

Mikołaj Smoczyński

The Secret Performance 3B

1988

black and white photography

100 cm x 70 cm

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

The minimalist, almost abstract work by Mikołaj Smoczyński depicts a dark room with evenly placed puddles of water on the floor – which the author treated as a kind of canvas. This is an action characteristic of Smoczyński. At the beginning of his artistic work, he dealt with painting. Then, under the influence of conceptual art, he focused on photography. You can see reflecting windows in the puddles. The photo shows a composition arranged by Smoczyński in his studio, which was located in a demolished building at 11 Zana Street in Lublin. The artist, however, did not intend to create a performance, and his activity was only aimed at taking photographs. The obtained forms create a narrative about the memory of a place, the perception of time, and what is present and absent, but still visible.

“The Secret Performance” is a series of large-format black and white prints, constructed on the basis of a coherent composition idea. The title performance has only a contractual meaning. By naming the works this way, Smoczyński emphasises the actions he staged that led to the creation of the series. The artist’s activities have a secret character, because they always took place without the participation of third parties – they served only to take a photograph, which is their only proof. These photos are of a painterly and creative nature, not only because of the action carried out in the room, but also through the use of means of expression belonging to painting. The way the composition is built and the play of lights – in this case, the use of natural light, entering through the lens – brings to mind abstract painting.

description: Krystian Kamiński

translation: Krystian Kamiński

tactile diagram: Konstanty Olech

**[KULTURA
DOSTĘPNA**



**Ministerstwo
Kultury
i Dziedzictwa
Narodowego**

*Co-financed by the Polish Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport from the Culture Promotion fund
– a state earmarked fund.*