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INTIMACY #03

# COMO

Poznań University of Arts Photography Students & Graduates Magazine



Weronika Ławniczak Katarzyna Borełowska Alicja Wesołowska  
Sebastian Siębor Diana Lelonek Sebastian Mintus Piotr Szpilski  
Grzegorz Stefański Agata Kuligowska Piotr Lis Guest: Blake Fitch

Como #03, 2012

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series *Semi-long*

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The new issue of COMO Magazine is dedicated to intimacy. While observing the young photography scene in Poland, the shift from bigger more global works to smaller more private narrations has become very noticeable. While searching for projects for this issue of COMO we tried to show how photography students from our university confront themselves with this inevitable visual drift, what subjects they are concerned about and what intimacy means to them. A variety of attitudes and themes occurred and we are glad to present them to our viewers.

Diana Lelonek presents a very strict and raw attitude by deliberate use of a trash esthetic and very direct contact with her models. Agata Kuligowska touches taboo themes of death in her collages. They seem funny in some sense at first glance and very anxious afterwards, but still with a big dose of reserve. The other subject – still being a taboo in some circles – of homoeroticism is approached in Piotr Szpilski's works where he balances between the literality and visual self-censorship. Sebastian Mintus dichotomously presents the so-called "naked truth" in a very visually tempting manner which surprises and attracts us. Katarzyna Borelowska presents the almagam of unhappy love and it's demons, in a very flagrant but still emotional manner, in the form of a book-dedication, while Alicja Wesolowska and Sebastian Siebor investigate with a tender reserve the architecture of the bodies of their models. Grzegorz Stefanski dedicated his work to what is invisible and underneath the surface by portraying his models in an intimate ambience of total darkness, trying to get beyond the autocreation of ones images. Very suggestive and private narration is strongly felt in the works of Weronika Lawniczak and Piotr Lis, placing us on the border of visual meditation. The special guest of this issue – Blake Fitch, recommended by Saul Robbins from International Centre of Photography in New York – perseveringly and with great refinement tells a story of adolescence.

As You may see intimacy approached by selected authors has many faces and puts accents differently, but undoubtedly we are allowed to state that it is one of the characteristics features of young, polish photography.

Editorial staff  
2012

# WERONIKA ŁAWNICZAK

## THE ONE WHO STRUGGLES DOES NOT HAVE TO BE SAD

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*'Je suis malade parfaitement malade,' complained the French singer Dalida in 1973. 'You have deprived me of all my songs / You have drained me of all my words / And my heart is completely sick.' Four years later, the French philosopher Roland Barthes, unhappily in love, wrote that the amorous catastrophe is a 'violent crisis during which the subject, experiencing the amorous situation as a definite impasse, a trap from which he can never escape, sees himself doomed to total destruction.' This is all that remains after the catastrophe – a sickness from Dalida's song. The things someone sees after the irrevocable departure of the one who used to be so close not long ago. A diary chronicling the gradual gathering of strength; images illustrating the successive stages of a laborious reclaiming of faith in the fact that it is still worthwhile to look. A certain fuzziness bordering on reality and dream, treading a fine line between memories and their illusions, tiptoeing on the verge of wish and anxiety, presence and mirage – somewhere between a nostalgia that eludes us with the hope of recovering the past, and a bold confrontation with an emptiness which does not offer any promises for the future. In search of the one who has already departed and left behind things, places and associations. Always a moment too soon or too late, like in a waiting room. It is still too early to come to terms with the loss but already too late to rebel against it. Weary eyes find solace in abandoned places, where peace is not disturbed by an overdose of stimuli and thoughts can open to new possibilities. Tired eyes are fond of spaces which leave room for someone who is no longer there or someone who might just appear.*

Karolina Sulej

*translated by Grzegorz Czerniel*

*excerpt from A Lover's Discourse by Roland Barthes translated by Richard Howard  
though slightly altered, lyrics of the song by Dalida are quoted from lyricstranslate.com*

















































KATARZYNA

BORELOWSKA

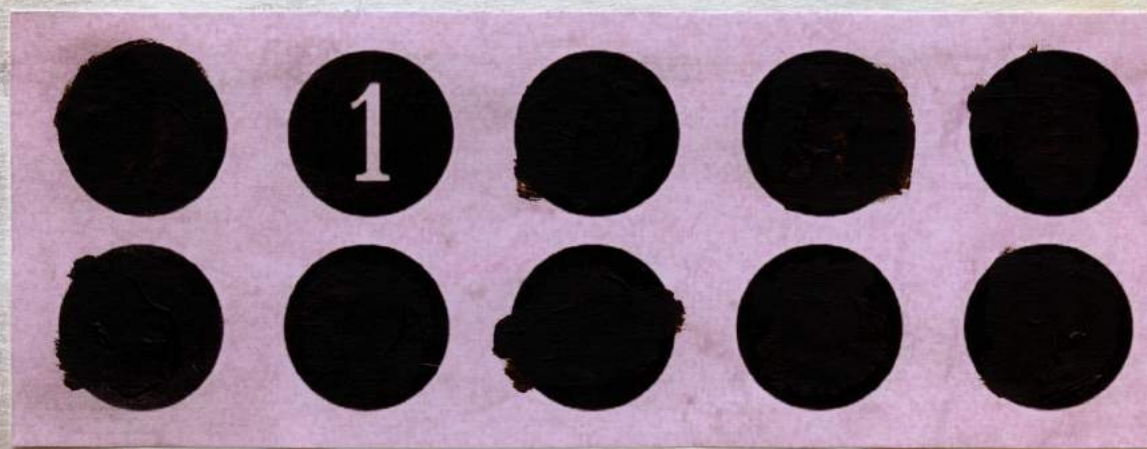
DISNEY MOVIES MADE ME

BELIEVE. YOU MADE ME

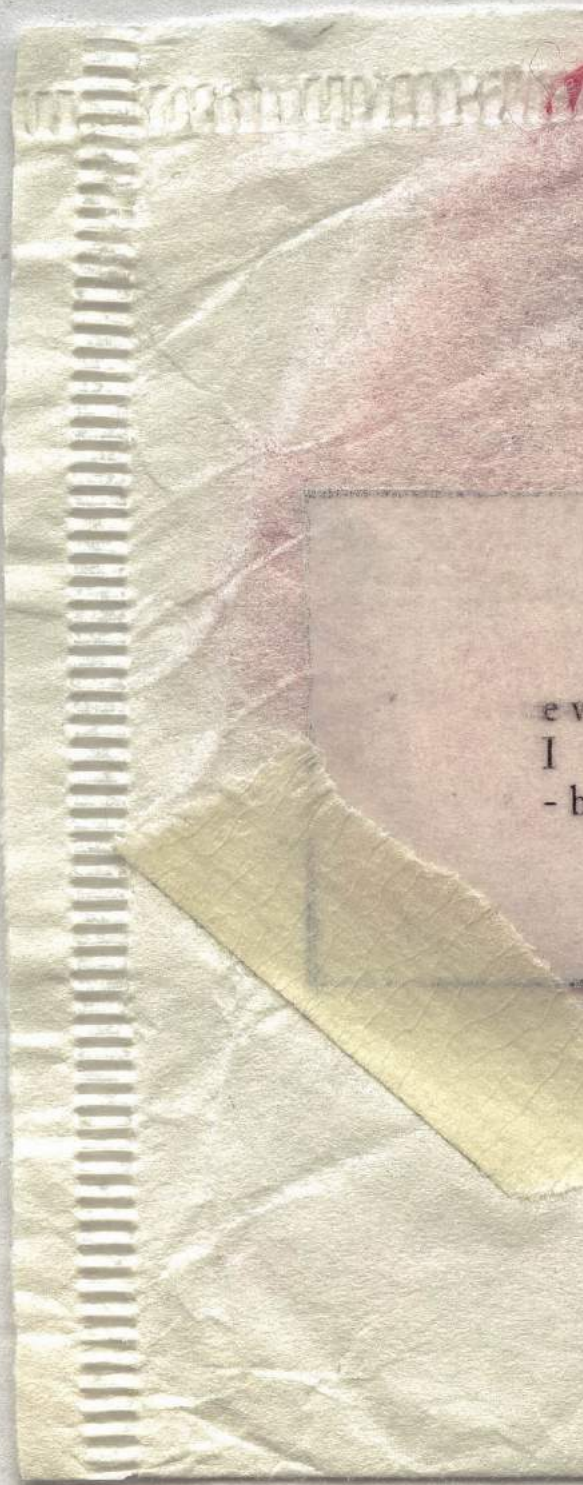
BELIEVE IT'S NOT TRUTH

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*Together, the story arc of these book's eight chapters record the artist's fading faith in love. Each chapter is an allusion to a former partner, who's story is told through a collage of photos, drawings, quotes, correspondence and other documents. It is a visual exploration of the ephemeral and fleeting nature of passion.*

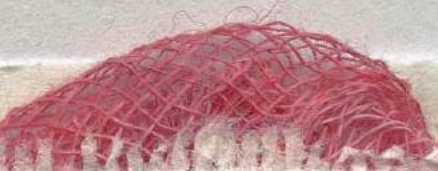




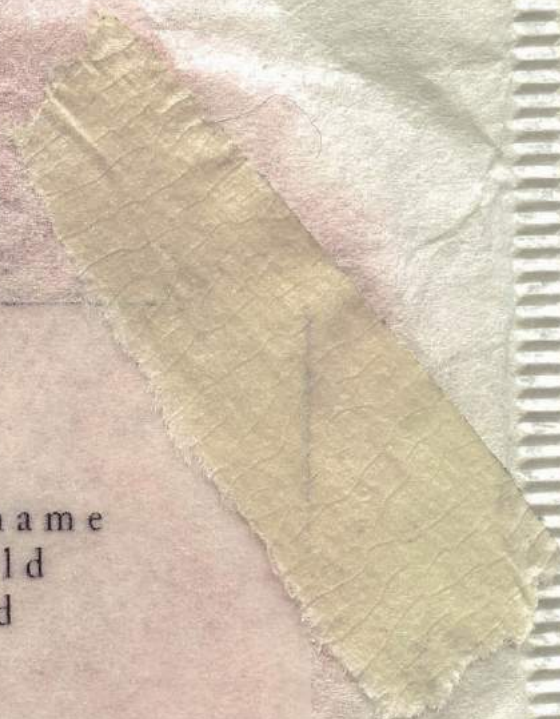


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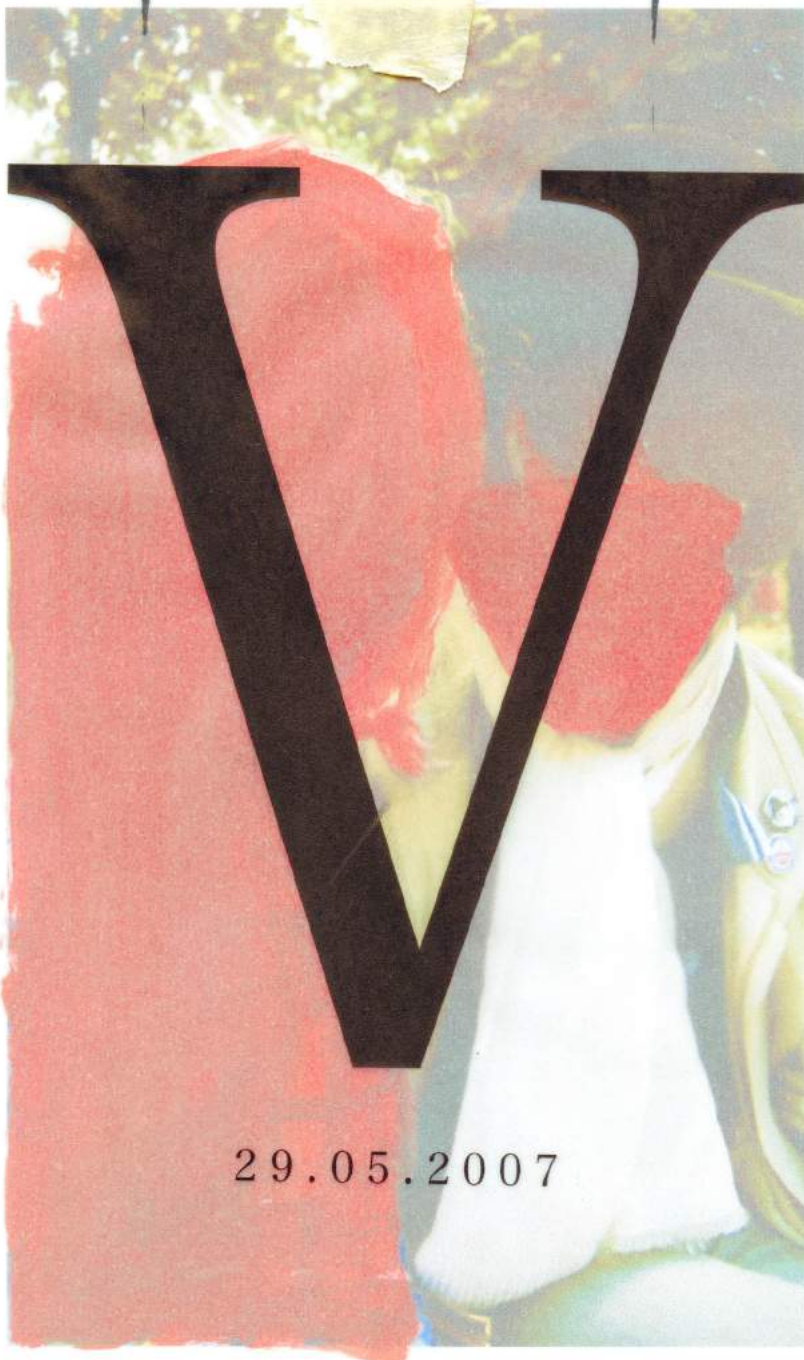




Everytime I hear your name  
I feel like Saturn's child  
betrayed and consumed







29.05.2007





$$2 + 1 = 4$$



3

SZPITAL SPECJ. IM. ZEROMSKIEGO

B11

GE

CN0  
8cm  
DR78  
G 76

FOR  
THE O  
THAT  
NEVER  
TO BE

+ 38.6mm

x 24.



24/03/09 18:02:24  
P100 6MHz E721



NE  
WAS  
MEANT  
BORN

5mm x 31.1mm M1<0.4



the one I used to  
love ,

but no  
more





*You gave me love, I pushed  
it away... Now, only demons left.*



THEY WANTED US TO BE FOREVER  
BUT FOREVER WAS FAR TOO LONG





Oct 18, 01  
18:50

Besime,

The person above my living  
room has been... This  
afternoon

It's  
back &  
ceiling

It's  
is not  
is too

plea  
are dis  
downs

Something to correct the situat

arching  
& my

word if  
or she

at they

us do

situat



Best  
Nancy

That room needs a floor  
covering to dampen the bangs  
on the bare wood,







עבש

# ALICJA WESOŁOWSKA I SEBASTIAN SIĘBOR FLESH AND BONES

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*The Flesh and Bones series, refers to the form of a human body and bones seen as an infrastructural object ready to be rebuilt and transformed. People shown in the photographs are represented by model agency, as a representative group, with their bodies telling the story of beauty standards of the XXI century. We portrait them with a distant compassion, interested only by what is visible: movement, skin texture, proportions, color, engorged veins, skeletal system, easily sensible blood beneath the skin. We choose appealing forms, which, after photo-capturing, we manipulate digitally beyond the possibilities of plastic surgery. Process in progress.*















# DIANA LELONEK

## YESTERDAY

## I MET A REALLY

## WILD MAN

---

*This is a short story, a collection of loose photographs which are talking about people's desire to be together, achieving freedom, and searching for magical elements in daily life. This is a story about the desire to comeback, slowdown, and escape from routines. More over this is a story about being naked. Being naked with oneself and those around you and about a natural happiness that comes from this. This nudity refers to a naturalness and a purity of human corporality. The photographs are showing myself and the people i might meet around Europe. These are spontaneous relationships from moments in my life which were too short.*

















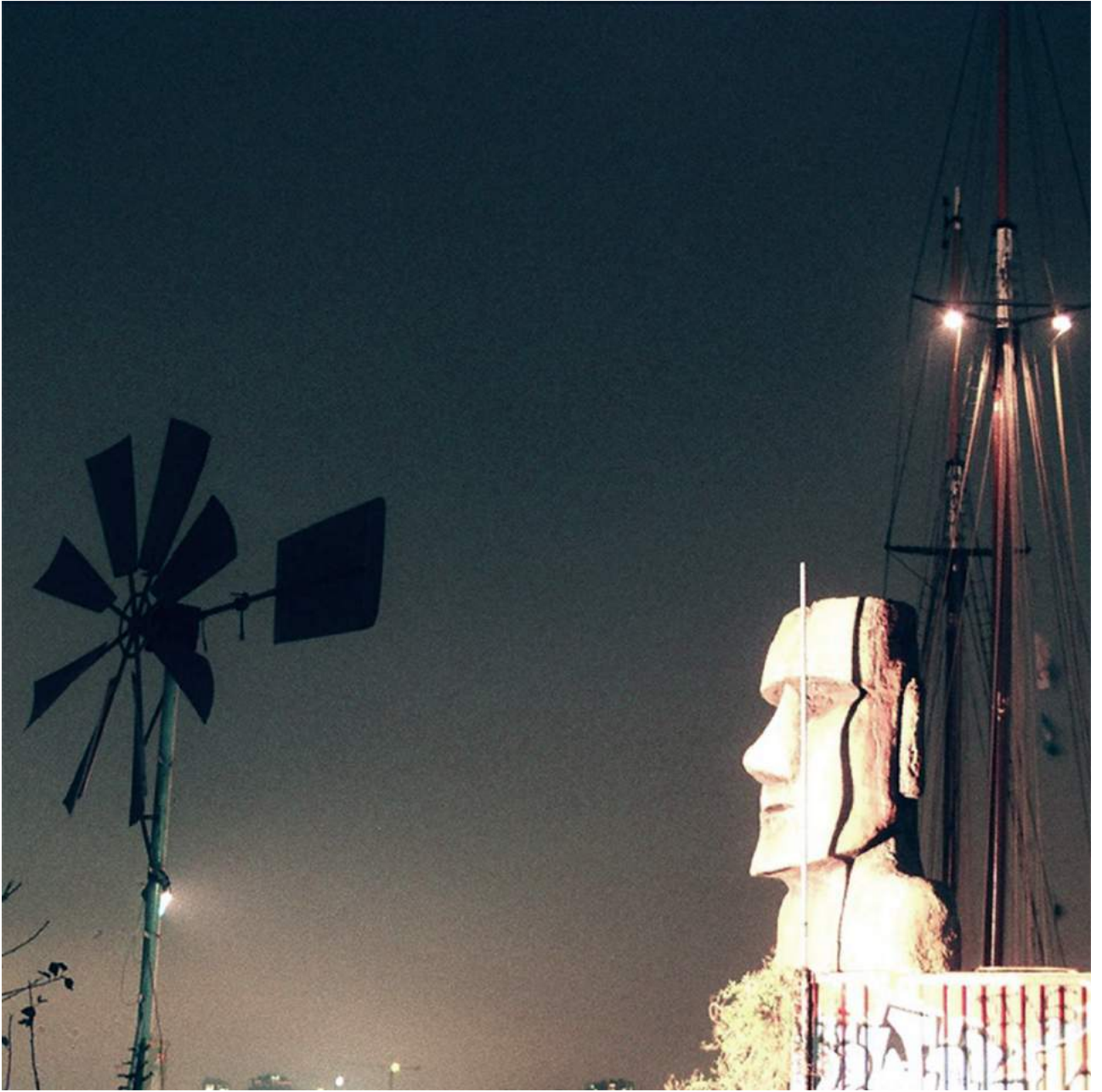
























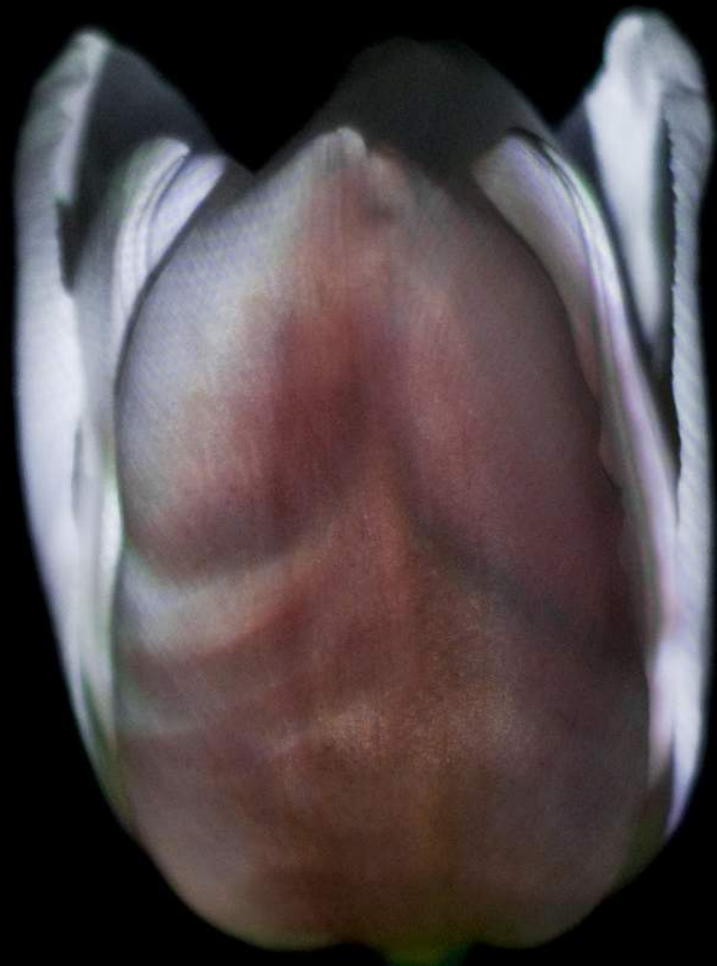


# SEBASTIAN MINTUS

## SEMI - LONG

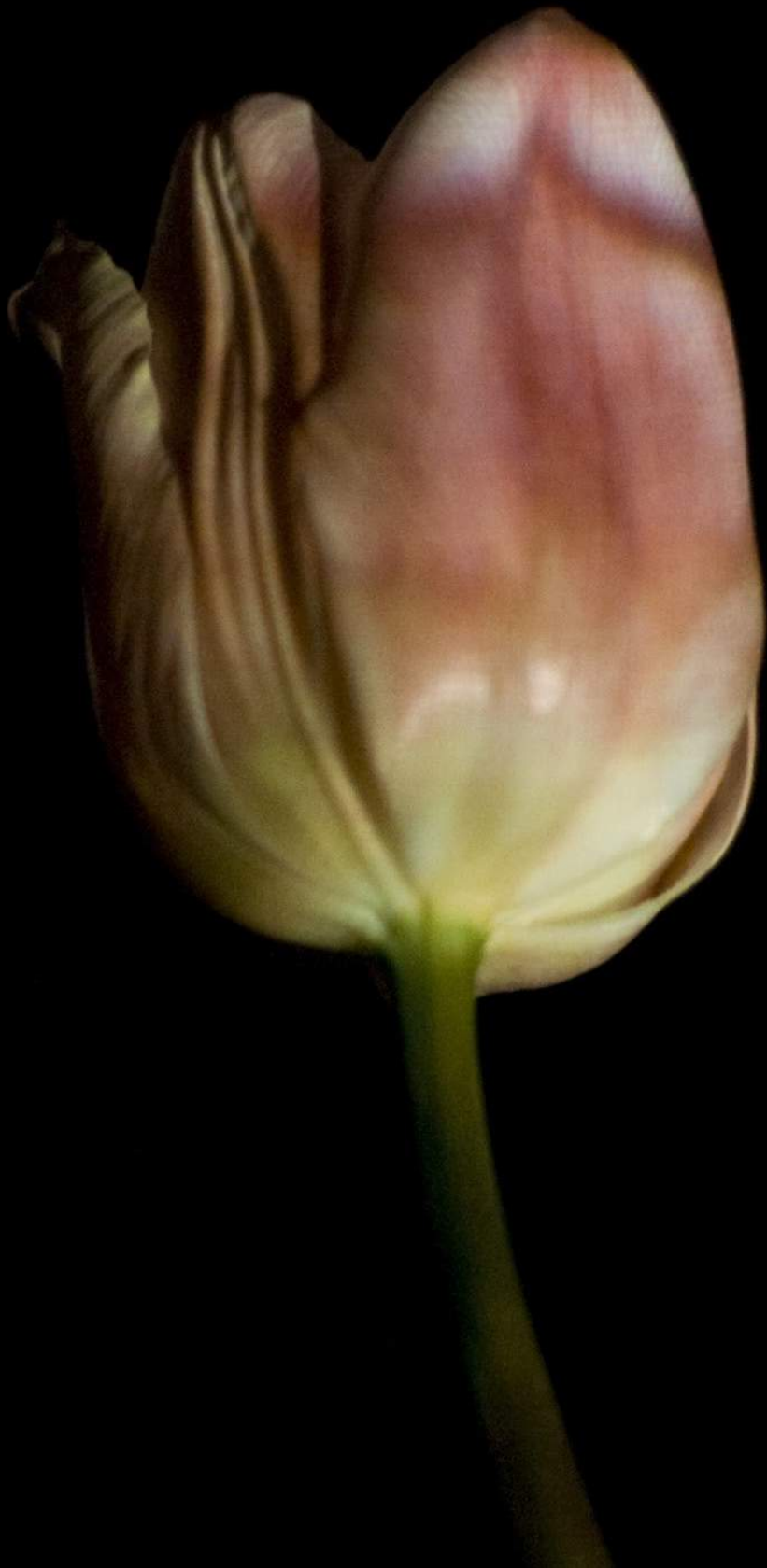
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*They occur worldwide and each of them is in a different size and shape. Properly cared for they grow very quickly, and when they reach full maturity, they are ready for production. Then for some time they become „semi-long” in anticipation of the next growth.*









# GRZEGORZ STEFAŃSKI

## THE INVISIBLES

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*“The Invisibles” is a series of portraits taken in total darkness and silence. A sudden flash of light is preceded by the intimate atmosphere of darkness and the flash reveals those split seconds that stay beyond the attempt to create our own image. It’s part of a bigger work (still in progress) to approach a photographic portraiture by considering the thin border of what is usually seen and what still needs to become visible.*































WATCH VIDEO:  
<http://vimeo.com/comomagazine/invisibles>





# PIOTR SZPILSKI

## LOVE

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*Love - situations when I use censorship in order to highlight the information that I find important by covering it. These situations appear as an anticensorship of the consciousness, a moment when I impose the censorship.*

*Piotr Szpilski*

*The newest project of Piotr Szpilski needs a big amount of nutrients, it's like rich soil, sandy and earthen, with a pH close to 7-8. That is why it reminds me of a beautiful chrysanthemum.*

*Leszek Knaflewski*









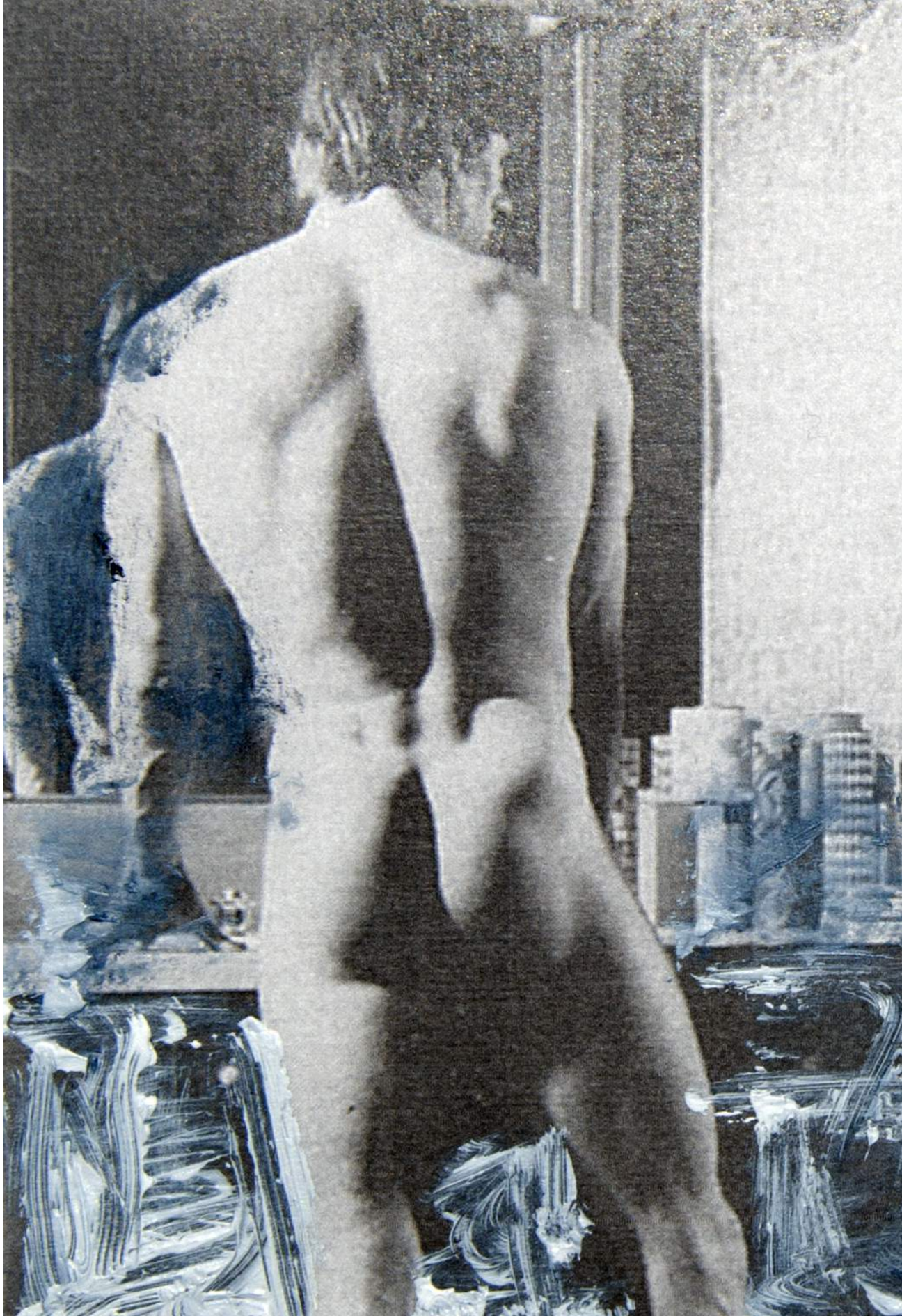




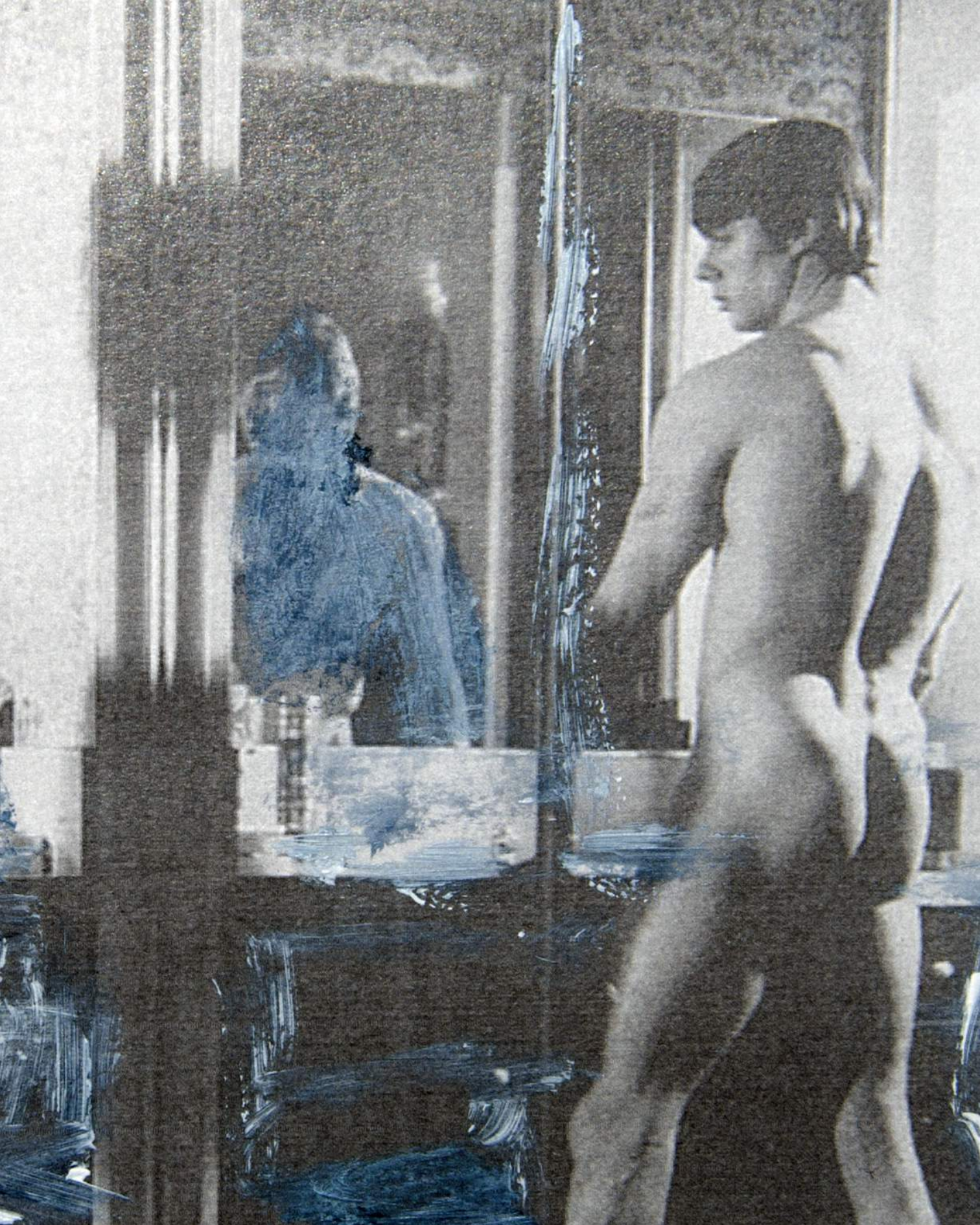


























# AGATA KULIGOWSKA

## NO CAMERAS

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*“No cameras” is a series of photographs from the family album, which I take care of.*













2010/12/12























2011/01/18





# PIOTR LIS

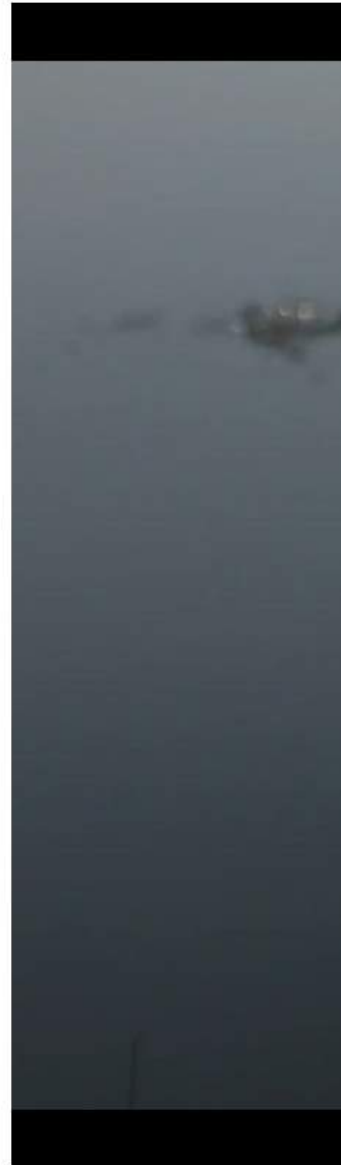
## MARGINS

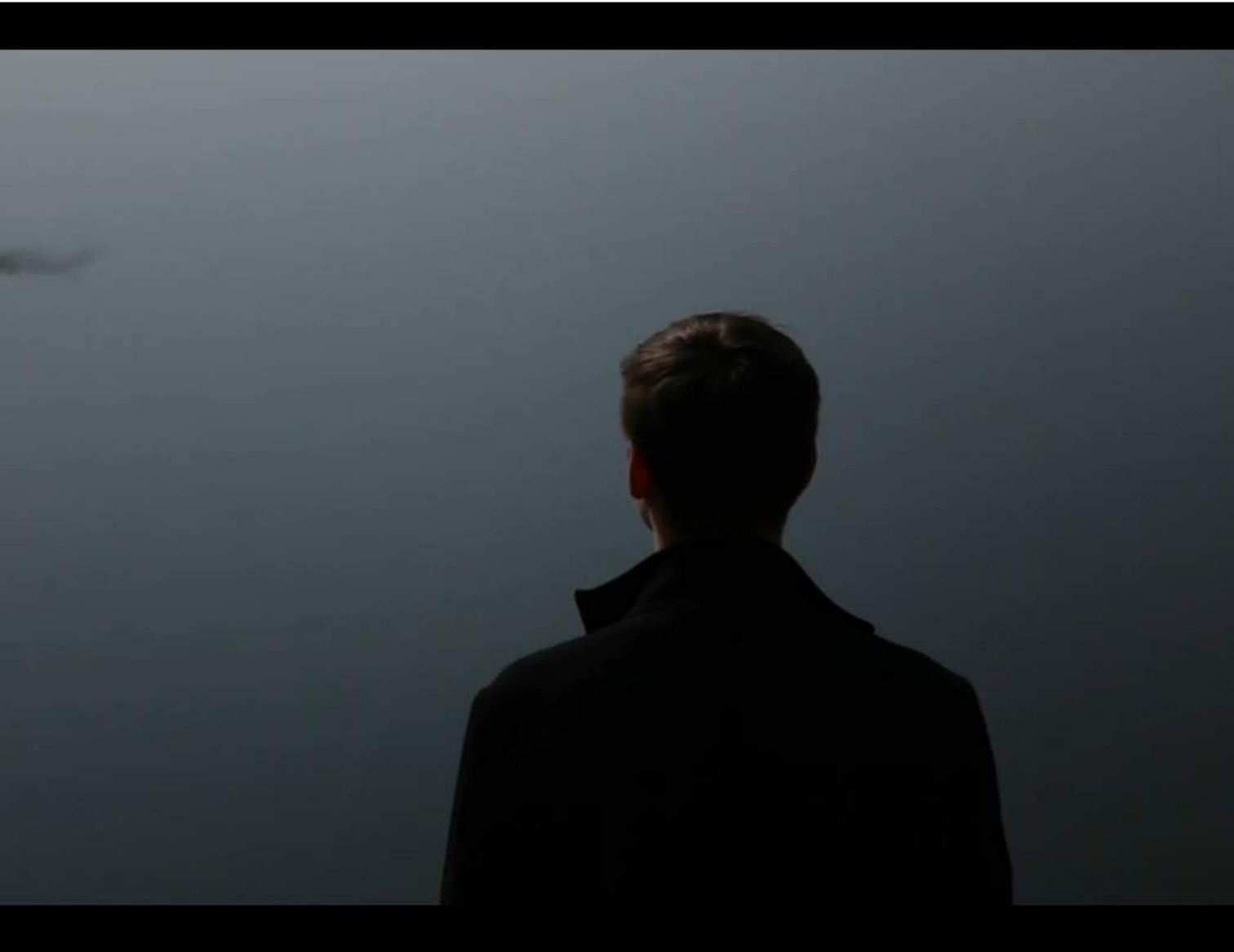
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*The video speaks about the limits of our consciousness, the dimensions that are often difficult to distinguish are connected, separated by a conventional border. It is an attempt to challenge what is unknown to us, to end a world of illusions, imagination and senses.*

WATCH VIDEO:

<http://vimeo.com/comomagazine/margins>





# BLAKE FITCH

## EXPECTATIONS OF ADOLESCENCE

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*“Expectations of Adolescence” is a ten-year project documenting the lives of my cousin, Julia, and my half-sister, Katie, as they’ve grown from adolescent girls into young women. The project provided me with a new perspective on the difference in the ways we all fit in with different parts of our families. For me, it is looking into a life that may have been mine had my parents not divorced when I was a young girl and may have had the same opportunities these young women have had in their young lives to date.*

*The project was photographed around two environments. One is the house of our well-heeled grandparents and the other is on Round Island in the Thousand Islands region of upstate New York. The project documents the lives of the two girls during their sometimes-awkward evolution from adolescence to womanhood, and captures the simple moments in their search for their own identity. We see a gangly young Katie dancing in preparation for her jazz recital in Grandad’s driveway and later as a confident woman staring back at us in the hallway. The images provide a conduit in which we can recall our own development from young children into adults.*













































**Weronika Ławniczak** - student at the University of Fine Arts in Poznań. Has been published in the magazine „EXCULSIVE”. Project “He who fights, ought not be sad” was shown in an exhibition at the Gallery Czułość in 2011.

[www.samocentrum.ownlog.com](http://www.samocentrum.ownlog.com)

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**Katarzyna Borełowska** - born in '89 in Cracow. Student of MA photography program at UAP. Currently focuses on creating visuals and movies. Co-founder of a couple of independent art magazines.

[www.kborełowska.pl](http://www.kborełowska.pl)  
[www.katievsanybody.blogspot.com](http://www.katievsanybody.blogspot.com)

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**Alicja Wesołowska** - born in 1981 in Gdynia, Poland, Graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań. She lives and works in Warsaw.

**Sebastian Siębor** - born in 1984 in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Lives and works in Warsaw. Graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań, he also studied at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Faculty of Social Sciences, Psychology.

<http://www.wesolowska-siebor.blogspot.com/>

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**Diana Lelonek** - her individual approach to photography has been appreciated as she has taken part in exhibitions in the most important photo-festivals in middle-east Europe, including: Month of Photography in Bratislava, International Photo Festival in Łódź. She received her BA at the University of Arts in Poznań.

<http://dianalelonek.tumblr.com/>

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**Agata Kuligowska** - born in 1987, studies photography at the University of Arts in Poznan. Lives in Poznan.

**Sebastian Mintus** - born in Łódź in 1990. Graduate of the Academy of Photography in Warsaw (2010). Currently he is studying BA photography program at UAP. Lives and works in Wrocław.

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

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**Grzegorz Stefanski** - (born 1983), student of BA photography program at UAP, also received a degree in Philosophy and graduated from the Academy of Photography in Cracow. He made his debut in Goldex-Poldex gallery with his empty bottles exhibition as a winner of ShowOff - a contest for emerging artists at the Month of Photography Festival in Cracow (2010).

[www.grzegorzstefanski.blogspot.com](http://www.grzegorzstefanski.blogspot.com).

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**Piotr Szpilski** - was born in 1988 in Polkowice, Poland. Currently lives in Poznan, where he studies at the University of Arts. Piotr's interests include: writing, photos, installations, collages, and videos. In his work he deals with the issues of masculinity and sexuality of men in his own life, as well as in popular culture.

[www.piotrzkpilski.tumblr.com](http://www.piotrzkpilski.tumblr.com)

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**Piotr Lis** - studies photography at the University of Arts in Poznań. He graduated from the Academy of Visual Arts with the title Visual Artist.

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**Blake Fitch** - born in Rochester (NY), received her BFA from Pratt Institute, with a major in photography and minor in photo history. She also studied photography at the Art Institute of Chicago, before earning her masters degree in Arts Administration from Boston University.

<http://www.blakefitchphotos.com>





# UNOBVIOUS2012



# N12

Exhibition of diploma works of photography students  
of the University of Arts in Poznan

Aula Gallery, University of Arts in Poznan, Poland  
October 23 - 30, 2012  
Curator: Janusz Oleksa

UAP | POZNAŃ



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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 Janković (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 Janković | Doctor Honoris Causa 2011



# COMO



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