

***Cena Povera* for guitar and percussion (2012)**

Is there any beauty in poverty?

Establishing a connection between poverty and beauty is reserved for those who can afford to draw some sort of aesthetic pleasure from the poverty of others. It comes as no surprise that opera goers are carried away by 'La Bohème', while most artists face more or less precarious living and working conditions.

Why is frugality a virtue?

Ever since the classical modern period, aesthetic education requires us to regard the 'economy of means' as an aesthetic value. The question remains as to why it is that rational economic behaviour is presented as an artistic ideal, whether this frugality is often enforced instead of being freely chosen and at what point frugality turns into scarcity.

The appeal of constraint

And yet constraint does have a certain appeal – e.g. in dishes which originate from Europe's poorer regions: getting the best possible result from the little that is available, compensating for somewhat meagre ingredients with creative preparation, capitalizing on shortages to foster creativity. All that matters is who is doing the cooking and how hungry you are.