

# Franz Kaka

**Nabil Azab** (b. 1994, Paris, FR) is a lens-based artist, researcher, and writer currently living in Los Angeles. Azab employs drawing, painting, writing, and archival research as fodder for abstract photographic works that resist the objectivity and disciplinarity of the medium in contemporary life. Azab's work considers archival material as sources for abstracted photographic works and writing. Recent solo exhibitions include *You are not very far away* at PLATFORM in Winnipeg; *The big mess with us inside it* at Pumice Raft, Toronto; *Open Channel* at Franz Kaka, Toronto; *Something good that never happened* at Afternoon Projects, Vancouver, and *the welling up which would not pass* at DRAC, Drummondville, Quebec. They are currently an MFA candidate at The University of California, Riverside.

**Zoe Koke** (b. 1989, Calgary, CA) holds an MFA from UCLA (2019) and a BFA from Concordia University (2013). In 2024, Koke has presented solo exhibitions *Unchained Melody*, Smart Objects, Los Angeles; and *In the Office*, April April, New York, as well as group exhibitions *Everywhere It Goes*, Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich; and *Adaptation*, Franz Kaka, Toronto. In 2023, Zoke's exhibitions included *fuckgirl collapse*, Room 3557, Los Angeles; *the second space* (solo exhibition), Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich; *a serpent's tail* (with Rike Droescher), Alice Amati, London; *the shape of time*, Lindon&Co, London; and *Agony/Serendipity* (with Nicholas Campbell), Smart Objects, Los Angeles. Other past exhibitions include *Re/flux*, Patel Brown, Toronto (2020); *Doesn't whine by blue moon*, Ochi Projects, Los Angeles (2020); *Celebration* at INSECT Gallery, Los Angeles; *American Myth*, Washer and Dryer Projects, Salt Lake City (2019); and *Made to look natural*, Smart Objects, Landers (2018). Koke works across disciplines with an emphasis on painting, living between the Mojave Desert and Los Angeles, California.

**Tony Romano** (b. 1978, Toronto, CA) draws on familial tradition of carpentry and ironwork to create video, sculpture, and painting, often conceived as installations that combine storytelling and folkloric references. Romano is interested in historical-material culture, in particular, objects where the ornamental and the profane collide. Romano undertakes projects that engage specific material culture, craft, and technique, seeking to reveal emotive cultural meanings. His sculptural and filmmaking practice mutually inform one another, developing visual language and narrative structure that takes root in one and expands within the other. Romano holds a BFA from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and has exhibited his work widely both nationally and internationally, including in Canada, the United States, Austria, the United Kingdom, and Sweden. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Big Hat*, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa; *Night Thoughts*, BEERS London; *The Branch In The Salzburg Mine*, Clint Roenisch Gallery, Toronto; *The Last Act*, Article, Montreal; *Onward Future*, Oakville Galleries; *Notary Moon*, MacLaren Art Gallery, Barrie; and *Oversea/ Undersea*, Kulturhust, Stockholm.

**Michael Thompson** (b. 1997, London, CA) is a painter living and working in Toronto. Thompson's paintings connect the evolution of the image—from early darkroom photography through contemporary digital imaging—to the shifting labour conditions across the 20th and 21st century. Rooted in Thompson's experience at Ford Motor Company where his father and two grandfathers

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worked before him, he paints from found images wrought with a nostalgic yearning for the handmade and the aesthetics of manual labour more broadly. Thompson's painted subjects are fractured and stuck between images of a recent past that can never be relived and the inexhaustible drive toward efficient, productive workplaces aided by the latest technologies. In 2019, Thompson completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at Western University and became a resident artist at the Slade School of Fine Art in partnership with Camden Art Centre (London). In 2022, he received a Master of Fine Art from the University of Guelph. The artist has been included in exhibitions in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. His first solo exhibition, *Chorus Coda*, opened at Franz Kaka, Toronto in 2023. Thompson was included in *Greater Toronto Art 2024* at MOCA, Toronto, curated by Ebony Haynes, Toleen Touq, and Kate Wong.

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