



INTERVIEW WITH TAKI MYK

1. How long have you been doing graffiti?

It's been 20 years since I bought my first spray-can. Which means I've been painting for the better part of my life. Unfortunately, I paint less now in my "adult life". But I do agree with those saying graffiti is not only painting, but also the way you think and look at things.

2. Who or what made you do graffiti?

Taking up graffiti was certainly easier growing up closer to the wall of Służewiec Horse Race Track. On the very wall I first saw some nice works of art killing the overall dullness of a huge residential district like Ursynów. I used to cycle there equipped with a notebook and a pencil and I copied everything new that had shown up. There was no return – I had to paint.

3. Where do you find your inspiration? What are the most common topics of your art?

I am recently interested in combining organic forms (animal motifs in particular) with machines. What I paint depends on what I have seen. When I cut out a stencil it is most often based on a photo I shot myself. I regularly flick through my travel albums searching for motifs I might use as stencils.

4. What is your regular job? Is graffiti only a hobby?

I am an architect. There was a time when I lived off graffiti, but I decided to quit. It's good to make a living by doing the things you like. But it's also "healthy" if you can refuse to paint something you think is not your story at all, just to be able to pay the rent.

Something I absolutely take pleasure in is doing workshops about graffiti and stencil art. I like to share the experience. At the beginning such knowledge is crucial for young people interested in the subject.

5. Are you an academic or a self-taught?

I learnt how to draw. For two years I attended lessons preparing for architecture studies and then I had drawing classes when I got to university.

6. Which of your works are you the most proud of? Where can we find it?

There are a few of them. Bee from Eco Jam in Szczecin, Peacock in Ursus district, some works in Katowice (especially the one on the ZOO wall), Fish from Alwernia...

7. Have you ever been caught in the act? What was the strictest punishment?

With graffiti you always take risk. You often succeed, but sometimes you don't. The situations when I couldn't make it to the end taught me few things. It had an influence not only on my thinking, but – in their own way - on my painting as well.

Now I am a husband, a father and an event organizer (Szablon Dżem included). The will to paint graffiti hasn't vanished in no way, but I try to paint responsibly.