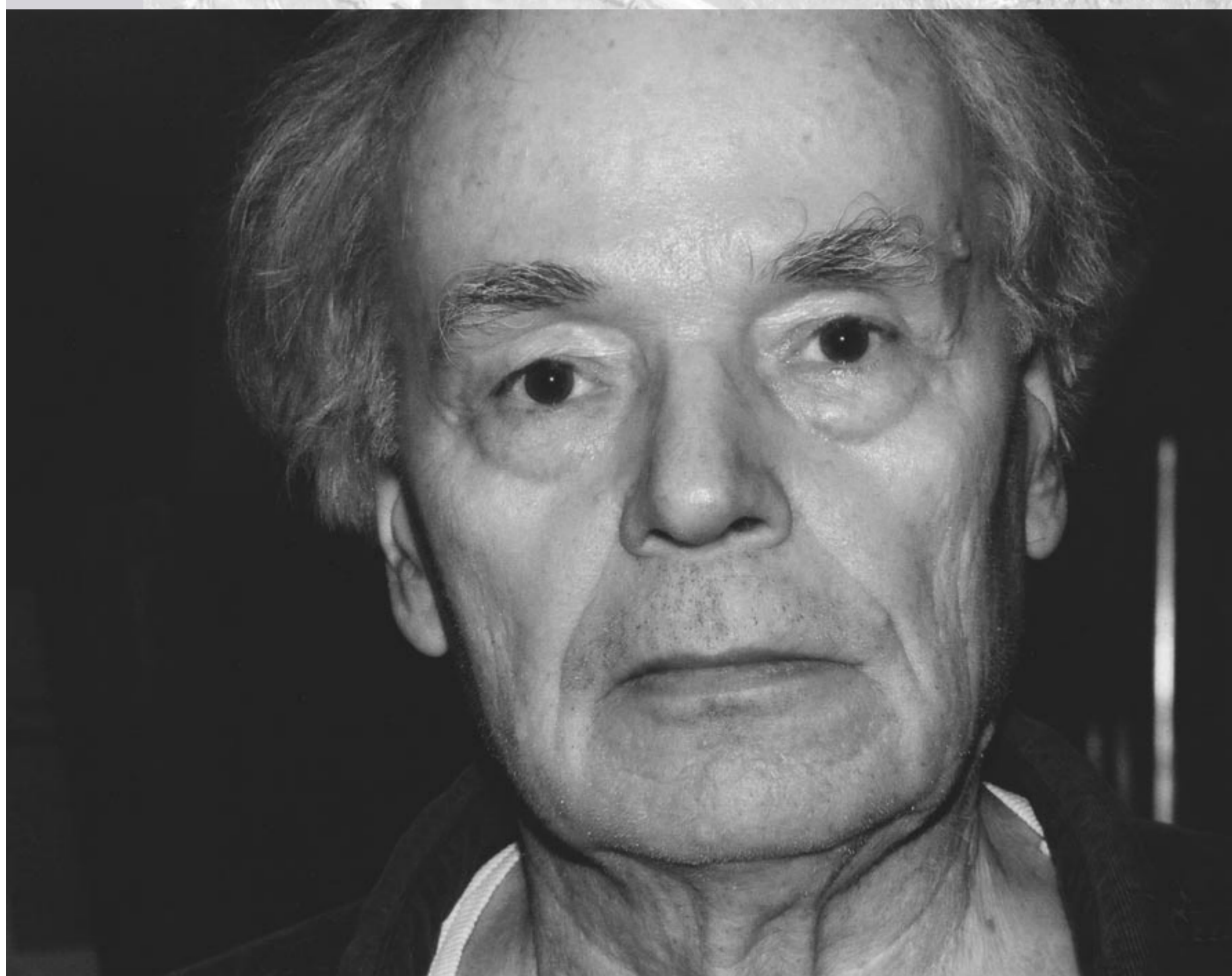


Kazimierz (Kazimir) Glaz

(b. 1931)

Artist, writer, publisher



POLISH SPIRIT



Like us, Glaz was rebelling against social realism. However, we were irritated only by its silly optimism, unrefined narration [and] exploited form. Glaz, on the other hand, stood in opposition to the weakness of art in its general dimension.

Jerzy Madeyski

A graduate of the Wrocław Academy of Fine Arts, Kazimierz Glaz founded the then-illegal Sensibilist avant-garde movement as a reaction against the official style in communist Poland. In the relative thaw of the late 1950s, the Sensibilists created *Fluxus*, a set of performance works that anticipated the happenings of the 1960s.

On a visit to Russia in 1962, Glaz was deeply impressed by the mysticism of the Russo-Byzantine icons he had seen. He painted a series of canvases entitled *Moscow Impressions*, which were exhibited at the IV International Biennale of Painting in Paris (1965) and won the Marc Chagall prize. Chagall himself gave Glaz his own Erasmus Prize to let him stay and work in France.

Glaz came to Canada in 1968 and settled in Toronto. In 1969, he interpreted his new surroundings in a gouache series entitled *Transposition of the Canadian Landscape*. He established the Toronto Centre for Contemporary Art, a non-profit art gallery, and has remained its director since. The Centre has published more than fifty books of writings and artworks by Glaz and others, and has organized the Centre Community Art Collections to place artworks in schools, libraries and hospitals.

Returning to painting and the inspiration of the Byzantine icon, his new series, *The Essence*, probes mysticism, asceticism and the spiritual world.

His paintings are in more than thirty permanent exhibitions worldwide, including such prestigious museums and galleries as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris, the Vatican Museum, the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the Museum of Contemporary Art in São Paulo, and the National Museum in Warsaw.

Photos from top left clockwise:

• Kazimierz Glaz / Photo – Yarek Dabrowski, *Punkt.ca* • K. Glaz – Interpretation: The Latin Civilization Paradigm – Human Being with His Architecture and Art, 2004 • K. Glaz – *The Essence*, 1996 • K. Glaz – the cover of the book published himself by K. Glaz

