

Jan Ziemski

Black-White (diptych) from the series Permutations

1982

author's own technique

60 cm x 60 cm

Collection of Galeria Labirynt

Jan Ziemski's work is a diptych, i.e., a work consisting of two parts. These are square canvases that are similar to each other with diagonally placed wooden slats. One of the works is white with black lines, the other is black with white lines. The colours are inverted here, as is the way the lines are arranged. In both works, the slats are divided into three smaller sections of different lengths.

These geometric, abstract paintings work with the contrast of colour and arrangement of elements. Jan Ziemski was extremely interested in the topic of space and composition in painting. This is very well reflected in the name of the series – "Permutations". The presented works are part of this cycle. Permutation is a mathematical term that tells how to arrange a set of elements in a specific order. A reflection on this problem is precisely the work "Black-White", in which the same parts were arranged in similar, yet different ways.

The artist often created works in which convex elements and intense, contrasting colours were to evoke various types of optical illusions in the viewers. The presented diptych belongs to the last period of the author's work, in which he reduced the colour palette to only black and white.

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