

# LIS10

## RAFAL TOPOLEWSKI

(1983 Grudziadz, Poland)

He lives and works in Lisbon. Rafal Topolewski is working both with figurative images based on memory of his personal childhood, and on non-figuration that is intuitive and uncertain, questioning the identity and provisionality in art.

The non-figurative works are oscillating in a loop of self criticism and on the rejection of paint. They are numerous reconstructed and redirected by the application of paint and removal of it. This process of constant disapproval, puts the work of art in a temporary state, questioning where the art work starts and what defines the finished art work. Alongside oil paint, provisional elements like masking tape and tissue paper become a permanent part of the work.

The representational paintings refer to childhood memories, to the moral system that has been applied by religion and by ethics. Questioning the restrictions that help to construct a child's morality, which often are negated by actions of authorities. There is an interest in ethical reevaluation, pushing the boundaries of tension and aggression back and forth.

In the work "Knife between chin" Rafal touches the subject of morality and violence by depicting a boy with a knife. However this is a direct reference to a game that was popular amongst boys during the artist's childhood, called Pikuty. The rules of this game are that the knife has to be thrown from several parts of body to the ground (such as fingers, elbows or chin) and aim so that the blade sticks into the ground, in order to progress to another part of body, finishing with the top of the head throw. There is a certain danger and anxiety, an edge of playfulness and aggression in this game.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013 Solo, The International 3, Manchester

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 Isle, Smart Objects Gallery, Los Angeles

2018 Terraforms, The Concept Space, London

2017 Adolf Menzel's Foot, Ps Mirable

2017 Fully Awake, Blip Blip Blip, Leeds

2016 RA Schools Show, Royal Academy Schools

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2015 Premiums Interim Projects, Royal Academy of Arts, London

2014 Vivarium, Model Gallery, Liverpool

2014 Cactus on Tour//End, Cactus Gallery, Manchester

2014 Detail, H Project space, Bangkok

2014 Detail, Transition Gallery, London

2014 Detail, The Usher Gallery, Lincoln

2014 Volta 10, Basel with The International 3

2013 Tip of the Iceberg: Art from up North, Contemporary Art Society, London

2013 VOLTA 9, Basel with The International 3

2013 ART13, 9 Manchester Square, London with The International 3

2013 Unspecific Objects, at Malgras|Naudet, Manchester and The Royal Standard, Liverpool

2013 'Beautiful Things', Unit C19 Albert Docks, Liverpool

2013 London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street with The Catlin Guide

2012 As far as we got, International 3, Manchester

2012 Saatchi Gallery and Channel 4's New Sensations, Victoria House, Bloomsbury, London

2012 Cave Art Fair, Liverpool

2012 Art Gwangju, South Korea with the Castlefield Gallery

2012 Ask Why / Degree Show - Manchester Metropolitan University

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Untitled

2020

oil on canvas

cm 20.4x30.9

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Neighbour  
2020  
oil on canvas  
cm 20.4x30.9

# LIS10



Eyes between chin

2020

oil on canvas

cm 20.4x30.9