

FROM THE EDITORS

# BE CAREFUL ON THE TURNS!

**T** rue breakthroughs – major turning points, watershed moments – are a rare thing in science. They might be triggered by a new mathematical proof, or a new theoretical explanation for an experimental fact that scientists have struggled with for years. They precipitate the emergence of a new idea that successfully explains, in a completely new and often surprising way, a certain fragment of reality. Often a turning point comes with the invention of a new research instrument that allows us to observe what was previously unobservable, or to make measurements with unprecedented precision, evidencing up previously unknown effects. These major shifts and turns certainly pose a challenge for the scientific community, often requiring the abandonment of certain deeply-ingrained assumptions, even the reinterpretation of decades of work. Such changes can also be dangerous for the pioneering researchers themselves – by deciding to explore unfamiliar terrain, they often have to commit themselves in big way without any guarantee of success. Striving to make a true breakthrough, therefore, can be risky for one’s career and even personal life (much like, for instance, venturing off to try to step on the surface of the Moon). An excellent example illustrating the dangers of doing truly groundbreaking research can be found in Albert Einstein’s scientific and private life. He is not only the creator of the Special and General Theories of Relativity, which he formulated before the age of 37 – he also predicted the existence of gravitational waves, the first direct observations of which in 2015 was a major inflection point in modern astronomy. However, Einstein spent the last nearly 40 years of his life trying to develop a “unified field theory” – unsuccessfully so. One of his famous quotes is: “I have little patience with scientists who take a board of wood, look for its thinnest part, and drill a great number of holes where drilling is easy.” Here’s hoping that many of us scientists keep striving to drill our holes in at least a slightly thicker part of the board.

PROF. PIOTR JARANOWSKI

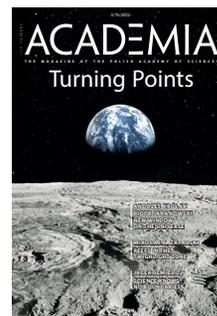
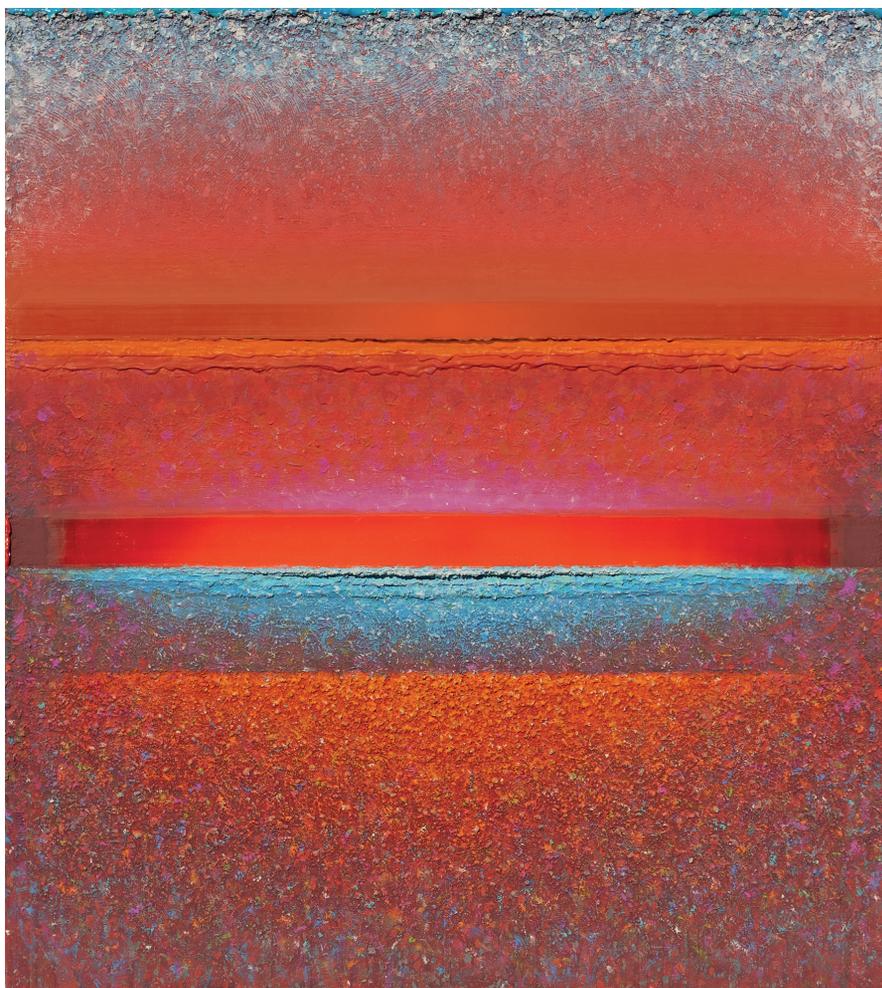
**Sebastian Skoczylas,  
“Blue Luminescence,”  
2022**

Sensualism and abstraction emerging out of horizontal bands of color, as distant echoes of moments and places.

A sensual play of pure tones, with delicate transitions from hue to hue and transparent composition.

A poetic and nebulous, gestural painting that does not dramatize, but soothes and illuminates, and helps the viewer rebuild their inner harmony.

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