

LES CHIROUX

Leige, Belgium

Photography Gallery

rites of passage, the underground cathedral

EAST - WEST EUROPEAN TOUR

Photos by Frederick Abrams (U.S.A.)

These photos were taken during the 27 months that I spent in Europe between October of 1989 and December of 1991. The journey commenced via an invitation offered by an independent cultural organization in Poland which protected free expression during the communist era. Upon my arrival, the Solidarity government was installed and the Iron Curtain was cracking in Central Europe. In the summer of 1991 I traveled to Budapest, Prague and Berlin, then back to Poland to find the same places that I had photographed two years earlier. These images show the slow and painful blossoming after the fall of communism. I returned once again to these countries in the autumn when my photos were exhibited at the gallery of Zbigniew Makarewicz, president of the Polish Artists' Association, an organization that was suppressed during the decade of Martial Law. In December my visit to Moscow coincided with the collapse of the USSR.

Many of the presented photos were taken in metro stations throughout Europe. Institutions and rites of passage are examined from two other angles which are more anthropological; I made a comparison of the socialist and capitalist influence one finds on a Coca Cola T-shirt worn by a former neighbor in Barcelona and the logo Spolem that symbolizes the communist monopoly of Polish industry.



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