

Grzegorz Kozera

***Artistic Archives* doctoral dissertation summary**

In the dissertation entitled *Artistic Archives* I aim at demonstrating the importance for the understanding of artistic activity of all the information disseminated between the official biographies of the artists. My research is based on the archives of selected artists: Krzysztof M. Bednarski, Józef Czapski, Łukasz Korolkiewicz and Andrzej Szewczyk. I did not, however, have the ambition to write a monograph of any of these artists or to summarize the research on their activities. My aim was to evince the phenomenon of the artistic archive on their and my example.

In the first part, I present a subjective review of the existing cultural texts, museum practices and visual-literary projects on the subject of artistic archives. In the second part, I interpret key texts for my thesis: *Mnemosyne Atlas* by Aby Warburg, *Archive Fever* by Jacques Derrida and *The Living Archives* by Wiesław Borowski and Andrzej Turowski. In the third part, I describe my paintings inspired by the above works and point to analogies with the works of the selected artists. They are made using the image to canvas transfer technique and I present them in a separate documentation. I juxtapose the paintings with auxiliary compositions presenting the elements used. In the annex to the dissertation I further describe the audiovisual part of the displayed film and the sound of flipped analog slides. I complete my thesis with bibliography and the list of illustrations.

Working with an artistic archive is a tedious and time-consuming process. It requires determination as well as physical resistance to hazardous technical and health conditions. I have tried to convey the complexity of archival practice using the rich literature on the subject. I also present its positive aspects, such as finding traces and letters of Józef Czapski in Rio de Janeiro, compensating for the hardships of my query in South America. The proposed method of working with artistic archives can be thought of as a model and applied to working with other artists, not necessarily Polish. Modern technology of digital platforms and databases creates unique possibility of virtual, and above all secure queries, without the threat of a true fever in a global pandemic.

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