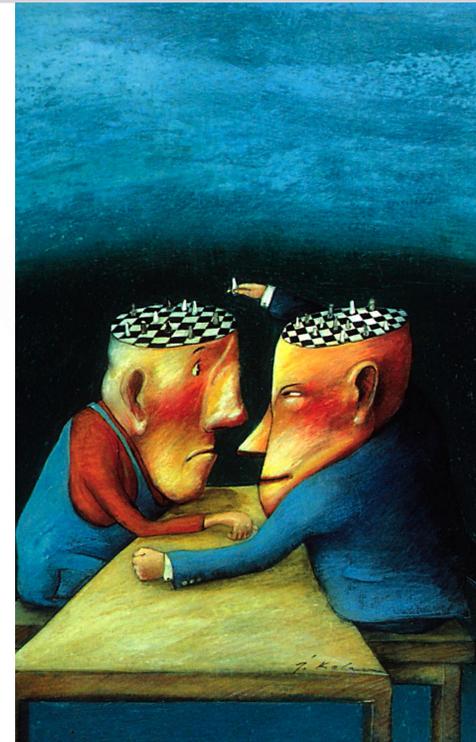
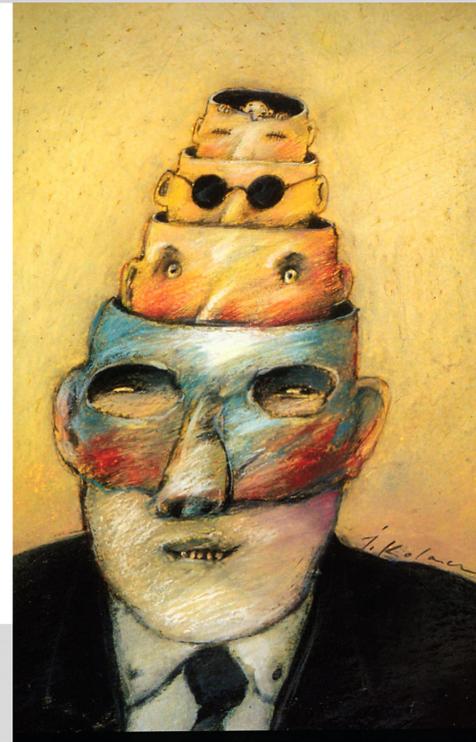


Jerzy Kolacz

(1938-2009)

Graphic artist, painter, illustrator



Art is vital for us because it prevents stagnation, disturbs in the positive sense of the word, boosts the need for self-discovery, so immensely important today, in this era of electronic images lulling our consciousness.

Jerzy Kolacz

Jerzy Kolacz studied painting and poster design at the Gdansk and Warsaw Academies of Fine Arts, at the latter studying painting under the celebrated artist Wojciech Fangor and graduating in 1962 in the class of the renowned graphic artist Henryk Tomaszewski. He then worked as art director for the Warsaw WAG Publishers and free-lanced as painter and graphic artist, winning numerous awards at national and foreign exhibitions in both fields. Although enjoying relative artistic freedom, but still feeling creatively restrained in communist Poland, he fled with his family to Sweden in 1977, and a year later settled in Canada's graphic art capital, Toronto, where he eventually taught at Ontario College of Arts for two decades.

Though the symbolic approach to illustration and cartoon had long been an accepted method of American graphic art, Kolacz's "European accent," that of Roland Topor or André Françoise, was novel in Toronto, presenting things unequivocally, pressing the viewer into pondering issues. His cartoons and illustrations appeared in many national and international publications, among them *Globe and Mail*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *Financial Post*, *Toronto Star*, *Chatelaine* and *Boston Globe*, while *Communication World* magazine named him one of the world's ten most successful illustrators.

Although applied art was Kolacz's consuming passion, painting remained all along of utmost importance to him. His paintings were shown in more than fifty solo exhibitions throughout Europe, North America and Asia, and are represented in many private, corporate and public collections. His art appeared in numerous fine arts magazines, such as *American Illustration-American Photography*, *Graphis* (Switzerland), *Idea Magazine* (Japan), or *Projekt* (Poland).

In 2004, the Toronto-based Polish Canadian Publishing Fund published two albums of Kolacz's work, *Memory Filter* and *Graphic Relief*, presenting his paintings and graphic works.

His artistic achievement was recognized by many honours. A repeated winner of the Toronto Art Directors' Club Merit Award, he also won the 1997 Communication Arts Award, and was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Fine Art.

Photos from top left clockwise:

• JerzyKolacz / Photo – Marek Majewski • J. Kolacz – two colour graphics • J. Kolacz – *Haiku Suburbs 5*, technique mixte, 2006, 152 x 152 cm • J. Kolacz during opening his *Memory Filter* exhibition in Montreal, February 2006. He was autographing *Punkt.ca* magazine with his graphic titled *Polish Muse* on its cover / Photo – Yarek Dabrowski, *Punkt.ca*

J. Kolacz



POLISH SPIRIT

