

## **TADEUSZ MYSLOWSKI - EAST AND WEST CROSSROADS**

Gravitational power of two following "image symbols" present in my life.

Powerful to change and influence the course of my autobiographical history.

Two powerful political and cultural impulses since I can remember.

Physical columns representing the passing of time and economic and political orientation.

### East

Palace of Culture

Symbol of Russian political and cultural regime

Free form in plane

Most powerful column or tower in my early formative years, central in my life; because I hadn't travelled, the Palace of Culture seemed to be not just the most important building in Warsaw but in all of Europe;

Warsaw is full of contradiction, chaotic, not logical, full of different architectural conventions, composed of neighborhoods peripherally, doesn't have any sense architecturally speaking, because it was greatly destroyed during World War II there is confusion of styles and Stalinist ugly architecture everywhere, no sense of a definite centrum, all architectural logic is falling apart, there is only one structure that stands up like a dynamic spine - it's the ugly Stalinist column, Palace of Culture, a gift to Warsaw in the 60s, a time of political confusion, it doesn't matter from which direction we are looking: it's like a light tower showing us where the Warsaw heart is beating; it ironically stands as a desperate attempt to replicate the Parisian Eiffel Tower; because there is no other structure with this kind of dimension or presence, Warsaw disregards the structure's symbolic oppression; there was a time when for whole oppressed generations the word "socialism" was identified with the Warsaw Palace of Culture, synonym of the regime; has been used for years and years to manipulate and humiliate people