

A Year of Rest and Relaxation

Wojciech Bąkowski, Lukas Kaufmann, Marlie Mul, Mitchell Syrop

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Lukas Kaufmann (b. 1993, AT) lives and works in Vienna, where he graduated from the University of Applied Arts in 2021. Kaufmann explores the relationship between the image carrier and the image surface, merging spatial and psychological dimensions. His replicated and fragmentary portraits draw analogies to ideas of psychoanalysis and allude to the concept of conscious and subconscious. A recurring approach in his practice is a simultaneous play of concealing and revealing content or leitmotifs. Kaufmann is currently a resident at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. His work has been exhibited at The Office, Vienna; Kunsthalle Wien; Zina Gallery, Cluj; Krinzinger Schottenfeld, Vienna; University Gallery of the Applied Arts, Vienna; MUSEION, Bolzano; and Belvedere 21, Vienna. In 2018, he realized Projekt OT, a permanent public art intervention in Vienna, and in 2021, he received the Kunsthalle Wien Prize.

Marlie Mul (b. 1980, NL) lives and works in Brussels. Her *Puddle* series (2012–2016) consists of flat, floor-based sculptures made of resin, stone, and sand. Their gleaming black surfaces, imprinted with urban traces such as bits of rubbish from the street, evoke the feeling of a real stretch of road within a (sub)urban setting. With their tough, indefinable materiality, they capture and preserve what would otherwise be a fleeting state. Solo exhibitions by Mul include Kunsthau Glarus and 243Luz, Margate (both upcoming in 2025); Ulrik, New York (2026); The Gaylord Apartments, Los Angeles; and Wiels, Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels. She has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including at Kunsthalle Wien; MACRO Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome; Swiss Institute, New York; Sculpture Center, New York; and ICA, London. She also participated in the 33rd Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, and the 9th Berlin Biennial.

Mitchell Syrop (b. 1953, USA) lives and works in Los Angeles. Throughout his career, Syrop has explored the ambiguities of language and image, as well as the visual properties of their presentation. In his *Torn* series (1985–1998), he used idyllic, mass-produced travel posters—such as New York sunsets, mountain ranges, or sandy beaches—and tore out familiar phrases and suggestive word combinations. The confusion generated by these logical discrepancies forms Syrop's critique of mass communication and its unreflected reception. Syrop currently has a solo exhibition at Council Street Gallery, Los Angeles. Further solo exhibitions include Thomas Solomon Gallery, Los Angeles; Richard Kuhlenschmidt Gallery, Los Angeles; Midway Contemporary, Minneapolis; and The Santa Monica Museum of Art. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including at Kunsthau Graz; the Paul Getty Museum and Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles; MOCA, Los Angeles; and Casey Kaplan, New York.

Wojciech Bąkowski (b. 1979, PL) lives and works in Warsaw. A selection of his charcoal drawings provides insight into his complex and often hermetic wanderings of consciousness. To prepare his surfaces, he uses sandpaper in order to give the cardboard a rough texture, then draws on it with charcoal or pastel, creating delicate, grainy representations in smoky atmospheres. The technique of lucid dreaming informs his compositions and motifs, as do childhood memories of Poland's post-communist phase and contemporary experiences. Recent solo exhibitions by Bąkowski include

Neuer Essener Kunstverein, Essen; Bureau, New York; and Stereo, Warsaw. Group exhibitions include the New Museum, New York; Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen; Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; and the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw. Bąkowski is also a filmmaker, poet, and musician.

