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JAN TARASIN – PICTURES OF THREE-SPACES: UNUSUAL TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS

A several-year project of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw associated with the research, conservation and restoration of Jan Tarasin’s paintings from the private collection of his son has produced many significant results. One of the basic subjects of the research was his unusual, original painting technologies, especially since most of these works came from an interesting and experimental period of this creative artist. This was partly due to the experience he gained when travelling around the world, getting to know the art and culture of other countries - from Europe to distant Asia, but also due to a growing contact with the modern materials offered by the industry at that time. The artist willingly adapted them to the world of his art, which resulted in numerous technological and artistic experiments, thanks to which he developed and refined his own painting techniques.

Already in the early 1960s, Jan Tarasin’s manner of painting began to change, it became more fleshy, thick, textural, with a dulled colour, and then it took on more synthetic and spatial forms. Focusing on Tarasin’s three-spherical series from the late sixties and the first half of the seventies, one of the most interesting, original and completely unique creative technologies from that period was analysed.

The secret of the development of these paintings was not solely based on the artist’s use of plastics that were becoming more and more common at that time, but was above all an unusual concept, a complex creative process that was key to achieving such surprising results. Among other things the artist developed methods for creating very delicate, thin relief images by casting their 3D textures from previously prepared plasticine mounds.

The perfection of these techniques, which led to his own ideas, allowed the creation of a whole series of complex three-dimensional objects, unique in the work of Tarasin, as well being among the more outstanding artistic objects created then in Poland and in the world.