

# einycslepets

Pressrelease

Frankfurt am Main, August 30, 2021

## The Whistle – Absolventenausstellung 2021

September 03–19, 2021

Schaumainkai 69, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

Thursday, September 02, 2021

10:00 am–12:00 noon: Press preview

10:30 am: Press tour with the curators

7:00 pm: Opening

The Städelschule is pleased to open the graduation show *The Whistle* on September 02, 2021. On this occasion, we would like to invite you to a press preview on Thursday, September 02, 2021, 10–12 am. At 10:30 am, there will be a guided tour of the exhibition with curators Il-Jin Atem Choi and Alke Heykes in the presence of some of the graduates. We kindly ask you to RSVP via e-mail to Mira Starke.

Under the title *The Whistle*, this year's graduates of the Städelschule gather together as if sounding a common whistle. A closer look reveals the diverse range of meanings of the whistle in its ambivalence – between warning and wake-up call, the shrill signal of the referee, the political significance of whistleblowing, or the innocent accompaniment of a song.

In the context of such a simultaneously unifying and separating moment, 24 graduates from 14 nations show the complexity of their artistic practice. Presented in a vacant office building from the early 1970s, the paintings, sculptures, video works, drawings, photographs, and installations are the result of several years of study in the cross-disciplinary classes. The graduate exhibition is regarded as the formal and artistic culmination of studies at the Städelschule and is an exemplary reflection of its core: the free artistic work in the studios as well as the intensive exchange with their professors and fellow students.

The Whistle thus also stands for the image of a reflection on endings and beginnings.

The exhibition is curated by Il-Jin Choi and Alke Heykes.

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### Graduates

Villiam Miklos Andersen, Rosario Aninat, Cudelice Brazelton IV, Ella CB, Alex Chalmers, Hyunjung Choi, Conrad, Anita Esfandiari, Agnese Galiotto, Lorenz Ganthaler, Sebastián Garbrecht, Isidora Gilardi, Graham Hamilton, Jordan/Martin Hell, So Yeon Kim, Mariam Kvirikashvili, Kristina Lovaas, Rudi Ninov, Gabriel Possamai, Dudu Quintanilha, Sara Rossi, Alex Thake, Su Xia, Tomomi Yamakawa and Miran Yang

From the classes of Monika Baer, Gerard Byrne, Judith Hopf, Hassan Khan, Tobias Rehberger, Willem de

Hochschule für Bildende Künste—Städelschule

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Rooij, Haegue Yang and former professors Douglas Gordon, Peter Fischli, Laure Prouvost, Amy Sillman and Josef Strau as well as former guest professor Wu Tsang and former interim professor Nikolas Gambaroff.

## Information for visitors

### Opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday: 11 am–6 pm

Free entry

Proof of negative test result (not older than 24 hours), vaccination or recovery required.

### Guided tours

Guided exhibition tours with the curators are gladly organized upon request by e-mail:

[kunstkoordination@staedelschule.de](mailto:kunstkoordination@staedelschule.de).

## Artist biographies

### Villiam Miklos Andersen

b. 1995, Denmark

class of Judith Hopf

Villiam Miklos Andersen is an artist currently living and working in Frankfurt am Main. Prior to his graduation at Städelschule he studied at Jutland Art Academy (DK) and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture (DK). Most elements of Andersen's practice are characterized by an interest in the logistical systems of post-industrial society, how personal and private spheres are interwoven with and shaped by systems created by economic logic. Logistical streamlining systems also shape Andersen's works when they adopt formats that are ready to be packed and palletized. He depicts lived life in the midst of a vast network of systems and ever-optimizing practicalities. Andersen's work has been shown at Kunsthal Aarhus (Aarhus, DK), National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (Taichung, TW), Danish Cultural Center – 798 Arts District (Beijing, CN). Andersen is co-founder of the exhibition platform Ceresbyen 1A and the artistic research project *The Pawnbroker* being showcased as part of the ruruHaus-program during documenta fifteen in Kassel, 2022.

### Rosario Aninat

b. 1993, Chile

class of Willem de Rooij

Rosario Aninat is an artist living and working in Frankfurt, Germany. Her practice concentrates on researching the sculptural potential of standardized materials of industrial origin. Using sculpture as documentation, she reflects on determined thoughts from fragmentary and vague impressions that our immediate environment leaves on us. Her interest lies in pressing actions into matter, cutting off the object before it is ready to announce its purpose.

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## Cudelite Brazelton IV

b. 1991, USA  
class of Haegue Yang

Cudelite Brazelton IV lives and works in Frankfurt. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His work manipulates fabric, collage, industrial hardware, cosmetic products, and depictions of the body to explore the durability of distressed forms and surfaces. Selected solo and duo exhibitions include *Bronzed from Silver*, *Sans titre* (2016), Paris (2021); *Recoil* (with Dozie Kanu), *International Waters*, New York (2020); *Violent Groom*, *Wschód* (2020); *Prune* (with Nicholas Grafia), *Shoot the Lobster*, New York (2019); and *Bounty*, Jeffrey Stark, New York (2017). Selected group exhibitions include *Vigil*, *Wschód* and Emanuel Layr, Warsaw (2021); *Cuerpos*, Lodos Gallery, Mexico City (2020); *The Struggle for Change*, *Murmurs*, Los Angeles (2020); *Ten Toes Down*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago (2018); *In Practice: Another Echo*, SculptureCenter, New York (2018); and *Le Colt est Jeune & Haine*, *DOC!*, Paris (2018).

## Ella CB

class of Gerard Byrne, Douglas Gordon, Laure Prouvost, Wu Tsang

Ella CB studied biochemistry and philosophy before turning to art. Her work involves various media and oscillates between video, sculpture and installation.

## Alex Chalmers

b. 1991, Aotearoa/New Zealand  
class of Haegue Yang

Alex Chalmers is an artist from Whangārei, Aotearoa / New Zealand. He currently lives and works between Frankfurt am Main, Berlin and Rome. He received a BFA at the University of Auckland's Elam School of Fine Arts and studied from 2019 to 2021 with Haegue Yang at Städelschule. Recent exhibitions include: (working title) *gr\_und* Berlin; *The true near by*, KuLe e.V. Berlin; *Individuating*, Kunstverein Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Berlin.

## Hyunjung Choi

b. 1989, South Korea  
class of Gerard Byrne

Hyunjung Choi studied in the film classes of Douglas Gordon (2016-2018), Laure Prouvost (2018-2019) and Gerard Byrne (2019-2021) at Städelschule. Before her study in Germany, she studied painting in South Korea. She primarily works on video and 3D animation, however, under the influence of her past study, her works also embrace drawing and painting.

## Conrad

b. 1992, Germany  
class of Monika Baer

Conrad uses drawing to construct hybrid works made of organic and technical elements, mostly on textiles. Medium-wise he combines analogue techniques with processes based on 3d printing and DIY built CNC. His images are contemporary reflections on existential topics like energy, growth and fertility. After a BA in architecture Conrad studied under Katharina Grosse at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf from 2015 on. In 2018 he continued his education at Staedelschule in Frankfurt under Amy Sillman, Nikolas Gambaroff and eventually Monika Baer.

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## Anita Esfandiari

class of Judith Hopf

Anita Esfandiari is an artist currently living and working in Frankfurt am Main. She received a BA in painting from the Art and Architecture University of Tehran, Iran, and studied from 2018 to 2021 with Judith Hopf at Städelschule. Anita Esfandiari's practice involves a wide range of media including sculpture, video, installation, printmaking, and painting, which she uses to bridge the gap between the free zone of art and the social context it actually belongs to. For her, art making is a way to make imaginative realms reflect on the socio-political and economic issues that are indispensable to her life and practice.

## Agnese Galiotto

b. 1996, Italy

class of Willem de Rooij

Agnese Galiotto is a painter and a filmmaker. Her work explores the relationship between human identity and the natural world from an intimate perspective. Specifically, Galiotto's practice faces the impossibility of an actual identification with the other, and it opposes single narratives—all the solitary individuals she portrays are in the process of becoming protagonists of fragmented visual narrations. Since 2020 she has participated in the residency program Dolomiti Contemporanee (IT) and is an annual fellow of Künstlerhilfe Frankfurt. Galiotto is part of the group exhibition "And this is Us" at the Frankfurter Kunstverein (2021) and one of her works is permanently shown at Palmengarten Frankfurt since 2020.

## Lorenz Ganthaler

b. 1995, Italy

class of Haegue Yang

After attending the San Francisco Art Institute for two years, Lorenz Ganthaler transferred to the Städelschule in 2016 to complete his studies. His works have taken on the form of wall-mounted and free-standing sculptures that are both robust and delicate, light and grave, fleeting and stationary at once. They are located within a spatiality of thin relief and the temporality of a spliced second; often depicted are gaps, slits and holes as indicators of potential passageways. Ganthaler considers his works as precise articulations of vague thoughts, embedded within a speculative-empirical thinking structure which oscillates between inner escapism and figurative analysis. Previous work phases were inspired by writings of thinkers with a shared interest in the convergence of immanence and transcendence in instances of immediate experience, as conceptualized in diverging epistemologies of the extreme.

## Sebastián Garbrecht

b. 1988, Colombia

class of Monika Baer, Amy Sillman

Sebastián Garbrecht lives and works in Frankfurt am Main. From 2007 to 2012, he studied Graphic Design in the University of Buenos Aires, and assisted at different informal art workshops in Argentina. Often using ordinary materials to create paintings and objects, his work explores ideas of how architectural and psychological space is perceived.

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## Isidora Gilardi

b. 1992, Chile  
class of Willem de Rooij

Isidora Gilardi gathers images, objects, and stories in arrangements that delve into the ways in which meaning, memories, affection, and aversion are embedded in matter. She also works as a gardener.

## Graham Hamilton

b. 1988, USA  
class Monika Baer, Nikolas Gambaroff, Amy Sillman

Graham Hamilton works with images and sculpture to create memorial spaces. His work is grounded in the practices of painting and collage, although the forms of the works are often atomized from these practices. In photographic and installation works, Hamilton utilizes collecting, like composing or curating, as a mode of re-organizing material for reflection. He studied with Monika Baer, Nikolas Gambaroff, and Amy Sillman from 2018-2021 at Städelschule and has previously studied at New York University, 2007-2011. Hamilton co-founded and ran the artists gallery Violet's Cafe from 2014-2017. Most recently he has participated in the exhibition Moving Plants at the Frankfurter Palmengarten (DE).

## Jordan/Martin Hell

class of Monika Baer, Gerard Byrne

Jordan/Martin Hell (he/him) is a Black trans writer and artist. He attended Cooper Union School of Art (NYC) & Städelschule (DE) in Monika Baer's Painting Class & Gerard Byrne's Film Class.

## So Yeon Kim

b. 1995, South Korea  
class of Monika Baer

So Yeon Kim lives and works in Frankfurt am Main. She received a BFA from Cornell University in 2018 and studied at Städelschule, Frankfurt and Bard College, NY, afterwards. So Yeon uses the media of painting, printmaking, and collages to explore ideas about (imperfect, fugitive, awkward, active) bodies and where they are situated on the canvas and in a room.

## Mariam Kvirikashvili

b. 1993, Georgia  
class of Haegue Yang

Mariam Kvirikashvili's artistic practice revolves around sculpture, intervention, and site-specific work, enabling her to explore how bodies interact with the immediate space they dwell in. Often, her works are shaped according to the particular placement, and the materials of her sculptures attempt to imitate the properties of the materials they resemble, without necessarily succeeding.

## Kristina Lovaas

b. 1992, USA  
class of Judith Hopf

Kristina Lovaas works predominantly with ceramics, fabric, and installations. Her recent work investigates ideas of affection, humor, and the process of recording touch. She completed a dual degree from Cornell

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University in New York with a BFA in Fine Arts and BA in Art History. Lovaas' work has been shown and the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, Goethe-Institut in Bulgaria, and numerous other group exhibitions in Frankfurt am Main, Munich, Aschaffenburg, and Wiesbaden.

## Rudi Ninov

b. 1992, Bulgaria  
class of Monika Baer

Rudi Ninov works and lives in Frankfurt am Main. Before that, he earned a BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, University of London. Recent exhibitions include Liste Showtime Pop-up, Sariev Gallery, Plovdiv (2020), ORBIT, Messeturm, Frankfurt am Main (2020), NOT CANCELLED East x South, Sariev Gallery, Plovdiv (2020), Sariev Selfisolation, Sariev Gallery, Plovdiv (2020), Good Weather, Ginsberg Galeria, Lima (2020), The Artist Collector's Dream (a nice thing), Galleria Continua, San Gimignano (2020), Gravity Works Only When You Look Down, Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, Sofia (2019), FOTEL, Sotheby's, Frankfurt am Main (2019). He is also the recipient of the Linklaters LLP Prize, Germany (2020) and Cultural Perspectives Foundation Scholarship, Bulgaria (2019).

## Gabriel Possamai

b. 1996, Brazil  
class of Laure Provoust, Gerard Byrne

Working primarily with painting and drawing, Gabriel Possamai's practice consists of an ongoing reflection about productivity and conspiratorial thinking. Through a variety of pictorial and discursive modes, Possamai constructs his body of work in a way in which elements such as scale, repetition and spacing are as important as individual pieces. In 2018, he obtained a BA in Painting from Escola de Música e Belas Artes do Paraná, Brazil and studied at Städelschule in the classes of Laure Prouvost (2017–2018) and Gerard Byrne (2019–2021).

## Dudu Quintanilha

b. 1987, Brazil  
class of Gerard Byrne, Willem de Rooij

In his projects, Quintanilha proposes performances as a possibility to connect ideas and bodies. He researches and develops ideas about performativity, and the possibilities of performance in specific contexts. He is interested in how vulnerability, memory and imagination create possibilities to understand the idea of being in-process, of being "partial". His works were shown at Kunstraum Riehen (Basel, 2021), Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen (Düsseldorf, 2019) Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (2019), Kanal Centre Pompidou (Brussels 2018). He was nominated for the ars viva prize 2022.

## Sara Rossi

b. 1981, Italy  
class of Monika Baer, Amy Sillmann

Sara Rossi studied at Städelschule from 2018 to 2021 with Amy Sillmann and Monika Baer. Before she graduated from Università degli Studi di Trieste with an MA in Anthropology and Speech Philosophy, focusing on ways to convey cultural and female identity in writing, before joining the class of Trisha Donnelly at Kunstakademie Dusseldorf in 2015. Rossi's work operates as the residue of thoughts-and-memories, akin to a photograph of a mental process or a meditation that has been transferred through the hand onto canvas. Her research focuses on the emergence and creation of visual meaning. Rossi sees her approach as a sort of



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“mental metabolism,” in which forms are made manifest on the canvas, less interested in the illusionistic representation of reality, and more in the way paintings and images are able to convey a system of thinking.

## Su Xia

b. 1987, China

class of Tobias Rehberger

Su Xia studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Nürnberg from 2015 to 2017 and she has been studying from 2017 to 2021 at the Städelschule with Tobias Rehberger. Su Xia’s practice involves a wide range of media including drawing, painting, performance, video, sound, installation, sculpture, photography and architecture. Her work has been presented in institutions and commercial exhibitions in Germany, Italy and Portugal.

## Tomomi Yamakawa

b. 1993, Japan

class of Hassan Khan, Peter Fischli, Josef Strau

Functionality, “affordance” and signifiers—how people and objects interact in everyday life. That interest comes from Yamakawa’s background studying information design. Her older works are a documentation of discovering the hidden functionality in daily life. This starting point brought her to the problem of documentary and fiction, realistic and artificial. She thinks feelings of significance are special, and thinks the little gap or the oddness made by an alternative method is beautiful. For her recent solo show in 2021 in Denmark she presented Tomomi’s group show. She uses different media and materials

## Miran Yang

b. 1984, South Korea

class of Haegue Yang

Miran Yang is a South Korean artist working primarily in painting, but also active in video and installation. She studied at the University of Fine Arts Essen and at Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main. Her work is based on fairy tales, tragic stories, memories of childhood and a melancholic atmosphere. She imagines that everything that exists in the world has a soul, it oscillates between human and non-human beings. Anthropomorphism, which is often used in fairy tales, projects human characteristics onto the abstract and non-human so that they are perceived as living objects. Her emotional and psychological states according to the change in weather will affect the hue or atmosphere of the painting. Intuitive decisions are often made in the work process.

## Contact

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