

PRESS RELEASE

# CACOTOPIA 07

6 JANUARY — 4 FEBRUARY 2023

OPENING RECEPTION

THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY, 6 — 8PM

Annka Kultys Gallery is pleased to present Cacotopia 07, the seventh edition of the gallery's annual survey of leading emerging artists within the contemporary art space presenting this year twelve international artists: Ana Benavides, Jesse Draxler, Lennart Grau, Florine Īmo, Rachel de Joode, Sam King, Signe Pierce, Emerson Pullman, Kora Moya Rojo, Juliette Sturlèse, Vickie Vainionpää, Addie Wagenknecht.

This annual exhibition started seven years ago as group exhibition of five MFA graduate artists and used to unfold over the course of five weeks, each week featuring a new artist bring to light contemporary perspectives on feminism, ecology, celebrity culture, politics and professionalism. Last year, after the Covid-19 pandemic we decided to present more artists in a single groupe show rather than five short shows in a row to offer more artists visibility after a year long lockdown. Unlike in 2022 show in which most of the artists were London based, this year we will present a very international group of artists working all over the world, in countries such as Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, USA.

## EMERSON PULLMAN

Emerson Pullman (b.1995) is a figurative painter who creates portraits that operate on the boundary between realism and abstraction. Often beginning with an initial drawing, he instinctively pushes forward by making marks and gestures using layers of transparent paint. The depiction of a figure in a scene is used as a starting point for imagining the deeper reality of what is being represented and to use as a framework to explore themes of time, memory, introspection and mortality. (source: artist's website)

## JULIETTE STURLÈSE

Juliette Sturlèse, born in 1989, is a visual artist from France raised in Paris. She is living and working between the UK and Germany (Berlin). She studied paintings in Berlin at the Weissensee academy of fine art and did a Meisterschüler with Nader Ahriman in 2019 and a diploma with Werner Liebmann in 2018.

Two paintings by Sturlèse will be featured in the show (one medium and one small). They are part of the artist's recent series inspired by gardens at night (painted predominantly with dark blues, touches of pink and green colour in abstracted manner reminding the aesthetics of Mark Rothko's abstract paintings). On the smaller paintings, the artist added artificial grass in order to remind the viewer that they are looking at a garden, synonym of life as well as impermanence of all living things.

## ANNKA KULTYS GALLERY

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## VICKIE PAINANIOPÄÄ

In her ongoing Soft Body Dynamics series, twisting, tubular forms are systematically created using generative 3D modelling software. In a sort of automated line drawing technique, the software randomly generates a set number of splines per day, from which the artists select to create final compositions which are painted by hand using oil on canvas. By embracing new digital means of reading space and content, the works draw attention to the ever-changing relationship between the human body and digital technology.

She lives and works in Montreal, Canada.

## SIGNE PIERCE

Signe Pierce's practice encompasses performance, video, photography, writing and digital installations. She aligns and identifies with the notion of being a 'Reality Artist', a term Pierce acknowledges is at once enigmatic and paradoxical by nature, melding two highly subjective and contested concepts (reality and art). Pierce uses her body, the camera and her surroundings to produce films, performances, photographs and web-based works with a singularly flashy, neon, 'Instagram' aesthetic. Through her work, she posits questions regarding gender, identity, sexuality and reality within an increasingly digital world.

She lives and works in New York.

## FLORINE İMO

Florine Imo (b.1995) lives and works in Vienna, Austria. Her work explores different aspects of femininity while highlighting the concept of the contrast between soft and sharp aspects in her female figures. Florine's paintings explore overwhelming patterns, luminous colours and metaphorical visual language. Recently the artist created a powerful alter ego figure, which can be found in various group shows during this year. (Source: Artist's website)

## LANNART GRAU

With an astringent use of colour, Lennart Grau creates liquid-like figurative representations, based on expressive historical and every day sources in what seems a highly personal yet contemporary, painterly language akin to Glenn Brown. In fact, to an even greater extent there is an effulgent Neo-Baroque tendency and Rococo pleasurableness prevailing Grau's materially loquacious paintings.

Lannart Grau was born in 1981 in Krefeld (Germany) and lives and works in Berlin.

## JESSE DRAXLER

"I'm someone who takes in information from the world and regurgitates it in order to create this dark, void mirror of it. The imagery is often violent in its intention. I have this romanticized idea that I can take the most vapid H&M advertisement out of an Elle magazine and turn it into this meaningful piece of art. That's alchemy right there.

"Jesse Draxler lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

(Source: Artist's interview with Alex Estorick for @right\_clicksave)

## KORA MOYA ROJO

Digitally reconstructing dreams, imaginations and memories into enchanting drawings and canvases, Kora Moya Rojo creates eerie worlds that inhabit the liminal space between the conscious and the unconscious.

Kora Moya Rojo was born in 1993 in Spain and lives and works in London.

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## ADDIE WAGENKNECHT

Addie Wagenknecht's and American artist and lives and works in Austria. Her work blends conceptual art with forms of hacking and gestural abstraction.

In this group show, Addie Wagenknecht will feature two abstract paintings on TV screens. This series is based on the videos of Dutch seventeenth century still life works appropriated by the artist from YouTube and transformed via various digital processes, to become abstracted pieces with the dominant orange and brown colours (typical in in the Dutch Golden Age during its period of greatness, economical, political as well as cultural) , while some of the initial elements, such a tiny flowers will remain intact, figurative. This way of making the paintings is not new for the artist. Indeed, Wagenknecht previous and ongoing series such as Zoom paintings' made during the Covid-19 pandemic, where the artist borrows the Zoom video as as a starting point or as early as 2015, in her dick pick series where she was utilising the images she was receiving via direct messaging from her male fans.

## RACHEL DE JOODE

A central interest of Rachel de Joode is the interplay between the physical and virtual world, exploring the relationship between the three-dimensional object and its two-dimensional representation. Work by the artist is represented in permanent private and public collections, including the Collection of Keramiek Museum Princessehof, Leeuwarden.

## ANA BENAVIDES

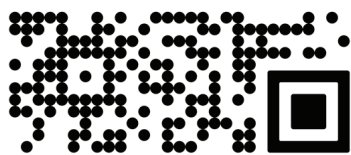
Ana Paula García Benavides (b.1996) is a Mexican artist based in London. She currently studies at RCA.

## SAM KNIG

Sam King's (b. 1995) practice explores diverse issues including subjective experience and human relationships in the digital age, transhumanism, and the utopian and dystopian potentialities of technological progress. Technically, his work combines traditional and 'virtual' registers of paint to obscure the boundary between organic and technologized life. The artist montages heterogeneous references drawn from art history, computer generated software and internet imagery, to explore the hybrid nature of contemporary experience. (Source: Artist's website)



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