

Summary

ANDRZEJ JAROSZ/ Zbigniew Karpiński's Italian journey (1957)

Zbigniew Karpiński (1920-1996), a painter from Wrocław and a pedagogue of the local Academy of Fine Arts, belonged to a generation of "Arsenal". The participation in the "Arsenal" exhibition and joining the stream of artistic life in the times of "Thaw" was related with earning a fellowship in 1957 for a studio travel to Italy. Karpiński set apart for this journey with three artists, initiators of the Warsaw show: Jan Dziędziora, Marek Oberländer and Jacek Sienicki. Two-month trip started in Vienna, led through numerous Italian cities and museums – from Venice to Palermo – and ended up with a stay in Switzerland. While travelling the artist from Wrocław made painterly notes in the form of richly illustrated sketch-book. Copies of paintings in drawing – mainly of old masters – prove his fascination with the art of Renaissance. The drawings resulted also from systematic workshop practice. As early as in the 1940s Karpiński studied and transferred paintings of his prized old masters into graphic media. In his oeuvre we are able to find quotations, references and reinterpretations of Titian and Tintoretto among others in the technique of monotype as resulting from his Italian journey. 1957 was a crucial year in shaping the painter's attitude of a modern and searching yet faithful to the tradition of European painting artist.