

group 23

ELIZA BALLESTEROS, ALYCE FORD, PHILLIP NAUJOKS, TOM KRÓL, PAULINE RINTSCH

September 2 – October 7, 2023

Opening: Friday, September 1 / 6 pm

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In the exhibition *group 23*, fiebach, minninger presents established artists from the gallery such as Tom Król, Eliza Ballesteros and Alyce Ford, together with recent new discoveries from the region, including Phillip Naujoks and Pauline Rintsch. In their varying approaches, intentions, and styles, the artists are brought together by their engagement with the two-dimensional painting ground, which they traditionally use, treat, construct, or reinterpret.

The works of artist Pauline Rintsch, recently shown as part of her graduation from the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, are characterized by a classical painterly aesthetic within which the traditional canvas has been replaced by solid paper. Rintsch's subjects are based on an interaction between an intuitive artistic approach and the experience of immediacy in relation to personal surroundings and the rendering of moments of everyday scenes. The female gaze is essential to the representation of femininity and vulnerability, and an interplay between external circumstances and internal sensations is revealed.

Tom Król, already presented several times at fiebach, minninger, shows in his painterly work a profound examination of the aesthetics of everyday life, signs, gestures, and symbols – with visible influences from the visual language of comics, advertising and street art. In an individual manner, eyes, noses, and mouths appear from loose strokes against coloured surfaces. His paintings invite questions about the intersections of painterly discourse, space and human potentials such as creativity, solidarity, and friendship. Król studied at the HFG Offenbach and was a visiting student at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, such as the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles.

Eliza Ballesteros' first solo exhibition was shown at fiebach, minninger in 2021. She self-describes her work as sculptural conceptual art that includes objects, texts, installations, and drawings. She recontextualizes and interprets cultural meanings of symbols and materials to question structures of power and society. Exploring themes of tradition, power relations, interpretive authority, and gender norms are part of her artistic process. Ballesteros graduated from the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in 2019 as a master student of Prof. Rita McBride.

Philipp Naujoks studied at the Art Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, as well as at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf, from which he graduated in 2022 as a master student of Prof. Franka Hörschemeyer. In his working method, he moves between traditional technique and the modern technological present, ultimately resolving a frequently suspected contradiction. In the works presented, Naujoks experiments with photographic techniques and uses a laser device guided by his own hand to create delicate drawings on the surface, which has previously been prepared in a light-sensitive manner.

Alyce Ford, a graduate of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, often works sculpturally. Her material is cardboard, which forms the basis of her 3-dimensional objects. In her collages, which are shown in the current exhibition, Alyce Ford also uses cardboard – but as a picture carrier. In the collages, unexpected motifs appear under black bars. The black field of wax is laid over a white sheet of paper, so that the underlying title page of a consumer magazine can only be seen in fragments. Scratches create chromatic images from the layers of wax, with motifs borrowed from Baroque weaponry.