The role of sequences in photography. An appendix to the work titled Unlimited Variety

dr inż. Jakub Gadek

Summary

A photograph can be presented in different ways. You can show a photograph as a single work of art which is independent and constitutes a whole in itself. You can also create a set of photographs, arranged in an appropriate order, which when shown as a whole constitutes a separate artistic work. Such a set is usually called a photographic sequence, a sequence of photographs or simply a sequence. The subject of my interest is this second type of presentation.

A sequence is able to stimulate the imagination of the observer in such a way that it presents images hidden between cropped scenes. This opens up new possibilities, a new way of storytelling and new ways of contact. Such a message resembles a comic book, but usually there is no need for subtitles or additional explanations. A series of images presented in this way is amazing and at the same time captivating in its simplicity through the harmonious realizations it makes possible. It is no longer just a painting, however, because the aesthetic principles of the isolated painting cannot be applied to the series – the isolated image loses its identity and becomes part of the whole, that is, an essential element of the structure.

In my work I make an attempt to analyze the phenomenon of the sequence in photography as a separate means of artistic expression. I create a systematics distinguishing different varieties of sequences. I carry out a comparative analysis with such fields of visual art as film, comics or performance. I illustrate my thoughts with examples from my own and other artists' work. I also present my own perspective on the issue based on the artwork Diversity Unlimited. There is no uniform study of this field in the literature. Therefore, this work fills the existing gap.