

# COMO

Poznań University of Arts Photography Students & Graduates Magazine



Łukasz Gniadek  
Michał Grochowiak  
Kamila Kobierzyńska  
Marta Strzoda  
Kasia Novak  
Mateusz Cechowski  
Taylor Oyer



#02

# COMO

Poznań University of Arts Photography Students & Graduates Magazine

Como #02, 2012

Editorial staff:

Maciej Bogunia  
Mateusz Drabent  
Joanna Francuzik  
Diana Lelonek  
Anna Podlejska

Translation:

Taylor Oyer

Commissioning Editor:

Jarosław Klupś

Cover:

Michał Grochowiak  
from series *Breath*

como@uap.edu.pl  
como.uap.edu.pl  
fotografia.uap.edu.pl  
uap.edu.pl

Łukasz Gniadek | [Masquerade](#)

Michał Grochowiak | [Breath](#)

Kamila Kobierzyńska | [I am not here](#)

Marta Strzoda | [Un-diary](#)

Kasia Novak | [People of the 21st Century](#)

Mateusz Cechowski | [Scrapbook](#)

Taylor Oyer | [At first glance](#)



Como #2 is the next review of selected photography works by students and graduates of the University of Arts in Poznań - this issue's guest is Michał Grochowiak, with one of his latest works entitled "Breathe".

Similarly to the first issue, Como #2 presents various artworks both from first year students of BA studies as well as more advanced students such as Marta Strzoda and Katarzyna Novak who are currently studying for their MA degrees. You will find here a documentary series from Belarus by Łukasz Gniadek titled "Masquerade", intimate portraits by Kamila Kobierzyńska ("I am not here") and a moody collection of images by Mateusz Cechowski. "Un-diary" by Marta Strzoda reinterprets almost iconic photographs from contemporary history, intertwining them with the following years of her life while photographs by Katarzyna Novak show a dark vision of "The people of 21st Century". Our guest as well, you see works from our present student, Taylor Oyer, with one of the first works he made while attending high school in San Diego.

With great satisfaction we are collecting new readers and seeing wide interest in our magazine - the number of visits from Poland and other countries is still growing. I encourage you to send us your works for future issues - both the current, portfolio-like ones and thematic, being prepared at this moment: "Intimacy" (planned for two issues) and autumn "Single shot".

Jarosław Kulpś  
Commissioning Editor

# ŁUKASZ GNIADEK

## MASQUERADE

---

*You can come across them everywhere. They appear in public spaces or in spaces that are believed to be private. Different from each other but uncannily similar, they are based on one or just a few set designs. They are not alone, in their neighborhood they often have companions. Other animals, characters from fairy tales and fake palms. But they are the most numerous. Coupled with house facades that are constantly being repainted the same colour, meticulously trimmed lawns and streets that are swept daily, they are supposed to build a picture of a beautiful country.*







































































ЦЕНТРАЛЬНАЯ 17



# MICHAŁ GROCHOWIAK

## BREATH

---

*The newest Works of Michał Grochowiak illustrate this state of affairs - pending interiors, interior-organisms, belonging to the time between that, someone (before) was and maybe sometime (In a minute) will be back, will be. Private apartments, well known rooms with daily stores, public interiors with big history (Pałac Kultury) seducing with oneiric atmosphere, with scattered light but Sharp edges of contours are kept like In Gus Van Sants Works.*

*Emptiness, which we can define only by lack of human presence suggest connotations with landscape, being and continuity. This "home" nature is constant value in opposition to our own existence which is fragile and temporary. [...]*

*[...]That is why we cannot tell, what materializes in the newest series from artist. Memories, history, feelings? What takes the form of white mist - ghosts of the past or rather breath, like in title. Breath of some supernatural aura, feeling that is not rationalized. Is it the way to visualize something that does not exist? Paradox situation when nothing takes form of something[...]*

*Marika Zamojska*















































# KAMILA KOBIERZYŃSKA

## I AM NOT HERE

---

*This is a series about outsiders hidden in the recesses of our society. It's about people who are unsure of themselves and the world. They are inconspicuous, create their own shelter and escape. But it is futile to look for eccentrics and misfits, quiet outsiders can live just behind the wall - in peace and nostalgia.*













































# MARTA STRZODA

## UN-DIARY

---

### *Un-diary*

*I'm 27 years old. In my "Un-diary" project I present 27 shots, which navigate through 27 years of World History. These pictures originally showed the world's most tragic events since 1984 (the date of my birth) to 2010. I erased all the visible aspects of tragedies from original photographs, showing effects of wars and catastrophes and bringing back the sceneries primal calm of nature, not disturbed by civilization. In our reality, made by images, I'm fabricating memories - flashbacks of a better world.*

*"Cruelty and compassion come with the chromosomes; All men are merciful and all are murderers.*

*[...]*

*It is all a matter of the moment's mores,  
Of words on wood pulp, of radios roaring."*

*(Aldous Huxley "Ape and Essence")*



1984, India

A child killed by the poisonous gas leak in the Union Chemical Plant disaster.





1985, Colombia

Omaira Sanchez (12) is trapped in the debris caused by the eruption of Nevado del Ruíz volcano. After sixty hours she eventually lost consciousness and died of a heart attack.



1986, Honduras

Civil War. El Capire. Bodies of Nicaraguan Sandinista troops on display for international press. The Sandinisters were allegedly killed during a cross-boarder incursion directed against the contra camps.





1987, Sri Lanka

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam carries out its first suicide bombing at the Nelliady army camp killing 40 security force personnel.



1988, Armenia

Boris Abgarzian grieves for his 17-year-old son, victim of the Armenian earthquake.





1989, Afghanistan

Mujahidin fire a large cannon toward government positions in Jalalabad.



1990, Iran

A woman holds her dead grandson. In the night of June 20-21 a severe earthquake hit the fertile northern Iranian provinces of Zanzan and Gilan, leaving over 50,000 dead and 500,000 homeless.





1991, Kuwait

U. S. Marine walks by Iraqi Republican Guard corpses.



1992, Somalia

A mother carries her dead child to the grave, after wrapping it in a shroud according to local custom. A bad drought coupled with the effects of civil war caused a terrible famine in Somalia which claimed the lives of between one and two million people.





1993, Georgia

Dead Georgian soldier on the Beach. After several years of Civil War between Georgian Government troops and Russian backed Abkhaz separatists the latter managed to drive the Georgian Army out of the former ASSR Abkhazia, an area at the Black Sea coast



1994, Rwanda

The remains of a Rwandan refugee who was slain at the parish of Nyarubuye. Over 1000 refugees were shot and hacked to death by Hutu "interahamwe" militia at Nyarubuye. Their bodies remained undiscovered for 44 days





1995, Afghanistan

Government soldier waiting for Taliban outside of Kabul.



1996, Chechnya (Russia)

Grozny. Chechen children looking at the remains of a Russian soldier.





1997, Kongo

Kinshasa (Kinszasa). On the airport road, corpses of 3 officers of the FAZ (Zairian army) killed by crowd.



1998, Afghanistan

Dashtak. A woman with the body of her 18 year old son killed in the earthquake.







1999, Kosovo (Yugoslavia)

Serb forces collect bodies of KLA fighters killed in an ambush.





2000, Bosnia

Near the town of Vlasenica, Serb Republic. September 26. European Union monitors and Bosnian investigators searching for remains of Bosnian Muslims believed killed during "ethnic cleansing" by Serbian forces. The remains of two bodies, an old woman and her son, were found.



2001, Afghanistan

Soldiers and tanks of the United Front/Northern Alliance loyal to late commander MASSOUD marching towards the Kunduz frontline where all Taliban from the fallen territories of Northern Afghanistan have regrouped.



2002, Chechnya

Russian conscript guards a site where deminers blow up mined houses.





2003, Iraq

A dead Iraqi Republican Guard soldier lies near a destroyed tank and bunker following a battle with American forces.



2004, Indonesia

Caption Five days after the tsunami, international aid agencies had still not reached Meulaboh. Over 70 percent of the inhabitants of some coastal villages in Aceh lost their lives as a result of the tsunami. In Indonesia as a whole more than 130,000 people were killed, and over 500,000 made homeless.





2005, United States of America

Effects of Hurricane Katrina showed the American public the problems of poor America. Dead bodies were lying in the streets for weeks. Survivors had no chance for a fresh start.



2006, Lebanon

An off-duty Lebanese army soldier was killed by an Israeli missile attack.





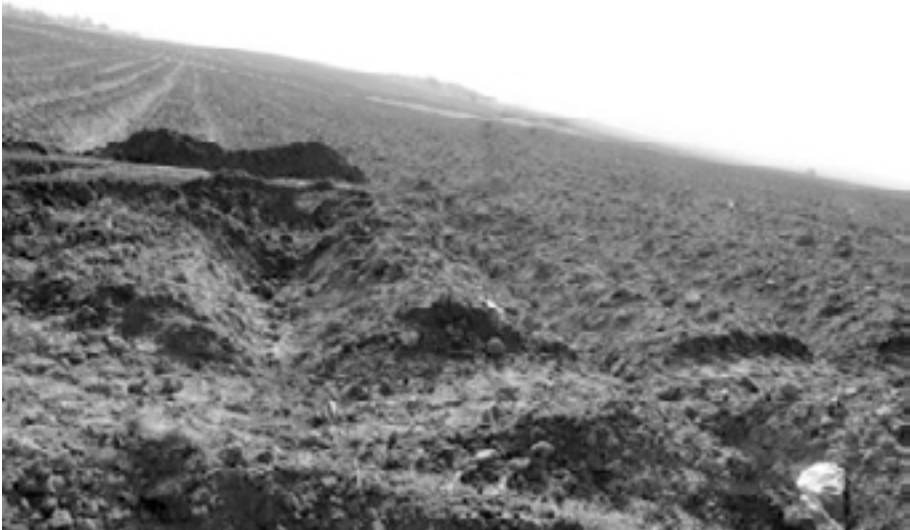
2007, Chad - Sudan

Sudanese rebels with the National Redemption Front, NRF, walk past dead Sudanese government soldiers as they walk through a temporary military camp near the Darfur-Chad border in Iriba.



2008, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Two Congolese government soldiers lie dead on the road at the front line five kilometers from Kibati. Two soldiers, both shot through the head, were killed during fighting a few kilometers from a refugee camp at Kibati sheltering 80,000 civilians displaced by violence.



2009, Israel

Near Sederot. Soldiers getting ready to enter in Northern Gaza.





2010, Haiti

Mass dumping site for many of the dead from the earthquake. Not buried, but covered and uncovered among mounds of earth.

### Photos used in this project:

1984 India - Pablo Bartholomew  
1985 Colombia - Frank Founier  
1986 Honduras - Stuard Franklin  
1987 Sri Lanka - Rene Burri  
1988 Armenia - David Turnley  
1989 Afghanistan - Steve McCurry  
1990 Iran - FarnoodW  
1991 Kuwait - Bruno Barbey  
1992 Somalia - James Nachtwey  
1993 Georgia - Thomas Dworzak  
1994 Ruanda - Gilles Peress  
1995 Afghanistan - Steel Perkins  
1996 Chechnya (Russia) - Thomas Dworzak  
1997 Congo - Gilles Peress  
1998 Afghanistan - Steel Perkins  
1999 Kosovo (Jugosławia) - Thomas Dworzak  
2000 Bosnia - Patric Zachmann  
2001 Afghanistan - Thomas Dworzak  
2002 Chechnya - Thomas Dworzak  
2003 Iraq - Christopher Anderson  
2004 Indonesia - Dean Sewell  
2005 United States of America - Alison Wright  
2006 Lebanon - Thomas Dworzak  
2007 Chad - Sudan - Lensey Addario  
2008 Democratic Republic of Congo - Dominic Nahr  
2009 Israel - Alex Majoli  
2010 Haiti - James Nachtwey

# KASIA NOVAK

## PEOPLE OF THE 21st CENTURY

---

*“People of the 21st Century” live in fear and insecurity. The lack of a sense of control, no impact on our surrounding reality, the power of destruction made by nature and human beings, makes us feel threatened by the world in which we live. The world has become absolutely unpredictable, full of unbridled power. At the same time, to live normally we accept this condition, and we grow accustomed to the fear. A sense of danger and fear is one of the factors of everyday life for us. We put on our masks, which adapt us to the conditions in which we live, this apparently allows us to recover our loss of safety and comfort in life.*































# MATEUSZ CECHOWSKI

## SCRAPBOOK

---

*Everyone has places that are important to them. Oftentimes they are important because of memories of some special events, or particular emotional states, which we experienced there. Sometimes these places possess an indescribable magnetism, which makes us want to think about them and to return to them.*

*Everyone has such an intimate place of their own, but today's hurried pace of life makes it increasingly difficult to find time to visit them. Unvisited, these places tend to drift away to the far horizons of our memories where returning to them may happen only in our dreams.*

*Scrapbook is a collection of my personal places, or not so much places as "image prompts", which help me recollect my intimate places whenever I look at them. Thanks to these images I can, in a limited way, come back to these intimate places, in anticipation of a time when everyday life will allow me to escape and visit them in reality.*











































# TAYLOR OYER

## AT FIRST GLANCE

---

*These students are from my high school in San Diego, California. I chose them because they are what we think of when someone says, athlete, asian, black, white, popular, or a nobody. I wanted to take pictures of students that we would normally stereotype at first glance. We judge them by what they are wearing or who they are hanging out with. So I took photos of them in the studio, and through their eyes and facial expression gave some sense of who they are as a person and not who they are based on clothing or appearance.*



























EAT NO



PETA





**Łukasz Gniadek** - born in 1978, graduated from the Academy of Photography in Warsaw. Studied philosophy at the University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in Warsaw. He studies photography at the Faculty of Multimedia Communication at the University of Arts in Poznań.

<http://www.lukaszgniadek.com/>

---

**Michał Grochowiak** - born in 1977, graduated from Multimedia Communication faculty at the University of Arts in Poznań. He also studied at the Department of Radio and Television at the University of Silesia in Katowice. Since 2004 he is a member of Group 4! He is the winner of the Samsung Art Master and the Epson Art Photo competitions. He lives and works in Warsaw.

<http://www.michalgrochowiak.com/>

---

**Kamila Kobierzyńska** - born in 1991, is currently studying photography at the University of Arts in Poznań and the Institute of Creative Photography in Opava.

<http://kamilakobierzynska.blogspot.com/>

---

**Marta Strzoda** - born in 1984, graduated from the Silesian University and the University of Arts in Poznań. She deals with the use of intermedia art performances, installations and video. The mix between these areas allows her to establish a closer bond with the observer and helps her find herself.

---

**Kasia Novak** - MA student of photography at the Faculty of Multimedia Communication at the University of Arts in Poznań. In 2010 she graduated BA degree at the same University.

<http://www.katarzyanovak.com>

---

**Mateusz Cechowski** - born in 1989, studies Photography at the University of Arts in Poznań. He is interested in the simplicity of his surroundings and its exercise on the regime. Hence the interest in documenting the environment and people with interesting passions.

[www.mateuszcechowski.pl](http://www.mateuszcechowski.pl)

---

**Taylor Oyer** - born and raised in Poway, California. Graduated Poway High School Advanced Placement Photography Program. Studied Polish Language at the University of Wrocław. Currently studies at the University of Arts in Poznań.

---



University of Arts  
in Poznań

60-967 Poznań 9  
al. Marcinkowskiego 29  
Poland  
PO box 191

tel. +48 61 855 25 21  
fax +48 61 852 80 91

www.uap.edu.pl  
office@uap.edu.pl

University of Arts in Poznań is an international Fine Arts academy with a longstanding tradition with over 200 Polish and overseas teaching staff, renowned and valued artists as well as designers. The participating students in their creativity make up an enormous potential, supported by an innovative educational programme as well as a series of work and initiatives in contemporary culture and art. At UAP there are over 100 Fine Art and Design studios that offer: Film Studies, Photography Labs, Fashion Design, Drawing and Painting as well as advanced IT software. The University also has at its disposal numerous exhibition spaces and a historical palace in Skoki, where outdoor seminars, workshops are offered as well as international residencies for artists.

UAP has conferred the title of Honoris Causa to artists of particular distinction such as Magdalena Abakanowicz (2002), Garry Hill (2004), Emmet Williams (2005), Krzysztof Wodiczko (2007), Christian Boltanski (2009), Ross Lovegrove (2010) and Jozef Jankovič (2011).

UAP is part of a community of prestigious international organizations such as the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) and is an active participant in the Boulogne Framework of higher education, thus ensuring the University meets European standards. Under the programme of exchange, students can complete part of their studies in other participating countries across the globe.

# UNIVERSITY OF ARTS IN POZNAŃ

University of Arts in Poznań also offers a selection of Fine Arts and Design full-time study programmes in English, with participating student artists from USA, South Korea, Mexico, China, Egypt, Bulgaria, Belgium, Turkey, Brazil and Japan.

## Requirements

On-line applications are accepted until the end of June and by post, the relevant documents and work portfolio. A non-refundable fee of **200** euro needs to be paid for enrolment. The processing of documents is completed by the middle of July then an evaluation of the cover letter (part of the application) and candidate's portfolio is made by the enrolment panel.

Applicants are informed by the beginning of August and then if accepted for study at the UAP, need to pay the fees for the first year by the end of August.

Annual fees for a Bachelor's Degree are **5,000** euro, annual fees for a Master's Degree are **6,000** euro.

Finally, in September the University sends future students an Admission Letter, which needs to be forwarded to the Polish Embassy or Consulate in the country where the candidate lives, so as to gain a Polish visa.

All the relevant information can be found at: [www.uap.edu.pl](http://www.uap.edu.pl) and [www.uap.edu.pl/uczelnia/study-in-english/](http://www.uap.edu.pl/uczelnia/study-in-english/) The Programme Co-ordinator for studies in English is: [office@studyarts.pl](mailto:office@studyarts.pl)

Any queries concerning enrolment should be directed to: [study@studyarts.pl](mailto:study@studyarts.pl)



Magdalena Abakanowicz | Doctor Honoris Causa 2002



Christian Boltanski | Doctor Honoris Causa 2008



Ross Lovegrove | Doctor Honoris Causa 2010



Jozef Jankovič | Doctor Honoris Causa 2011





# COMO



[como.uap.edu.pl](http://como.uap.edu.pl)