

## If a Builder

If a builder builds someone a house,  
but his product is not sturdy  
and the house he built  
collapses and kills its owner,  
the builder will be sentenced to death.  
Therefore, tread carefully, the resident  
above me,  
Tread carefully, the resident  
below me,  
The resident to my one side  
and to my other,  
not only after ten p.m.  
Tread carefully, consider the builder  
who builds house after house.  
That's a tricky project,  
construction far from obvious,  
it may topple.

## Will the Builders

Will the builders be on time  
with dismantling the roof?  
It's climbed right now  
by the much regretted.  
Will the builders meet the schedule  
to replace with a vast expanse  
the unbearable four walls  
and the gouged-out window?  
It's approached right now  
by a woman with curtains.  
Right now, this way stride  
a man and a boy with a bookcase  
full of nonfiction.  
Will the builders be first?  
Will they overtake them  
to deal with the partitions?

## What Really?

What sends us on Sunday  
these two pigeons flying together, in a flawless forma-  
tion,  
in an ideal arc approaching the landing  
and landing simultaneously,  
with their bodies bent at a shared angle  
and with their identical legs gently outstretched,  
finished off with the rows of identical claws,  
so that here on earth  
they part ways to follow their particularisms and  
pettiness,  
toddle and peck whatever at random,  
flimflam and diddle?  
What opens for us, the residents, what really,  
the manual of the world on the page with the defini-  
tion of comicality,

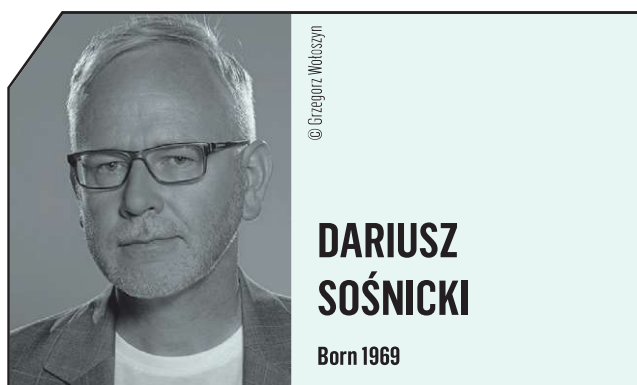
what performs for us this comedy  
not funny at all?

Too big a meal  
eaten on our own?

Fake effort?

Fierce struggle?

Translated by Elżbieta Wójcik-Leese



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### Foreign language translations

Dariusz Sośnicki's poetry collections have been published in Romania and the USA. His poems have also been translated into Bulgarian and Spanish and published in anthologies.

### Selected poetry collections

*Wysokie ogniska. Wiersze wybrane*, 2014

*Spóźniony owoc radiofonizacji*, 2014

*O rzeczach i ludziach (1991-2010)*, 2011

*Państwo P.*, 2009

*Folia na wietrze*, 2007

*Skandynawskie lato*, 2005

*Symetria*, 2002

*Ikarus*, 1998

*Marlewo*, 1994

### Selected awards

The Wisława Szymborska Award (2022) – nomination

Silesius Poetry Award (2022) – nomination

Gdynia Literary Prize (2015) – nomination

Medal of Young Art (2003)

Polityka Passport Award (2002) – nomination

Time of Culture Magazine Prize (1994)