

Press Release

Tomáš Kajánek | Jan van der Pol  
Curator: Jiří Švestka  
Jiri Svestka Gallery  
Janáčkovo nábřeží 5, 150 00 Prague 5  
February 21 – April 14, 2018

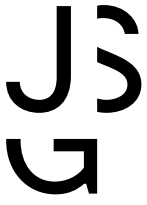
From February 21 through April 14, 2018, Jiri Svestka Gallery presents the exhibition Tomáš Kajánek | Jan van der Pol. This will be the third show within the new gallery concept, started from September 2017, bringing together unexpected pairs of artists across mediums, generations and art backgrounds. Each of the exhibitional dialogues offers an illuminating insight into deeper linkages on the Central European and international art scene.

Young Czech artist Tomáš Kajánek (\*1989), this year nominated finalist of the Czech prestigious Jindřich Chalupický Award, often deals with the question of agency, the individual's capacity to act within rigid social structures. The exhibited series of photographs Insurance Instructions is based on the series Self-timer Photographs (2016), in which the author is hidden in the photographed landscape. He set himself a limit of 10 seconds self-timer to find a place to hide in the picture. The series was damaged during the exhibition of the ESSL Art Award CEE nominees in Prague. To get the damages covered, the artist had to prove that the photos had really been destroyed. He thus decided to go back to the sceneries shown in the pictures and burned the damaged photos in front of the scene they were respectively showing, again taking photos of this act. The photos which were intended to prove the destruction thus became part of a new work of art. His photographs Insurance Instructions are in the exhibition complemented by the disturbing series of objects Double-barreled Liberator in which it is unclear whether they will take action or not.

Jan van der Pol (\*1949), Dutch painter living in Amsterdam, is fascinated with perception, watching, observation and empiricism. As well, he has a critical interest in technology, nature and science. The interest is informed by a strong affinity by the times we live in. His work is in this context, without any doubt, in compliance with the long and rich tradition of Dutch painting from the golden era of landscape painting to formal experiments of Piet Mondrian and De Stijl. Jiri Svestka Gallery has been cooperating with Jan van der Pol on a long-term basis. Both of his exhibitions in the gallery (2013 in Prague and at the turn of the years 2015/2016 in Berlin), have received a positive response.

In the exhibitional dialogue, both the artists are driven by the intention to look under the surface, sometimes literally, decomposing views on city, streets, landscape and the world as a whole with his internal forms and patterns. The younger of the artists Kajánek tends to use more conceptual artistic means and performance. On the other hand, Jan van der Pol adheres to the traditional media of painting on canvas, that however can be seen as a composite of images. His works are usually divided into two or more fields representing different levels of vision and perception, from visual surface down to more psychological and emotional record of reality. Surrealism influences Van der Pol's art in many ways, deep-drawn from his admiration of collages by Max Ernst. Together – various, figurative and abstract elements form a single landscape – a unified image of the world – albeit one that is fragmented and marked by human intervention, even when it presents itself as “nature”.

The opening reception takes place February 21, 2018, from 6pm.



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Jiri Svestka Gallery is operated by the Fine Arts of Central Europe s.r.o.