

FROM THE EDITORS

TRUTH OR FICTION?

The concepts of “authenticity” and “authentic” have been widely and eagerly employed, for some time now, to describe the reality around us. They do not raise any serious doubts when we use them, typically, to assert that an object or work is true, genuine, not a mere copy or falsification. As new trends in philosophy and psychology have emerged, these concepts have increasingly found application in describing human behavior. Within this framework, an authentic person is someone who acts in harmony with their own desires and beliefs. This notion stands in contrast to the earlier ideal of a “respectable” person, someone who complied with set social roles and lived up to others’ expectations. While the choice between these attitudes might seem apparent today, it remains uncertain whether the contemporary world is actually moving in that direction. Is it conceivable that, contrary to our official claims, authenticity is at times supplanted by what Erich Fromm termed an “escape from freedom”? In these times of growing uncertainty and polarization, it is worth pondering the prerequisites for authenticity – something universally esteemed and expected from everyone – to prevent it from becoming yet another illusion crafted solely to pacify our souls and feed our egos. An authentic person is someone capable of exercising free will, resisting the pressures of the surrounding world, determining their own priorities, and independently making decisions that mold their reality. Human authenticity, therefore, nurtures the authenticity of the world around them in an evident manner. Is the world we are currently shaping reflective of this? Unfortunately, it is growing increasingly challenging answer this question in the affirmative – suffice it to mention the emergence of information bubbles, the dynamics of social media, the applications of neurobiology, and the use of artificial intelligence in advertising and politics.

PROF. MAREK FIGLEROWICZ

Grażyna Krzemińska, Alida,

original technique, acrylic, oil, 80×80 cm, 2023

Krzemińska graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk. Stylistically she invokes the paintings of the old masters, while adding contemporary elements. Combining these elements into a whole is meant to yield a metaphorical, poetic story about feelings, loneliness, separation and the pursuit of love, irrespective of place or time.



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