

Ryszard Grzyb

Jump / Picasso's Smile

around 1983

paper, gouache

73 cm x 103 cm

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

The work "Jump / Picasso's Smile" belongs to the early period of Ryszard Grzyb's activity. In the 1980s, the artist painted the so-called "papers", that is, large-format compositions made with paint or gouache on cardboard. These works were painted with flat spots and thick, careless brush strokes, in the style of naive painting. They presented, among other things, caricatured animals with fanciful, unreal colours. Animal motifs in Ryszard Grzyb's painting are the starting point for creating abstract and decorative forms. The shapes of animals blend with the background, creating a vibrating tangle of spots and lines.

Ryszard Grzyb belonged to the Gruppa, an artistic formation whose members created in a genre of new painting expression. Wild paintings, saturated with intense colours and full of scandalous themes, were a contrast to the propaganda art that was being created in Poland at that time. Many of them presented scenes ironically referring to the then political situation of martial law. The works featured deformed human figures and brutal scenes inspired by literature and mythology.

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