



Press release from the FORUM Polish Photographers Agency from 30.07.2010

“Flood from the sky” – an exhibition of aerial photography on the market square in Sandomierz www.powodzznieba.pl

“Flood from the sky” (“Powodz z nieba”) is a photography series by the World Press Photo winner Kacper Kowalski, on exhibition for one month starting August 11th on the market square in Sandomierz. A non-profit venue operated by the FORUM Polish Photographers Agency and the city of Sandomierz, “Flood from the sky” aims to attract tourists to Sandomierz, one of Poland’s most beautiful cities.

Floods are cataclysmic. They destroy cities, villages, and infrastructure. They influence the landscape covering huge space. The damage done by the Sandomierz flood was documented for the FORUM Polish Photographers Agency by Kacper Kowalski, whose pictures were awarded and honored by World Press Photo, Grand Press Photo, and National Geographic. Kacper captured the course of the flood from May 19th until the end of June by flying a paraglider over the 100 km of the water’s path. The result is a thrilling exhibition of the scale of devastation, a dramatic picture of the catastrophe from the bird’s eye view.

In May and June, these photographs inundated the Polish press. Now, the most interesting pictures will be presented for the first time in large formats of 1 x 1,5 m. The aerial photographs show this cataclysmic event from a prohibitively inaccessible perspective, giving the viewer a glimpse into details normally absent from high altitude photography: for example, facial expressions marking the human reaction to the flood. “It is an optimal perspective to show the scale,” says the photographer. “When I was flying over Sandomierz for the first time I was struck by the flood’s range and – I don’t want it to sound improper – how spectacular it looked. A city flooded over till the horizon, only the chimneys sticking out of the water... I wanted to document the flood as a process, a clash between men and the nature, a dramatic, uneven fight. The exhibition in Sandomierz is dedicated to these fighters.”

The exhibition, “Flood from the sky” (“Powodz z nieba”) will be displayed between August 11th and September 10th on the old market square in Sandomierz. The city is worth visiting not just for the exhibition, but for the numerous monuments that adorn its hills – all of which remained untouched by the flood. Indeed, a large part of Sandomierz’s revenue has historically come from tourism.

The exhibition is a non-profit venue with a free admission.

The exhibition is supported by the generous financial backing of Deutsche Bank PBC and Pilkington. The Honorary Patronage is held by the Sandomierz City Hall.



The exhibition is organized by:

Kacper Kowalski, the last year's 2009 World Press Photo Award winner, was born in 1977 in Gdansk, Poland. With a degree in architecture and a paragliding instructor's licence, as a photographer he specializes in aerial photography. He has received numerous awards and honourable mentions in the most important Polish and international photography contests: World Press Photo, Nikon Photo Contest International, Grand Press Photo, National Geographic, Pilsner Urquell International Photography Award (IPA), Sony Worlds Photography Awards. The bird's eye view- perspective on Kacper's pictures gives an extraordinary context to the classic themes, such as nature, civilization, industry. Both a pilot and a photographer, he has unique control over each shot. As a result, he is able to capture previously unseen patterns, regularities and asymmetries ordinarily inaccessible from the ground. cityscapes. www.kacperkowalski.pl

The FORUM Polish Photographers Agency has been established on the Polish press and publishers market since 1994. It cooperates with over four hundred authors capturing the cultural, social and political life in Poland. The agency supplies with pictures over sixty international press agencies, such as Reuters, DPA or Itar-Tass. Among FORUM's customers there are main Polish daily newspapers, weekly opinion magazines, lifestyle and women's magazines and numerous foreign press titles. The agency cooperates with book publishing houses, TV-broadcasters, Internet portals and advertising agencies. FORUM has also published and co-written the three-volume „Księga Listów PRL-u” (Book of letters from the Polish People's Republic), and two photography books: “Warszawa. Ballada o okaleczonym mieście” (Warsaw. A ballad on a hurt city) and “Flood”. The latter was awarded in 1998 by the Polish Book Publishers' Society in the category “The most beautiful book of the year 1997”. www.forum.com.pl

Exhibition sponsors:

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A selection of the pictures from the exhibition can be watched here:
<http://www.powodzznieba.pl/wystawa/>

Please feel free to interview the photographer Kacper Kowalski.

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