

SŁAWOMIR ELSNER

1976 – born in Wodzisław Śląski

1995-2002 – art studies at the Kunsthochschule in Kassel

2001 – first prize winner at the des dit photo contest, Frankfurt am Main

2003 – "Selbst Im weitesten Sinne" prize winner, Kunstverein Marburg

2004 – Junge Kunst scholarship, Essen

Lives in Berlin.

Sławomir Elsner uses drawings, paintings and photographs to meticulously trace the aesthetic conventions employed by other people to emphasize their identity. In his earliest photographic series he himself would impersonate a range of various professionals: from a Turkish bar assistant to a German policeman. In his drawing series, Elsner portrayed representatives of various professions wearing casual clothes, or children as professionals they could become in the future. Elsner's constant point of interest, linking most of his works, concerns forms, conventions and styles taken out of control of designers and officials, born spontaneously and unwittingly "among the people". On the other hand, there is the conventionality of our perception and the drive towards anesthetizing of both one's own environment as well as "the world" as represented by the media. Paying heed to this process, Elsner deliberately confuses the viewer, like in the series of elaborate and beautiful drawings depicting war scenes and natural disasters.

ANETA GRZESZYKOWSKA

Born in 1974, graduated from the Graphic Arts Department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. In 2014 won Polityka's Passport Award in The Visual Arts category. Lives and works in Warsaw.

The primary medium in which Aneta Grzeszykowska works is photography. However, she treats it instrumentally, as a tool for the realization of advanced, artistic and ontological exercises. The artist is interested in the role photography plays in creating and documenting a personal identity. Therefore, in her film projects or doll sculptures, the human figure acquires the shape and aura of a marionette. One of the main topics of Grzeszykowska's works is her own identity, with which she plays on many levels: by erasing her own figure from a family collection of photographs (Album, 2005), or by impersonating Cindy Sherman in her classic cycle Untitled Film Stills (2006). Some projects by Grzeszykowska – like the cycle of illusionist portraits of non-existent people (Untitled, 2006) – take advantage of the possibilities offered by digital image manipulation, while others use photography and film in a classic way by emphasizing the performative dimension of the artist's activities. The motifs which she obsessively returns to in her works are absence, invisibility, disappearing, and the confrontation of body and thought with non-existence.

KAROLINA JABŁOŃSKA

1991 born in Niedomice

2010-2015 – studied at the Painting Department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow

2014-2015 – scholarship at Vysoká škola uměleckoprůmyslová, Praha

2018 – artist in residence, Spinnerei Leipzig

Co-founder of artist-run-space Potencja Gallery and "Łałok" magazine.

Lives and works in Krakow.

Karolina Jabłońska's painting combines the artistic licence of *art brut* and a neo-expressionist aura with the confessional power of modernists and feminists. The characteristic colour range of the paintings accentuates their dark eroticism. Jabłońska's works burst with scenes of exaggerated sensitivity, ecstatic violence, and disturbing hallucinations. A lyrical subject appearing in many of the paintings is a young girl with unnaturally large, brown eyes—the artist's alter ego. This rescaling is nearly obsessive, concealing both terror and defiant curiosity. Jabłońska's heroines are girls from the disco, thieves, goddesses and fortune-tellers, and the connections and emotions both emerge and end violently—in passion. Here exaggeration and hyperbole are principles of both composition and life. The sweet sultriness of her painting draws energy from the literary motifs traced by the artist and from a direct response to a testosterone-driven reality. Her paintings are accompanied by works on paper, spray-painted using stencils.

EMILIA KINA

Born in 1990.

2010-2015 – studied at the Faculty of Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków.

Working primarily in painting and photography.

Lives and works in Kraków.

Emilia Kina's paintings combine erudition and aesthetic appeal. Their sources are in lie in the theory of painting and depiction, but the essence lies in the relations between painting/image and painting/object. Kina's paintings call to mind screens, curtains and blinds, which like a room divider conceal the view. The figure of the painting as an open window is treated here literally as a material frame, more an element of stage design than a frame from reality.