

'Perspectives' at HOXTON 253 art project space

22-25th July 2021

An exhibition featuring works by Yassen Grigorov, Ruby Kiusum Lau, Stefani Stoyanova, Malina Mayer, Anastasia Mihaiu, Meghan Durham, Maksymilian Jeremi Hryniewicki, Wera Pawlak and Teodora Georgieva.

Perspectives brings together different ways of seeing, creating and communicating visually. As a group show, it goes beyond institutional barriers, with nine students and recent graduates from different academic disciplines being invited to share glimpses of their work. The exhibition intends to outline the particular realities and themes important to the artists' lived experiences.

Open for a brief period, the works on display open conversation around the subjects of consciousness, perception, safe spaces, resolving trauma, as well as the implications of globalisation and industrialism on the lives of East and Central European creators. An honest exploration of complex topics which will allow the visitor to reflect on topics outside of their perspective through a familiar frame.

Through combining a mixture of portraiture, experimental and documentary photography, ceramic sculpture and film, a multidisciplinary culmination of thoughts, feelings and questions surrounding contemporary living are evoked. Amidst each distinctive approach to form and conceptualisation, all works consider ways of caring for, and re-connecting to, natural and urban environments, and personal and cultural histories.

Yassen Grigorov's work is primarily focused on documentary works that aim to engage the viewer with uncommon narratives, bringing attention to lesser-known socio-political issues through analogue media across 35mm and medium format film. In a similar tone, **Stefani Stoyanova's** photography practice focuses on exploring identity and a variety of social issues, influenced by personal narratives of people around her, and her interest in researching different cultures and communities. Identity, and its relation to memory, is also reflected in **Malina Mayer's** practice. As a photographer and sociologist, the dream-like and often eerie aesthetics of her photographs play with what eludes our consciousness, drawing from (auto-) ethnographic methods. **Anastasia Mihaiu's** photography represents memories captured in time, while conveying the strength of youth culture to fight against contemporary societal expectations. In contrast, **Meghan Durham** focuses on process and material experimentation, translating traumatic or difficult experiences into sculptural forms; this enables the exploration of the cathartic process associated with art and the action of making art. **Ruby Kiusum Lau** is a designer, interested in studying ways of transforming public spaces, to facilitate the wellbeing and sustainability of humans as principal. Her research and experiments are documented through visual image development and filmmaking. **Wera Pawlak's** most recent audio-visual project re-imagines the human notion of a safe space, using non-human tools and AI algorithms. **Maksymilian Hryniewicki's** practice reflects a critical view on cultural, social, and political issues. His presented photographic series deals with the experience of coming of age surrounded by the falling industrial world, car-oriented culture, and completely wild nature. **Teodora Georgieva** is a Bulgarian visual artist based in London and Dobrich, Bulgaria, whose practice revolves around histories and the relationships between environments and people.

Written by producer Bella Aleksandrova & co-curator Fabian Florea