

Art Rotterdam
2018

Joris Strouken
Martin Brandt
Vytautas Kumža

YOUNG BLOOD

A brand-new gallery representing young and cutting-edge artists. For this exciting adventure Galerie Ron Mandos and Groos joined forces to bring you the best of the newest graduating talents in contemporary art. We are very proud to present to you the Young Blood Award winner of 2017 Martin Brandt, Photography winner Vytautas Kumža and the publics favorite Joris Strouken. The Young Blood Gallery will open in the spring of 2018 in Het Industriegebouw, Rotterdam. At Art Rotterdam we present a taste of what we have in mind for the future.

YOUNG BLOOD is here to show young talent, inspire the public and most importantly celebrate the joy that art brings.

Young Blood Gallery

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Joris Strouken

AKI, ArtEZ, Enschede

Joris Strouken finished his degree in Fine Art Sculpture at AKI, ArtEZ in 2017 and was the public's favorite during last year's Best of Graduates exhibition at Galerie Ron Mandos.

This young painter depicts personal themes in a dynamic presentation, in which volume and form play an important part. He shows the traits of a true painter in his explorations of different textures of paint, which he combines in a way that makes the paint physically palpable.

*"A personal revolution against loneliness.
An abstract illusion within the reality.
A mirror where the reflection is different to
what is being reflected."*



Stigma (2017)

Martin Brandt

Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam

Martin Brandt (1988) is the winner of the Young Blood Award 2017. He recently graduated at Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam.

Over the past year Martin's works were exhibited at Best of Graduates - Gallerie Ron Mandos (Amsterdam), Summer Love - Vishaal, (Haarlem) and Rietveld Uncut - Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam). He currently lives and works in Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

Martin creates a world that is both threatening and irresistible. The rugged beauty of industrial materials gets center stage in his work. This effect is enhanced by its juxtaposition with innocent grace.

"I try to maintain a flexible way of working but some things seem to continuously occur, a play with cultural as well as material values and the importance of physical engagement with the works as objects. Besides that, the choice of materials plays a key role in my works, by materials I mean everything from vodka, an art historical reference or nail polish to a specific technique."



Untitled, SHOX (2015)



Untitled, Pool (2017)

Vytautas Kumža

Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam

Vytautas Kumža (1992) recently graduated at Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. After graduation he was awarded as HvA photographer in Residence. In 2016 selected and nominated for the European Photography Award. Over the past year Kumža's works were exhibited at Kunstverein Siegen (Germany), Fondazione Fotografia in Modena (Italy), Studio 47 (Netherlands), Punt WG (Netherlands) and "Unseen" photography festival. Currently he lives and works in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

"I was very interested how you can construct images yourself. By looking up at a lot of 80s commercial studio photography books where it explains how it's constructed I started building my own photographs as well. I was fascinated by different techniques and I was surprised that the most interesting part - backstage is always left apart. Usually we see only the end result which is always cleaned out. I decided to always use materials in my photographs and no post-production. That way I was able to provoke small accidents which led me to a totally different result which I had in mind. And I think that's a charm of photography, because it is never possible to build an image the same as in your head and why to hide the most interesting part of it - the making."



Folded Giedre (2017)

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gallery

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