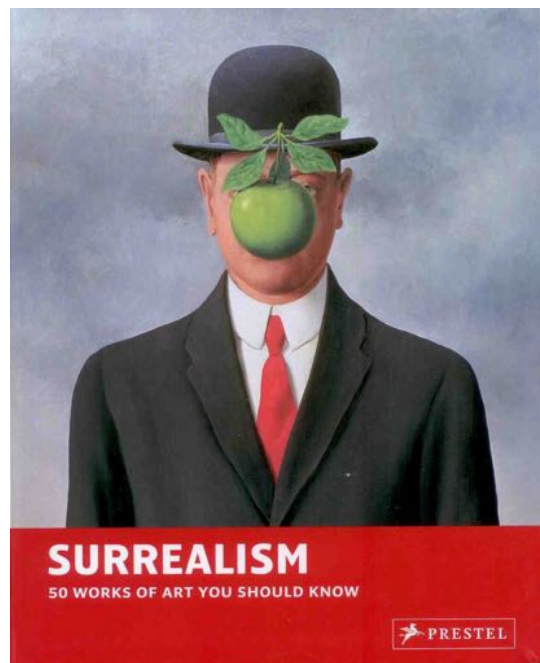
Waldemar Fydrych, known also by his *nom de guerre* as Major, is a famous Polish happening artist and painter known for his iconic dwarf images. He began painting them as early as in 1982, first on the walls of the main Polish cities over the paint spots covering anti-regime slogans. Those images had made a resounding echo in the Polish society as result of which similar dwarfs were subsequently widely reproduced by his followers. This led to Major's creating a legendary artistic and opposition movement deeply rooted in Dada and Surrealism known as Orange Alternative.

The Orange Alternative was opposing the military regime in a peaceful manner through the use of absurd humor and artistic happenings organized in many Polish cities. Several of the Orange Alternative's 'happenings' involved people wearing orange hats, like those worn by the dwarfs in Fydrych's graffiti. Because of that, those who took part in his 'happenings' were often referred to as 'dwarfs.'

In 1986, when Major created the Orange Alternative, the ideological backbone of this new cultural movement consisted of his "Manifesto of Socialist Surrealism" in which Fydrych described « the Dialectic Art of Synthesis » according to which the anti-regime slogan was the Thesis, the paint spot covering it – the Antithesis and the Dwarf which came on top – the Synthesis.

For contemporary art experts such as the US art historian Brad Finger, "Major" is considered to be one of the world's foremost representatives of Surrealism. In Finger's book *"Surrealism - 50 Works of Art You Should Know"* (published in 2013 by Prestel Publishing /London UK) his dwarf graffiti is featured along with works of such grand artists as Artaud, Duchamp, Buñuel, Dalí and Picasso.

Viewing Major's current paintings, one therefore always should bear in mind all the initial philosophical concept which lies behind these naïve and colorful figures animated on canvas by their magic and excentric creator. One must not forget that they are organically and conceptually tied to the very chain of dwarf graffiti painted on



GIORGIO DE CHIRICO MARCEL DUCHAMP RENÉ-CLAIR
FRANCIS PICABIA JOAN MIRÓ JEAN ARP ANDRÉ MASSON
ANDRÉ KERTÉSZ MAN RAY YVES TANGUY CLAUDE CAHUN
GERMAINE DULAC ANTONIN ARTAUD ROBERT DESNOS
PAUL NOUGÉ LUIS BUÑUEL SALVADOR DALÍ JEAN COCTEAU
LE CORBUSIER PABLO PICASSO ROLAND CRANDALL
ALBERTO GIACOMETTI RICHARD OELZE HANS BELLMER
JOSEPH CORNELL DORA MAAR MERET OPPENHEIM OSCAR
DOMINGUEZ MAX ERNST LEE MILLER LEONORA CARRINGTON
WOLFGANG PAALEN ANDRÉ BRETON JACQUELINE LAMBA
FRIDA KAHLO GEORGE BRASSAÏ GORDON ONSLOW FORD
ROBERTO MATTIA DOROTHEA TANNING PAUL DELVAUX
ENRICO DONATI ALEXANDER CALDER KAY SAGE ASGER JORN
RENÉ MAGRITTE TOYEN GEORGES MALKINE FRANCESCA
WOODMAN WALDEMAR "MAJOR" FYDRYCH FRANK GEHRY

This introduction to Surrealism features paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, film stills, and architecture, displaying the enormous breadth and variety of the Surrealist movement.



IN THE STEPS OF A LEGEND ...

the very chain of dwarf graffiti painted on building walls which is makes an important part of the Polish recent history.

As a man, Waldemar „Major” Fydrych from the very beginning has always manifested a strong taste for farcical and absurd dialogues with which he destabilized his official interlocutors. When called upon to fulfill his military service duty, he appeared before the army physician pretending to be very eager to enter the service, which the physician took for a clear sign of madness. Asked to show deference when speaking to his superiors, he began to address his interlocutor per “Colonel”, at the same time referring to himself as “Major.” A nickname, which remained with him ever since...

For his work Waldemar Fydrych was honoured with numerous awards: in 1988 he received the Solidarity Award of Puls Publications from London and the Polkul Award from the Australian Polish community. Waldemar „Major” Fydrych has so far been the first and only recipient of the „Ash and Diamond Award” established in 1988 by the Polish Oscar winning director, Andrzej Wajda.

Controversial - loved, hated and admired - Waldemar „Major” has never lacked in fantasy nor imagination and has been surely a deserving continuator of Dada and Surrealism.

WALDEMAR „MAJOR” FYDRYCH was born on April 8th 1953 in Toruń as Zodiac Aries. He is a graduate of History and Art History from the University of Wrocław in Poland. Fydrych began his independent public activity in the 1970s. In 2012 he received PhD degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw after defending his thesis "*Happening as the integrating and healing operation transforming art and reality*" written under supervision of Professor Stanisław Wiczorek. Major is currently living in Warsaw, Poland where he works in his atelier. He authored 5 books and a libretto. His book „*Lives of the Orange Men*” was published in June 2014 by a New York/London publishing house.



Selection of articles



M O N D E

Pologne : le commandant-dérision contre le général-répression

Lech Wałęsa et le général Jaruzelski jouent la carte de la conciliation et du dialogue. Le défi est redoublé. La Pologne réelle et peut-être ailleurs. Comme en témoignage le phénomène consistant à l'Alternative orange.



Who's afraid of the Toilet Paper?



La commedia dell'arte des contestataires de Wrocław



M O N D E

L'OPPOSITION AUTREMENT

Retrouver l'espoir en Pologne (2) Un rapport de Jean-François BOURNOS



Pologne : lorsque le ridicule veut tuer le socialisme





Dwarf from Madalinskiego Street in Warsaw - Inspiration

Acrylic on canvas

Krasnal z Madalińskiego w Warszawie - Inspiracja

Akryl na płótnie

华沙马达林斯基街道的小矮人 – 灵感

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 1982/2016. Ref No: 1A, 1B, 1 C



Dwarf from People's Army Street

Acrylic on canvas

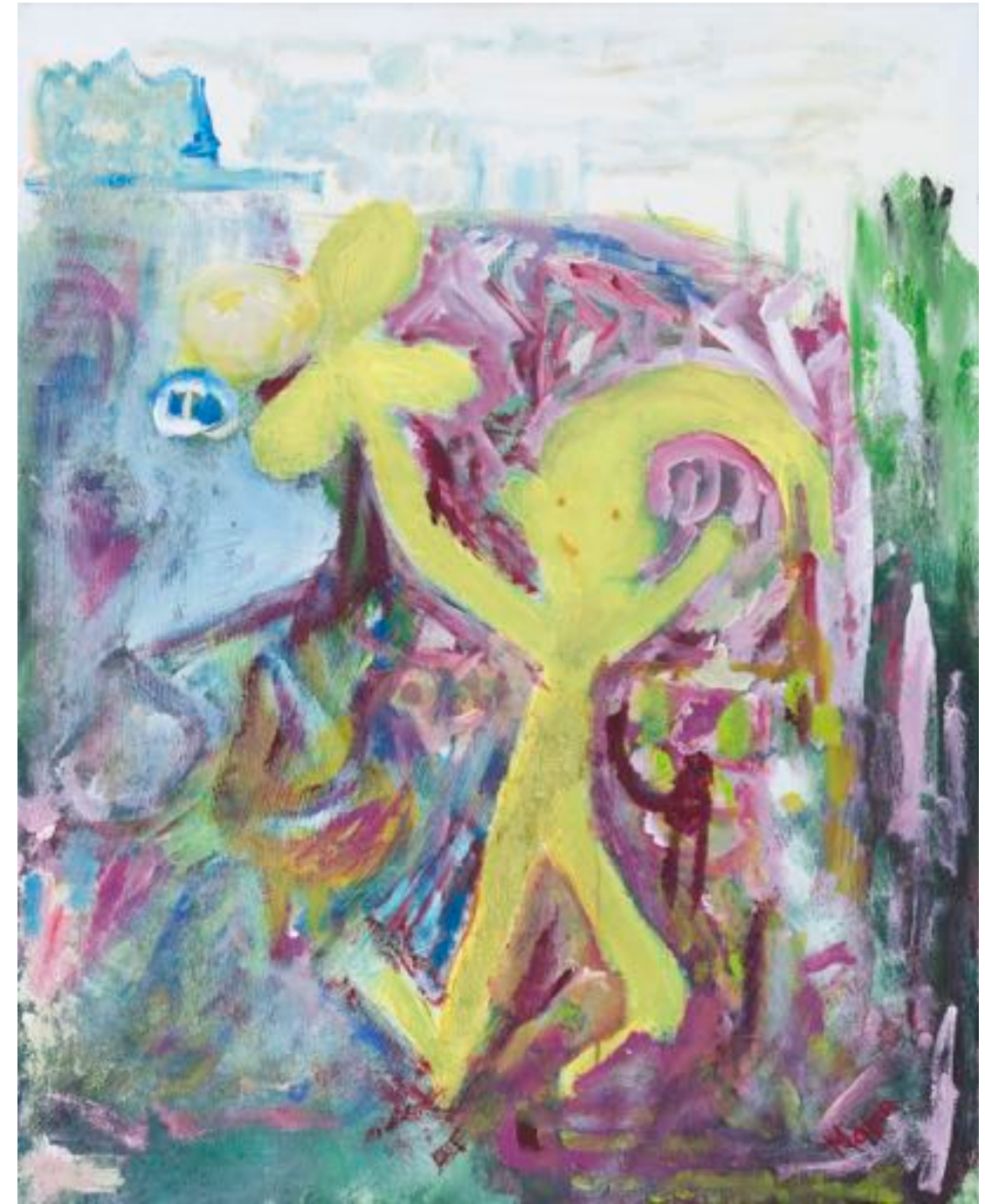
Krasnal z ul. Armii Ludowej

Akryl na płótnie

人民军街之小矮人

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 1982/2017. Ref No: 2



Yellow Dwarf from Madalińskiego Street in Warsaw

Acrylic on canvas

Żółty Krasnal z ul. Madalińskiego w Warszawie

Akryl na płótnie

华沙马达林斯基街道黄色的小矮人

丙烯酸及帆布

80 x 100 cm, 1982/2017. Ref No: 3



Freedom Dwarf with a Bird

Acrylic on canvas

Krasnal Wolności z Ptakiem

Akryl na płótnie

自由之小矮人与鸟

丙烯酸及帆布

80 x 100 cm, 1982/2015. Ref No: 4



General Jaruzelski - the Dragon of the Wawel Castle

Acrylic on canvas

Jaruzelski - Smok Wawelski

Akryl na płótnie

雅鲁泽尔斯基将军-克拉科夫瓦维尔皇家城堡之龙

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 79 cm, 1982/2016. Ref No: 5



Dwarf and his animal inventory

Acrylic on canvas

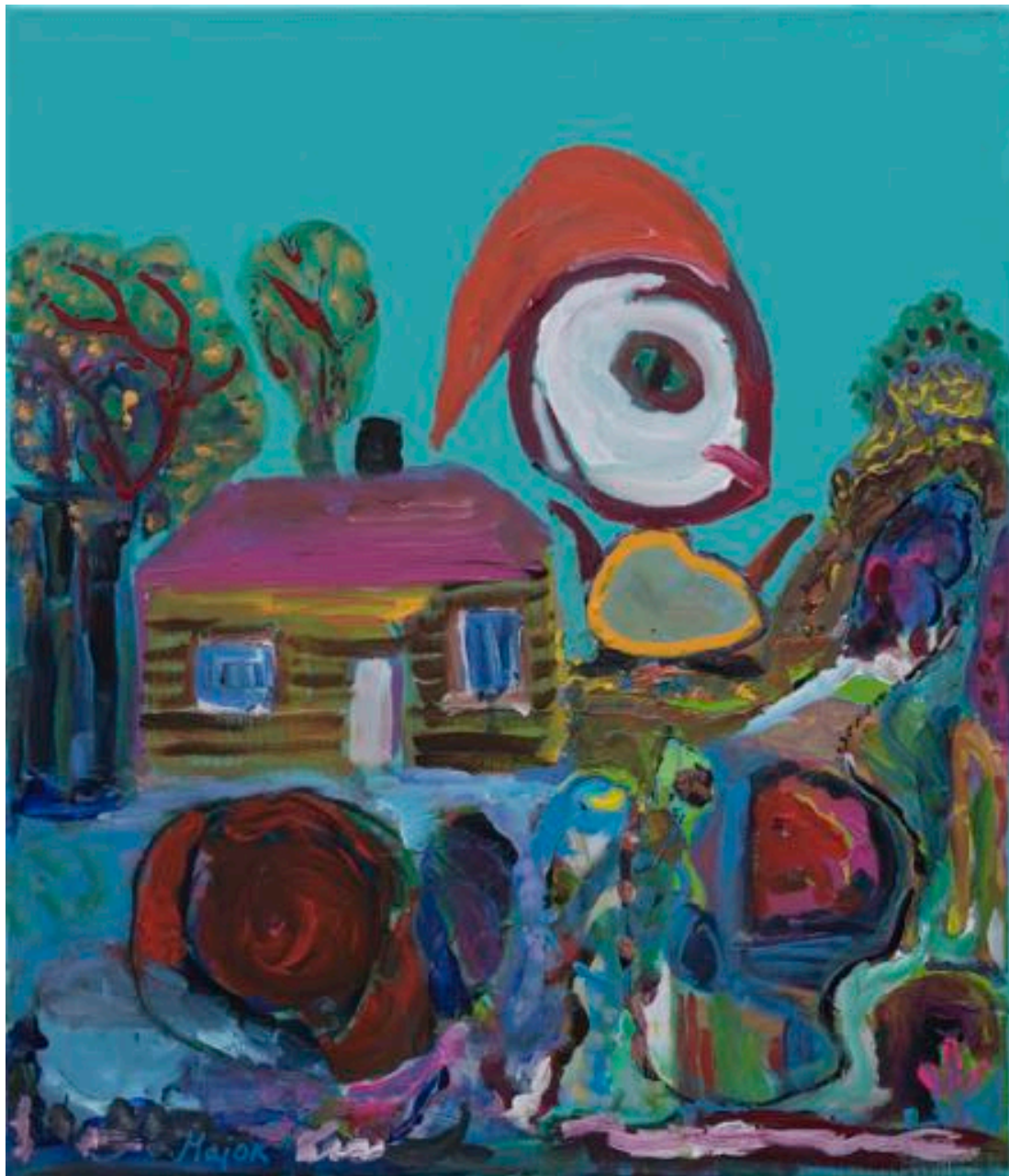
Krasnal z inwentarzem

Akryl na płótnie

小矮人及其畜禽

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 2018. Ref No: 6



Dwarf on a farm

Acrylic on canvas

Krasnal na zagrodzie

Akryl na płótnie

庄户之小矮人

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 2015. Ref No: 7



The Family

Acrylic on canvas

Rodzina

Akryl na płótnie

家庭

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 2017. Ref No: 8



Birds
Acrylic on canvas

Ptaki
Akryl na płótnie

鸟
丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 2017. Ref No: 9



Bunny
Acrylic on canvas

Króliczek
Akryl na płótnie

小白兔
丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 2017. Ref No: 10



Shaman

Acrylic on canvas

Szaman

Akryl na płótnie

巫师

丙烯酸及帆布

60 x 70 cm, 2017. Ref No: 11



Goodfellows

Acrylic on canvas

Kuple

Akryl na płótnie

伴侣

丙烯酸及帆布

80 x 100 cm, 2016. Ref No: 12



On the attack

Acrylic on canvas

W ataku

Akryl na płótnie

进攻

丙烯酸及帆布

100 x 120 cm, 2018. Ref No: 13



Dwarf on a scooter

Acrylic on canvas

Krasnal na hulajnodze

Akryl na płótnie

骑着踏板车的小矮人

丙烯酸及帆布

100 x 120 cm, 2017. Ref No: 14



Borderlands

Acrylic on canvas

Kresy

Akryl na płótnie

疆界地区

丙烯酸及帆布

100 x 120 cm, 2018. Ref No: 15



Editorial Board

Acrylic on canvas

Redakcja

Akryl na płótnie

编辑部

丙烯酸及帆布

54 x 73 cm, 2010. Ref No: 16



Trumpeters

Acrylic on canvas

Trębacze

Akryl na płótnie

吹着喇叭

丙烯酸及帆布

50 x 70 cm, 2018. Ref No: 17



Moral battles

Acrylic on canvas

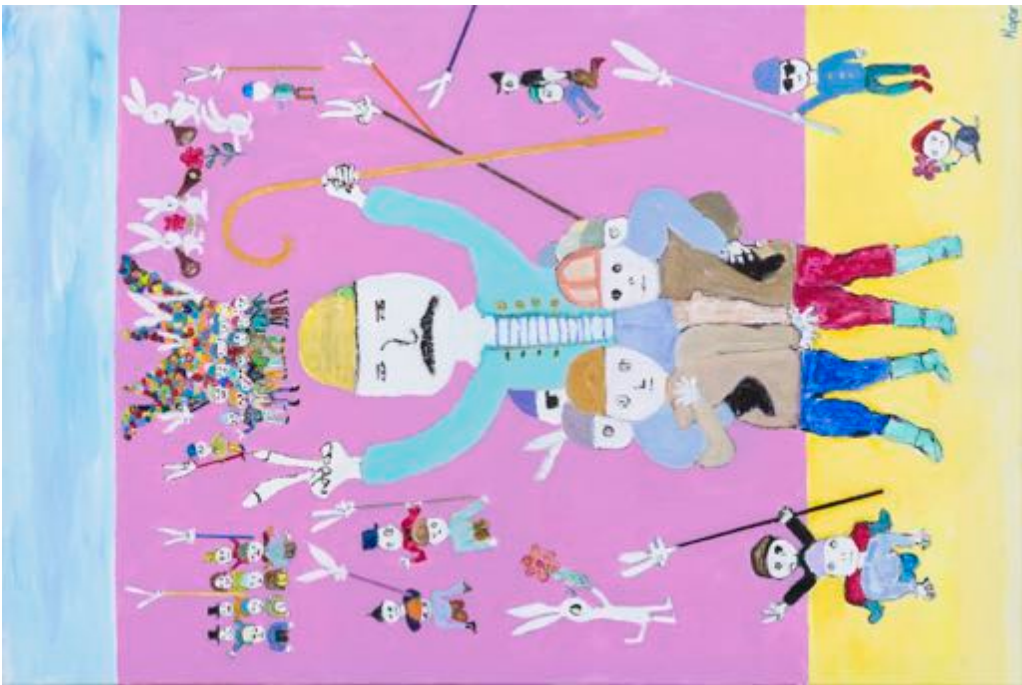
Bitwy Moralne

Akryl na płótnie

道德之战役

丙烯酸及帆布

80 x 90 cm, 2016. Ref No: 18



Crossing the Red Sea
Acrylic on canvas
Przejście przez Morze Czerwone
Akryl na płótnie
涉渡着红海
丙烯酸及帆布
3 x 80 x 120 cm, 2015, Ref. No: 19



Price Listing for Waldemar "Major" Fydrych's Art

Reference number	Title	Dimensions	Date	Price in USD	Price in Euro
1A	20-copy series - "Dwarf from Madalinskiego Street" - author's copy of the original graffiti, last copy	60 x 70	1982/2016	2700	1300
1B, 1C	Dwarf from Madalinskiego Street – inspiration	60 x 70	1982/2017	2700	2500
2	People's Army Dwarf	60 x 70	1982/2017	2700	2500
3	Yellow Dwarf from Madalińskiego	80 x 100	1982/2017	3700	3400
4	Freedom Dwarf	80 x 100	1982/2015	3700	3400
5	General Jaruzelski the Dragon of the Wawel Castle	60 x 70	2016	2400	2200
6	Dwarf and his animal inventory	60 x 70	2015	2300	2100
7	Dwarf on a farm	60 x 70	2015	2300	2100
8	The family	60 x 70	2017	2100	1900
9	Birds	60 x 70	2017	2100	1900
10	Bunny	60 x 70	2017	2100	1900
11	Shaman	60 x 70	2017	2100	1900
12	Goodfellows	80 x 100	2016	2700	2500
13	On the attack	100 x 120	2018	3100	2800
14	Dwarf on a scooter	100 x 120	2017	3500	3200
15	Borderlands	100 x 120	2018	3700	3400
16	Editorial board	54 x 73	2010	2300	2100
17	Trumpeters	50 x 70	2018	2100	1900
18	Moral battles	80 x 90	2016	3000	2700
Museum clients only					
19	Triptic: Crossing the Red Sea	(80 x 120) x 3	2015	22000	20000