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Photo-amateurism as a photographic practice. Analysis of the concept and transformations of the phenomenon

Over the decades, the concept of photo-amateurism has been understood in different ways, and it is possible to update it and develop a contemporary take only after analyzing the meanings that came before.

In the first part of the dissertation, I tried to create a definitional framework. I began by taking a historical view and determining how the development of photographic technology influenced the formation of the photo amateur movement. The next step was to establish a general definition of amateurism and pay attention to the non-professional practice of art. Only after the above observations were established was it possible to define photo-amateurism and its manifestations. I divided amateur photographers into beginners and advanced photographers. The most common manifestations of amateur activity are documenting family life, tourist photography and art photography.

Amateur photography was important in the history of postwar Poland. Amateur photographers were part of the state's cultural policy. The development of the amateur movement was also influenced by the photographic press. In this part of the dissertation attempts to define the image of the photographer characteristic of the time.

Important in approaching the subject was my own photographic experience. I decided to include autobiographical threads in the research activities, they are described in the third part of the work. The methodological basis was autoethnography and *art-based methods.* In the last part of this text, I analyzed two photographic exhibitions: *Odczytywanie* (2017) and *Miłośnik patrzenia* (2023). I was involved in them as a curator and author, respectively. The second exhibition was a direct result of the research work on the amateur photographic movement included in this dissertation - it became a visualization and interpretation of the subject.

Keywords: amatour photography, photography, history of photography