

SUMMARY

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THIS HELLISH BUS, POLAND
(FOOTNOTES TO B. W. LINKE)

The paper discusses allegorical representations of Poland referring to the motif of a red bus. The discussion concentrates on the painting *Bus* (1961) by Bronisław Wojciech Linke and references to this work (performances of the Academy of Movement from the 1970s, the song *Bus* by Jacek Kaczmarski from 1981, and the novel *March, Polonia* by Jerzy Pilch from 2008). Linke's painting has been interpreted as a vote of no confidence to communist world and at the same time a supplement to the allegorical image of Poland as a sinking ship, known from the Diet Sermons by Fr Piotr Skarga. The motif of the bus is watched as revitalized by political actualities. After 1989 the red bus appears as a phantom of communism (in Pilch's novel and in the collage *Świetlicki's Cities* by Alicja Biała) and simultaneously transforming into the token of "pop-communism". The reconstruction of the migration route of the motif corroborates the theory of Michael Billinge that national identity is reproduced, in fact, by banal figures.