

JÓZEF ROBAKOWSKI

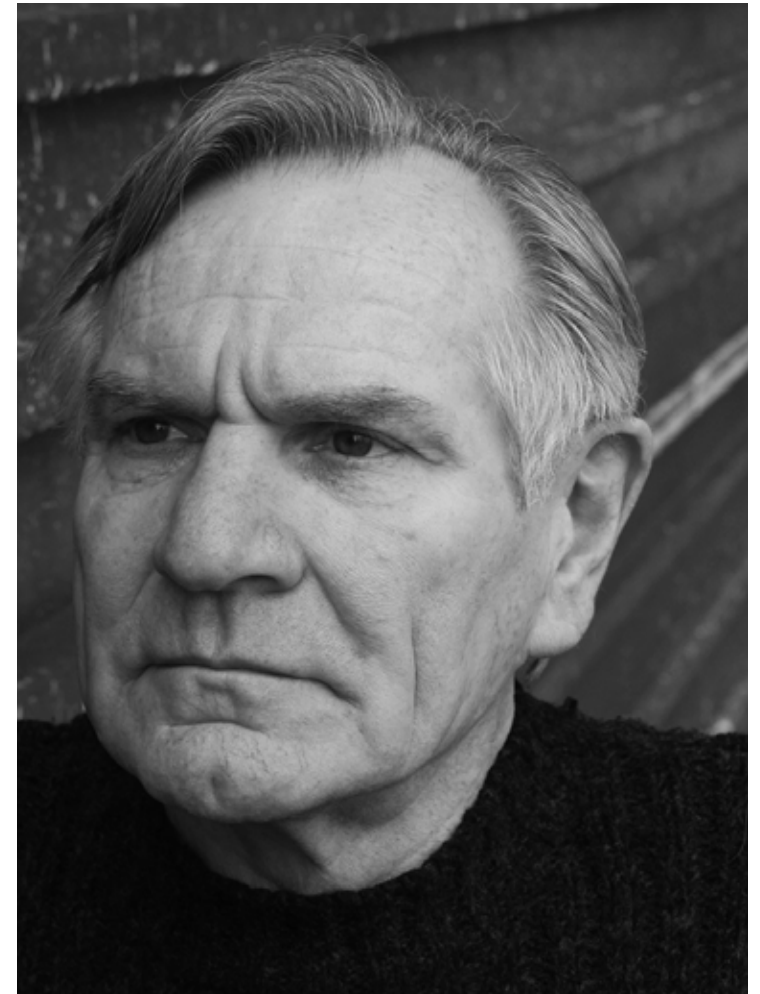
Persons  
Projects

Józef Robakowski (born 1939) is one of the pioneering artists and experimental filmmakers associated with Poland's neo-avant-garde movement in the 1960s and 70s. In his works, he analyzes the language of the medium of photography and video and experiments with recording technologies. His artistic approach draws from the tradition of constructivism and Neo-Dadaism, recording the absurdity of the former communist reality in Poland.

*Art is Power!* (1985), a series of multiplied nude portraits of the artist proudly displaying various objects such as a chicken, a hammer, or toilet paper alludes ironically to the representational portraits common in old masters, in which the social rank of the portrayed is sanctioned by the attributes that accompany them. The work depicts Robakowski as a vigorous socialist-realist work

leader full of masculine prowess. In this year, Poland was politically spiraling into a total collapse. This social reality set the tone for a new beginning for both political and social transformations. A continuation of this new manner of thinking is seen in Robakowski's work *Fetish*, done in 1986-87. The objects used in this piece also have a symbolic meaning for the artist and are part of his activities related to the theme of the artist's position and appropriation. This time, the objects are a collection of gifts mainly by other artists in a token of sympathy for the Exchange Gallery, which Robakowski had been running since 1978.

He has exhibited at some of the world's most important museums, including the Tate Modern, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.



WORKS



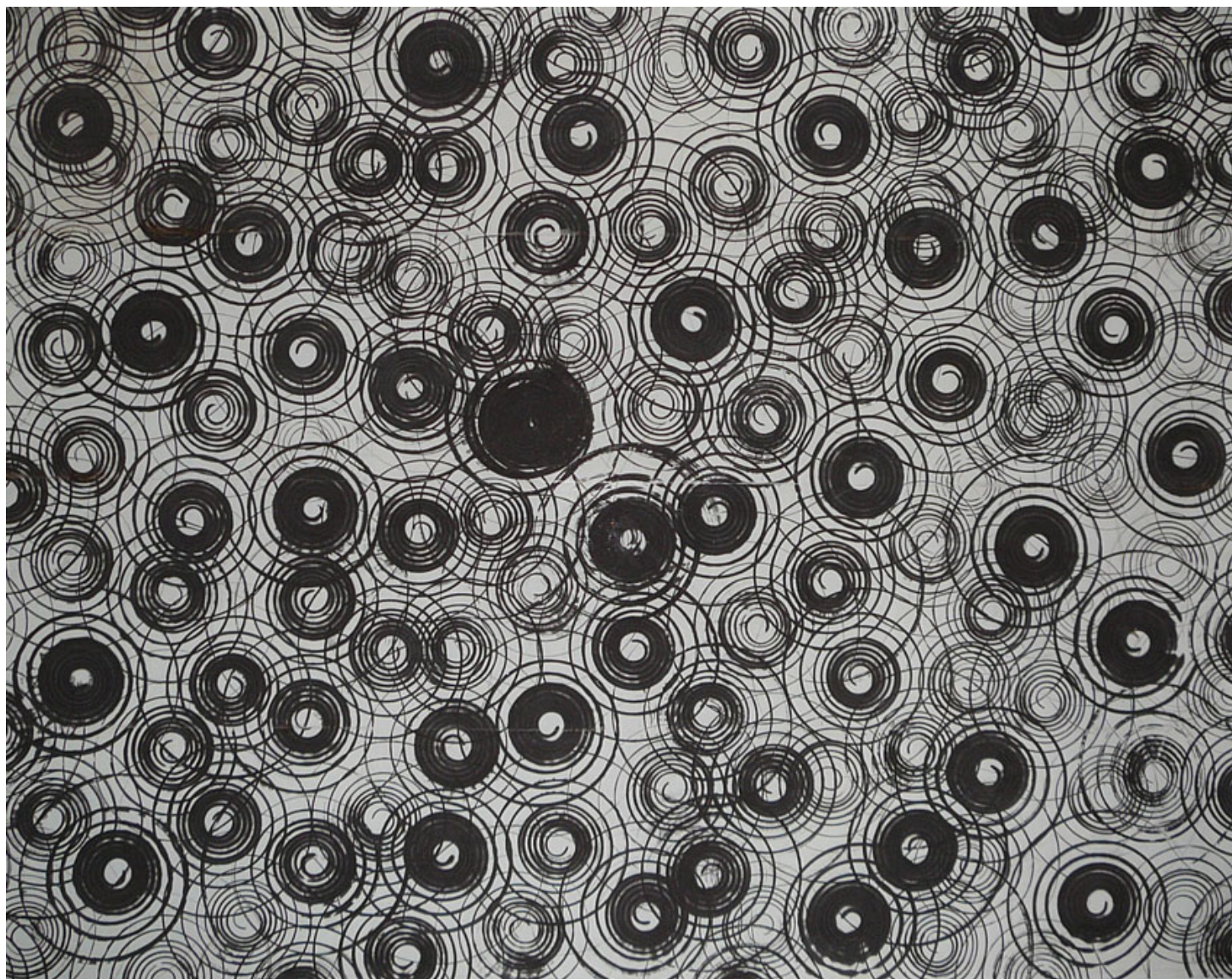
*Angular Dynamics*, 2023, Persons Projects, Berlin



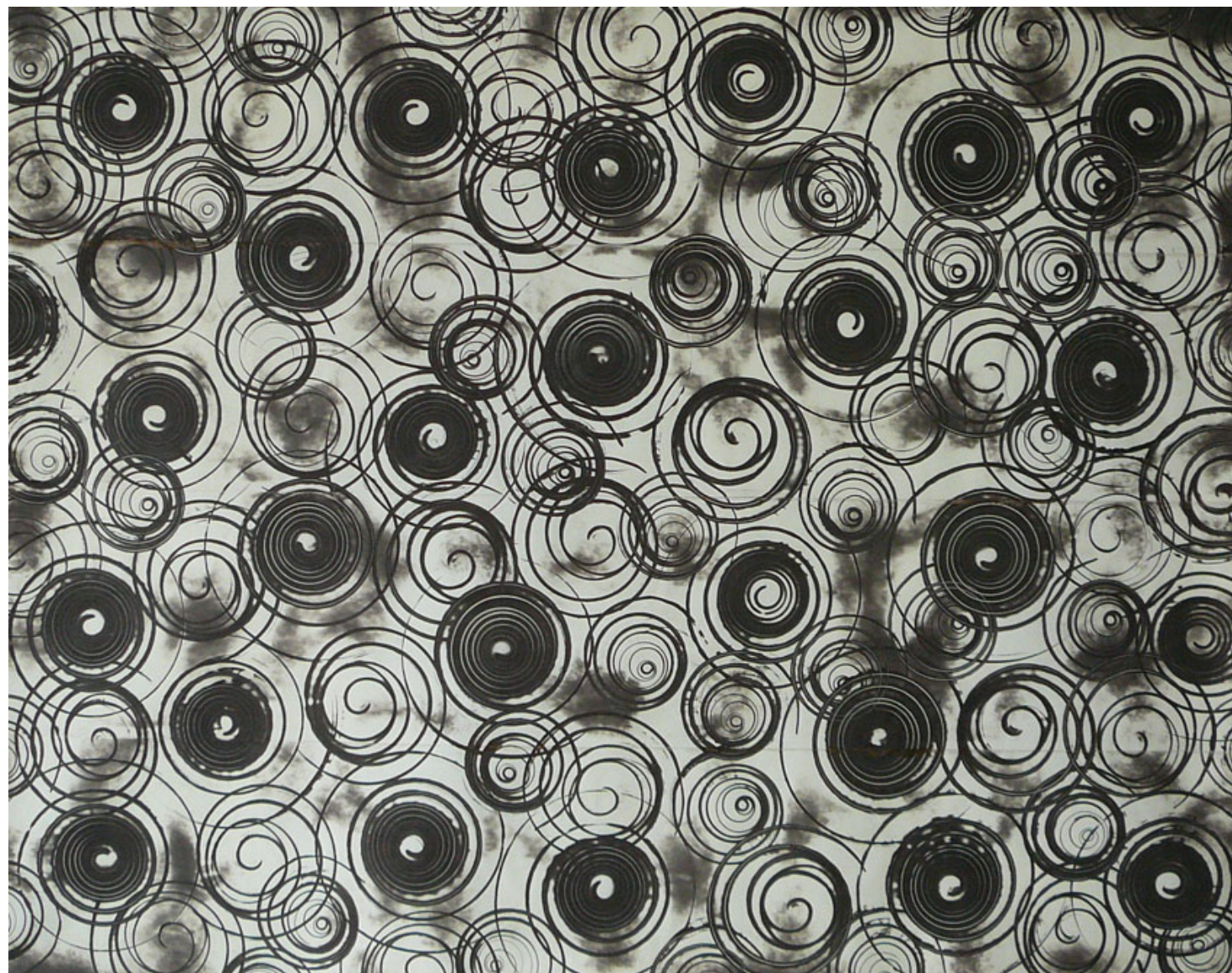
*Energetic Rectangle (1)*, 1975, acrylic on metal, 77 x 88 cm



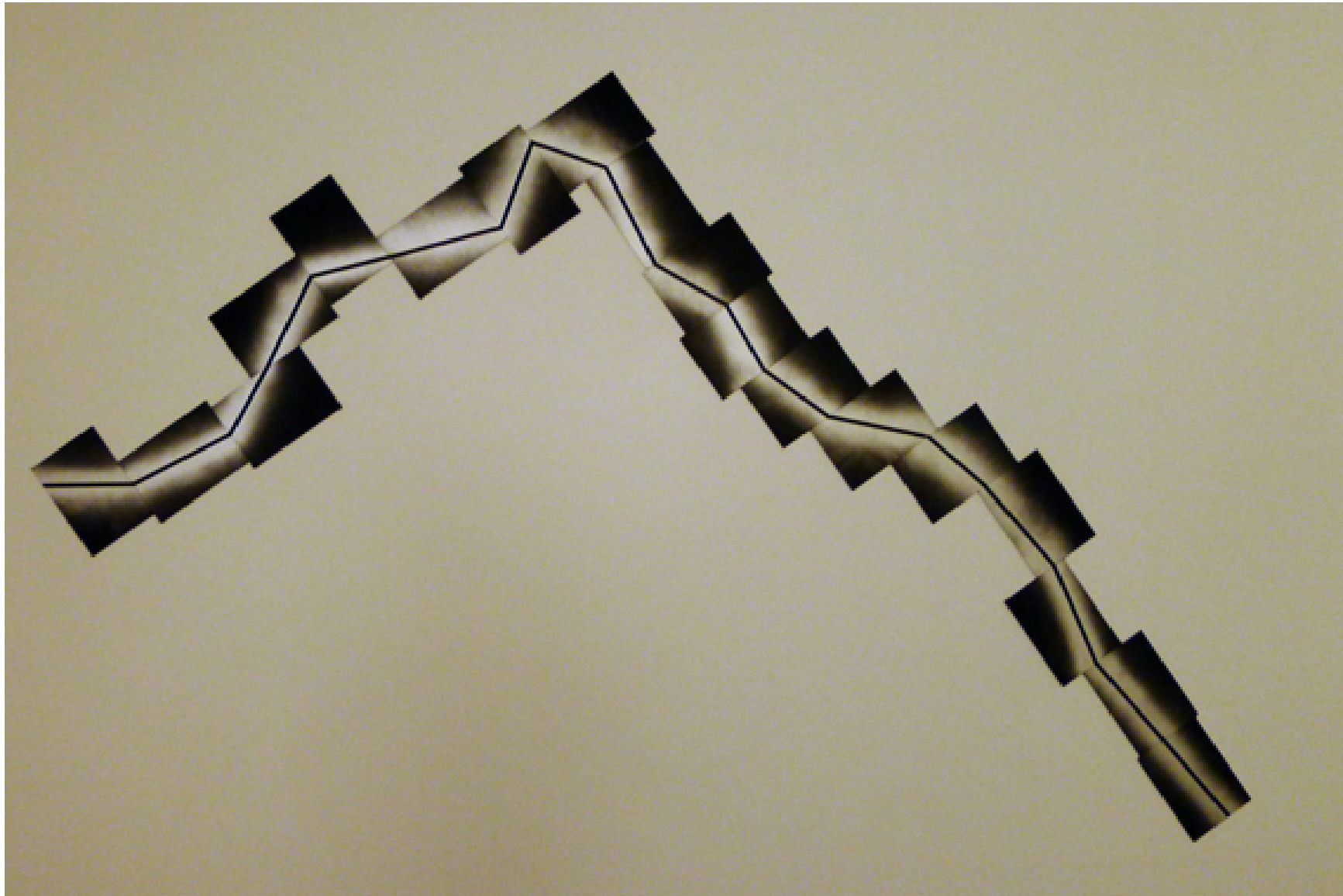
*Energetic Angles*, 1989, Paint on wood, 50 x 35 cm



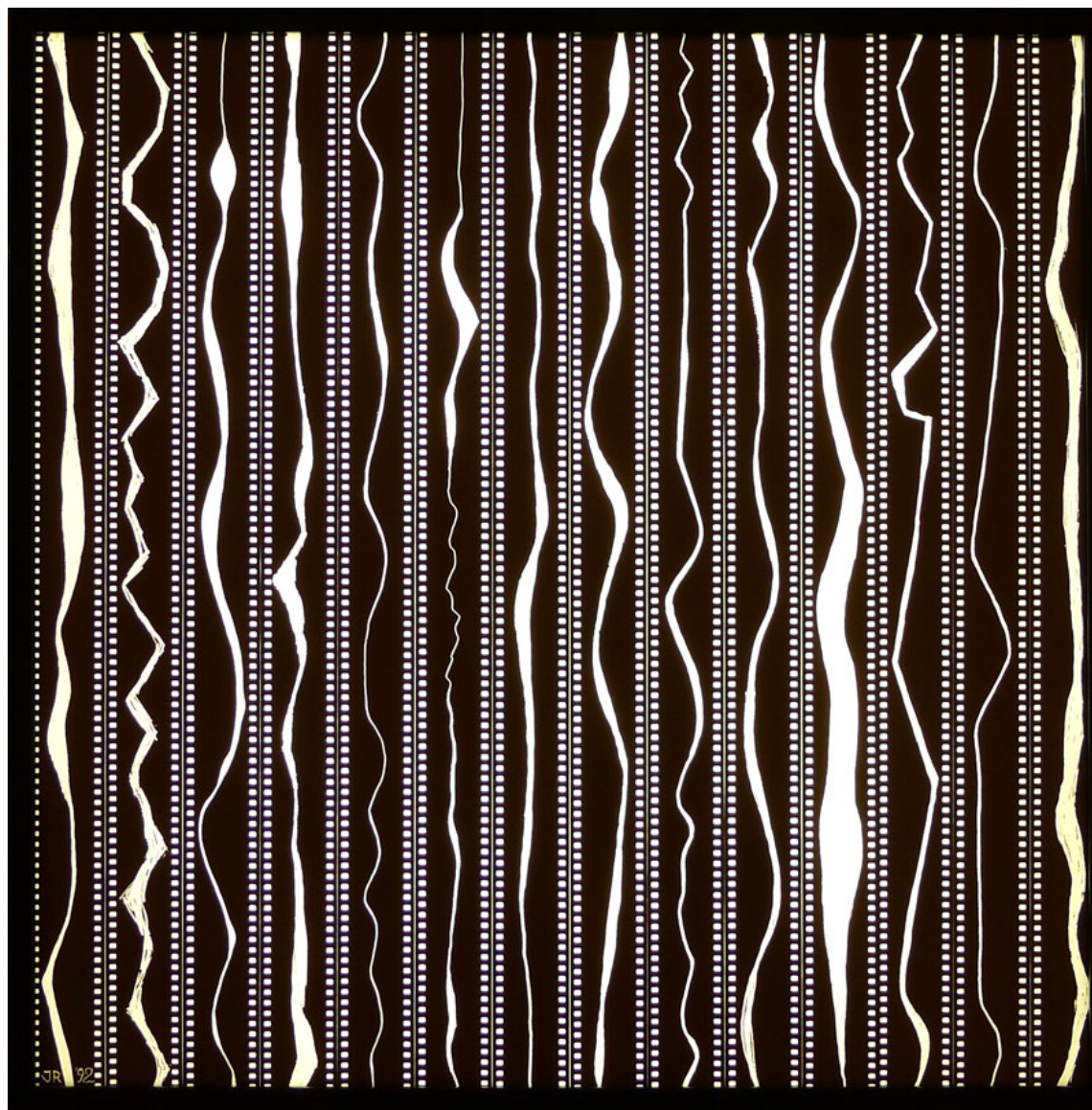
*Termogram*, 2001, Self technique (termogram), 82 x 104 cm



*Termogram*, 2001, Self technique (termogram), 82 x 104 cm



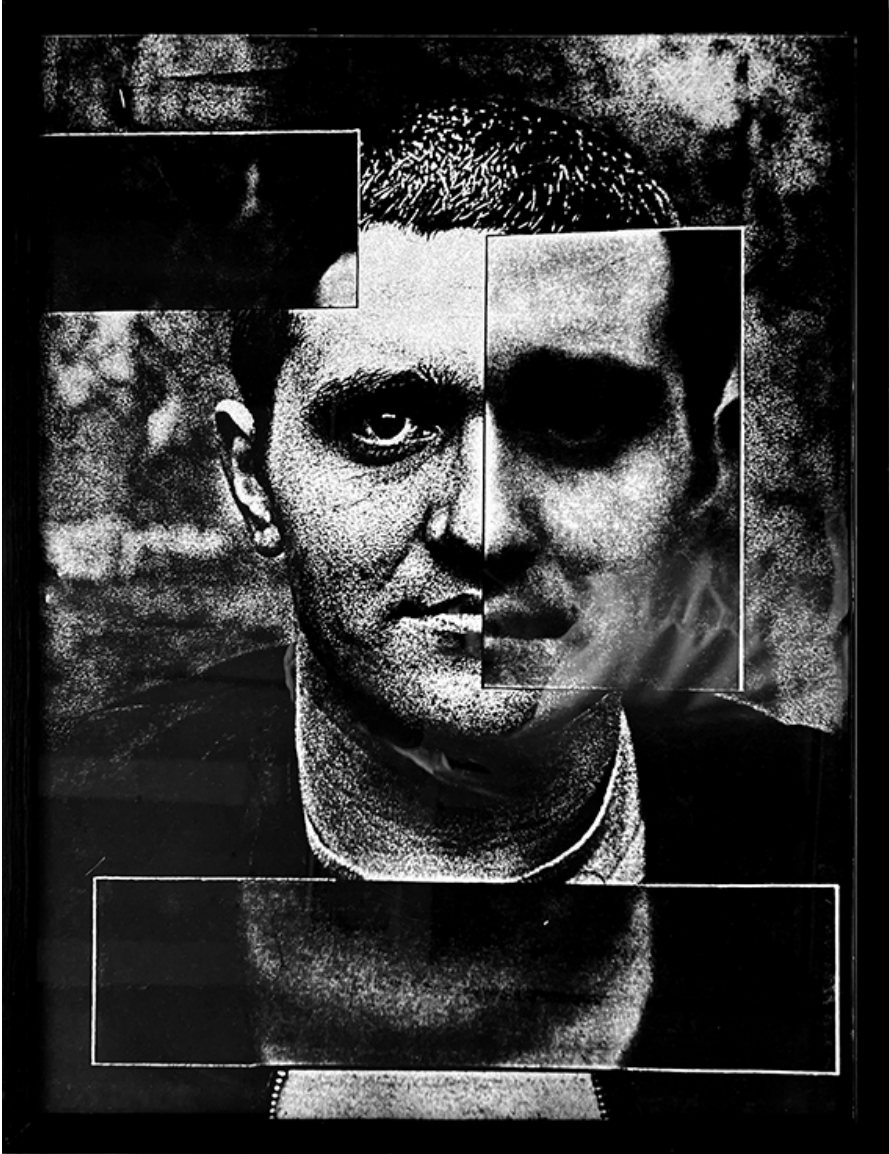
s, 1987, Paint on paper, mounted on alu-dibond, 25 x 175 cm, Set of 18



*Gnušna linia (Idle Line)*, 1992, Lightbox, 50 x 50 cm



Warsztat Formy Filmowej, 2017, Galerii Atlas Sztuki, Lodz, Poland



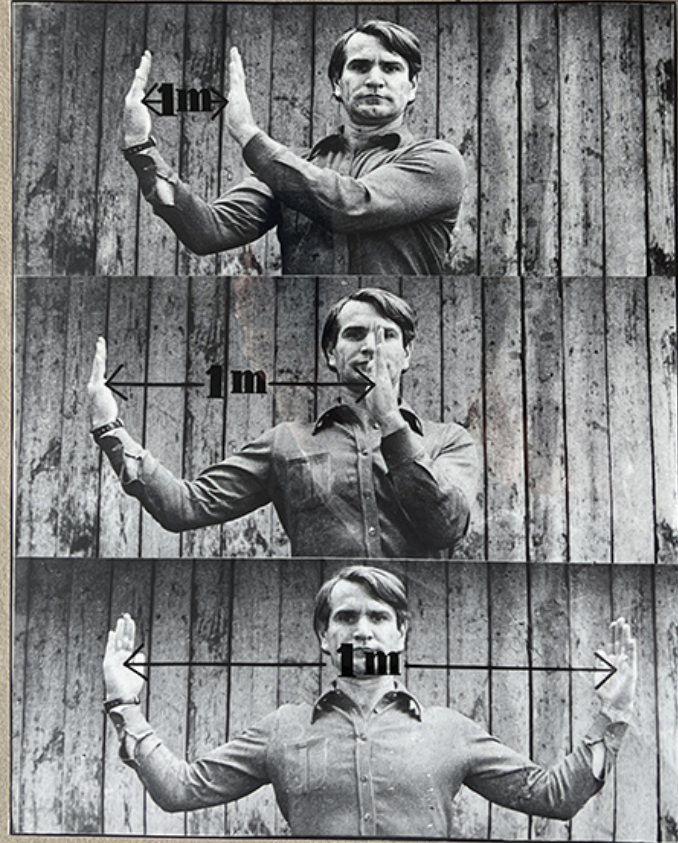
*Four Fields of Focus* , 1969, digital print, 62 x 44 cm



*Ten Fields of Focus*, 1969, digital print, 62 x 44 cm

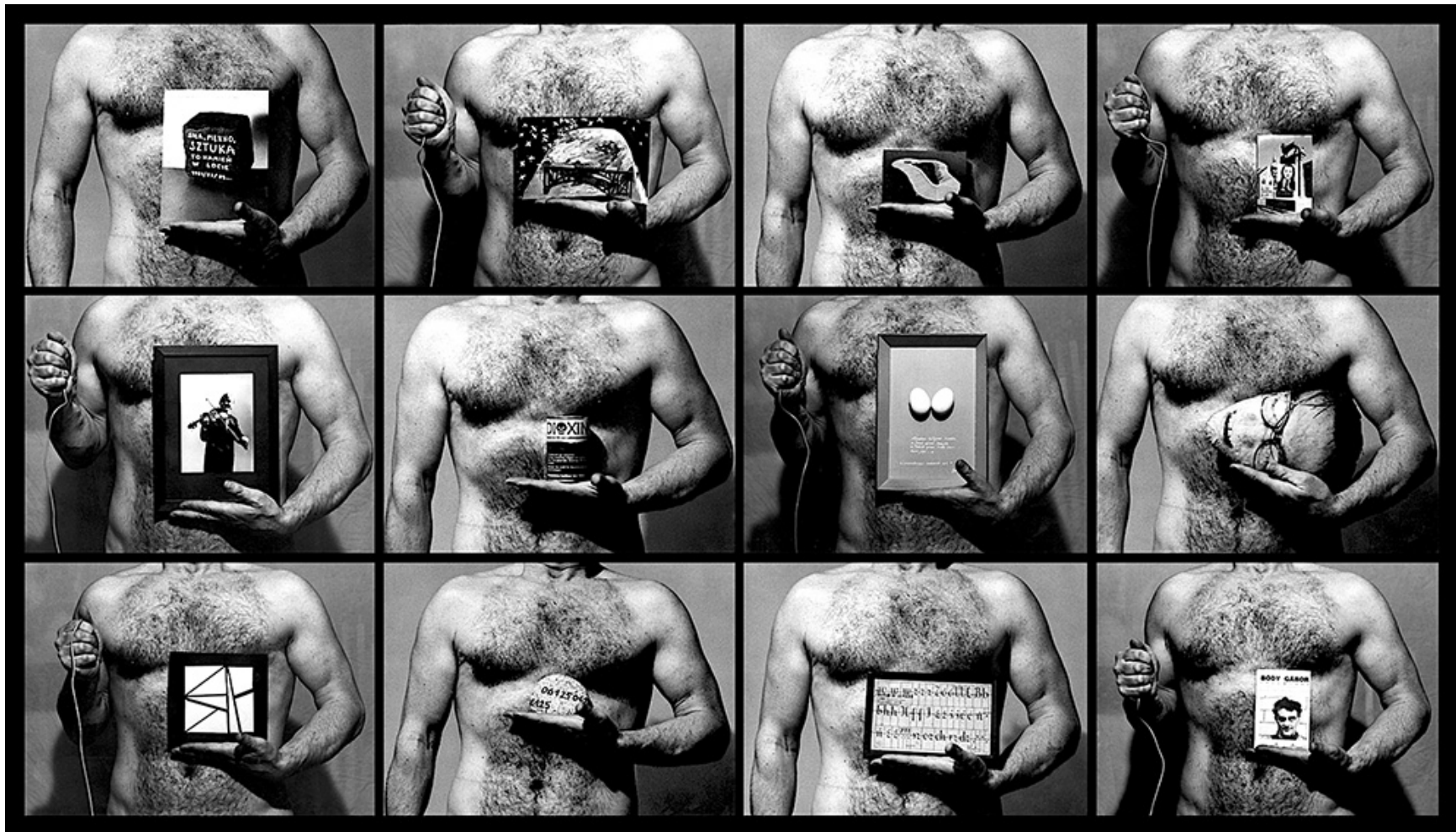
**RELACJE(1m) .**

Józef Robakowski 1975



*Relations (One Meter)*, 1975, Silver gelatin print and letraset, 62 x 46 cm





*Fetish*, 1986-87, Silver gelatin print, 70 x 100 cm, 12 frames

# VIDEO

In 1962, Robakowski created his first experimental film, *6.000.000*, using found footage. His works from the 1960s and 1970s (such as the non-camera film *Test II*, 1971) discarded narrative and the representational function of film. Robakowski is notable for his neo-avant-garde and neo-Dadaist approach. His works record the absurd communist reality of 1970s and 1980s Poland with a light touch and a sense of humour (*From My Window*, 1978–1999). At the same time, his works are profoundly political (*Brezhnev's Funeral*, 1982) and very personal (*The Touch of Józef*, 1989; *Of Fingers*, 1982). Robakowski is the co-founder of the *Film Form Workshops* (1970–1977) and an academic lecturer and theorist at the Łódź Film School. Light has been one of the most important themes in his work since the beginning.



*Framed. Activities for the Camera, 2021, Persons Projects, Berlin*



*Art Is Power!*, 1985, Video, 10 min



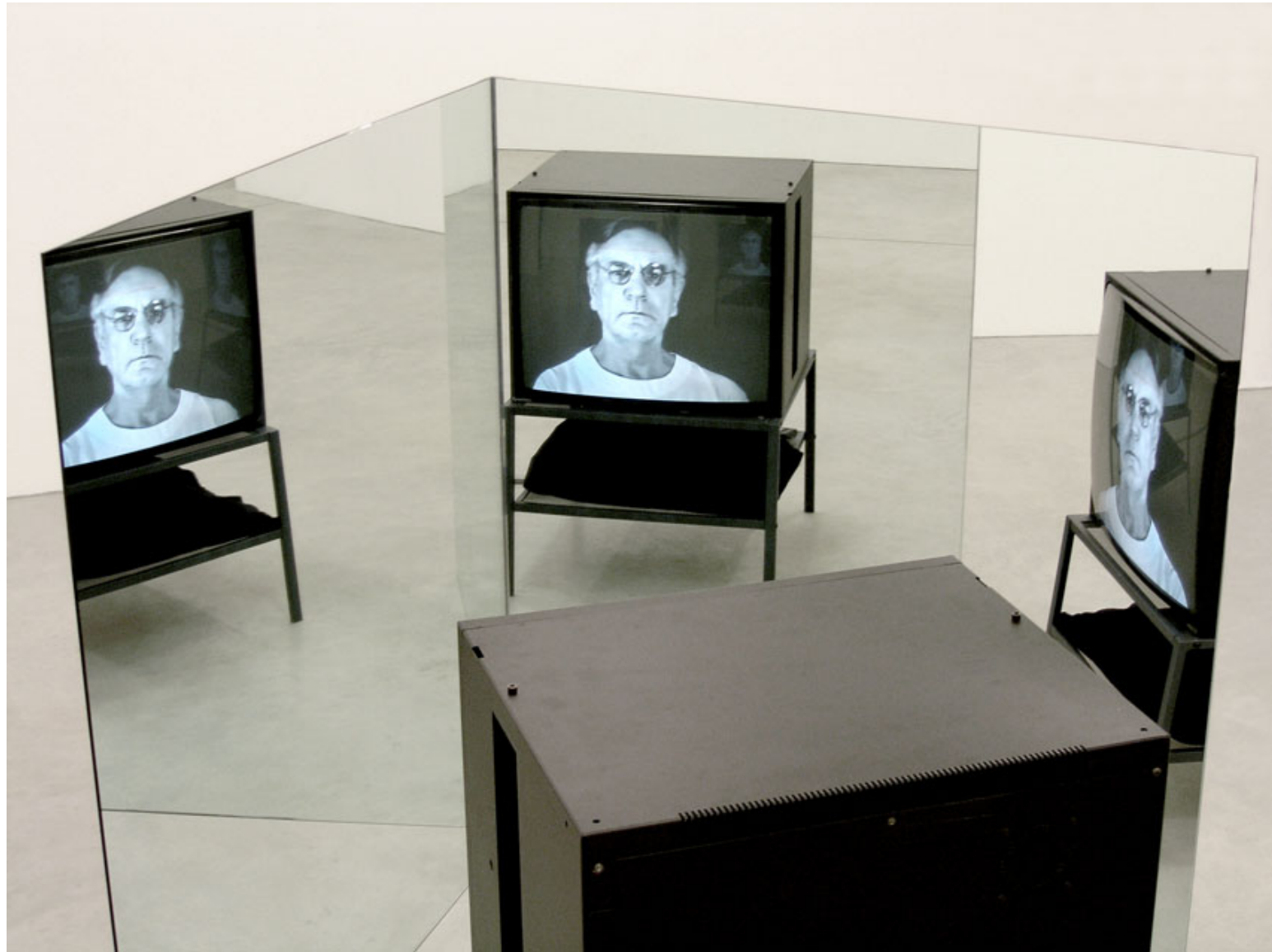
*About Fingers*, 1982, video



*Z mojega okna [From My Window]* , 2000, video transferred from 16 mm



which Mr. and Mrs. Janas from the 10th floor



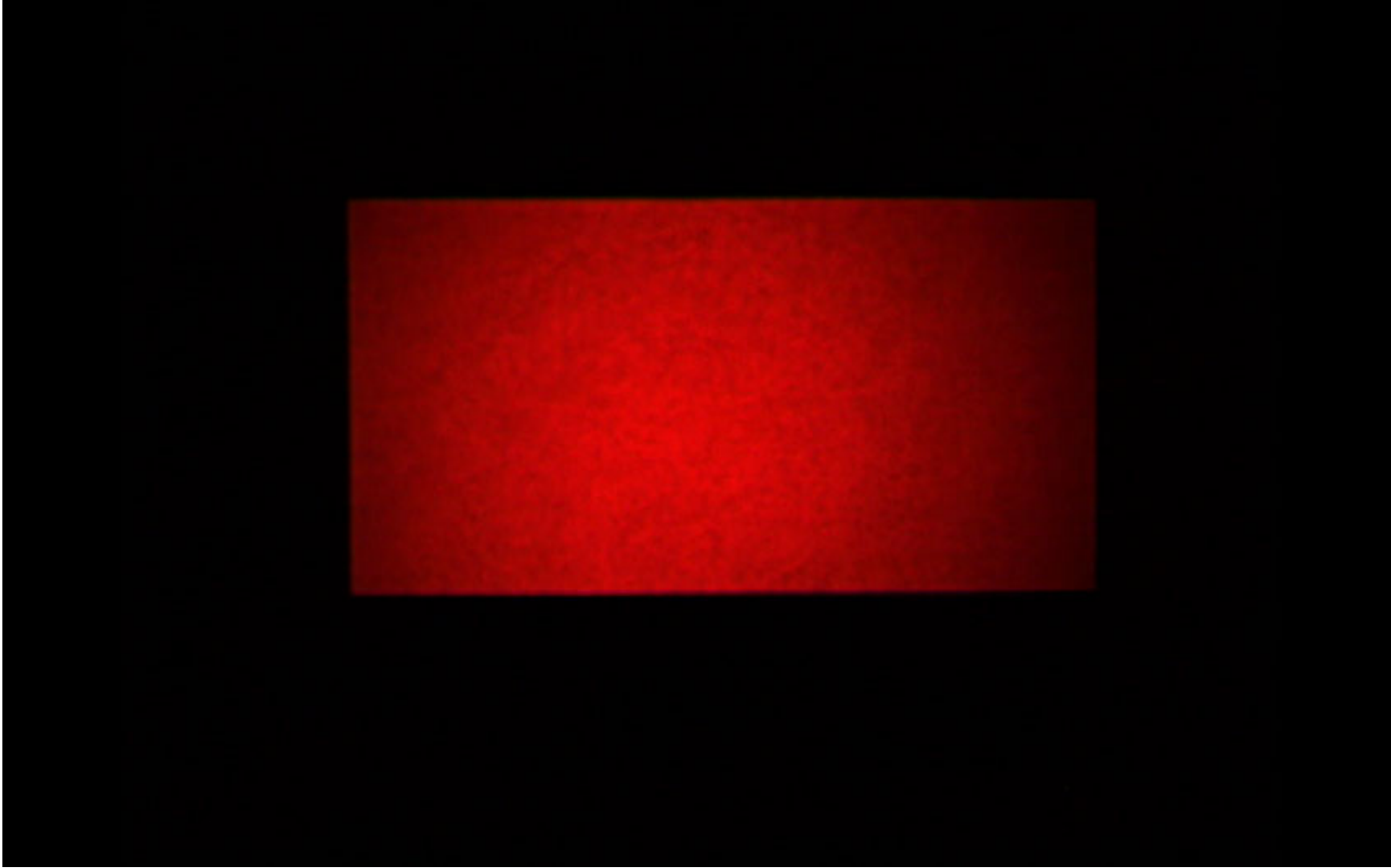
*Multiple Portrait*, 1998, Video-installation



*Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America, 1960-1980, 2016, MoMA, NY, USA*



*Rynek [The Market]*, 1970, video transferred from 35 mm



*The Dynamic Rectangle*, 1971, video

# Persons Projects

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