

InBetweenTown(s)Body(and)Landscape

Exhibiting Artists ∨ Dávid Bátora, Natália Šimonová, Dominika Škorváneková, Kristína Záhorová

Curator ∨ Omar Mirza

Duration ∨ April 29 – June 12, 2022

Venue ∨ Youth Gallery

Opening ∨ April 28, 2022, 6pm

The exhibition showcases works of four young students at the Department of Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica which is led by doc. Mgr. art. Ján Triaška, ArtD. Departments of painting can be also found at universities in Bratislava and Košice, but the work of the students and graduates of “the school of Banská Bystrica” is among the most interesting ones at the contemporary young art scene, which has also been proven by various awards and exhibitions.

The showcase is not a typical semestral exhibition of students’ works often found at similar presentations. It is also not trying to give a complete picture of the current trends at the Department of Painting at the FFA. It is rather a curatorial probe into one of various ideological, topical and formal approaches of today’s students of art. The goal of the exhibition held at the dynamic exhibition space of the Youth Gallery is not to showcase isolated presentations of individual students, but to rather create a dialogue – find something they have in common.

The selected works follow the theme trajectory of town – human/body – landscape which is also reflected in the exhibition title. We can also find the words “in” and “between” there, which refer to the fact that even though the exhibiting artists study in Banská Bystrica, they come from different parts of Slovakia (Prievidza, Prašice, Brezno, Dolný Kubín). The artists portray human intervention into both urban and natural

landscape, explore the relationship between people and nature, they deal with personal and collective history and memory, the passing of time and natural processes – all of that from the point of view of today’s twenty-year-olds. From a formal perspective, they oscillate between realistic and figural paintings toward abstract motives, they experiment with natural pigments and materials. There is also an apparent influence of their tutor as three out of the four study at a studio led by doc. Mgr. art. Rastislav Podoba, ArtD.

Dávid Bátora (1999) is a fourth-year student. His work focuses on space, studies both urban and natural landscape where he explores the aspect of time. He experiments with alternative media and techniques, such as using natural pigments and template painting.

Natália Šimonová (1995) is a sixth-year student. She works with collective and personal memory and portrays urban architecture and its structures, like socialist-era playgrounds. She is also interested in destruction, her paintings make use of various organic and time phenomena of rust and mould.

Dominika Škorváneková (1997) is a fifth-year student. Her works combine natural themes with the human figure and organic structures. Human inner world is here fundamentally connected to the space of the outer landscape. She uses the technique of aquarelle to express the fragility of the moment.

Kristína Záhorová (1996) is a sixth-year student. She explores the relationship between the landscape and the human desire for nature’s freedom. She paints with inks she makes herself from found organic materials. She incorporates fragments of her own body into abstract patterns.