



Michał Jankowski

front cover: *Fox*, 2008, oil on canvas, 60x70 cm

third page: *Fat Trout*, 2008, oil on canvas, 70x50 cm

back cover: *Sardines in oil* 2009, oil on canvas, 24x30 cm



Michał Jankowski *Fat Trout*

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Fat Trout

Michał Jankowski's exhibition's title, *Fat Trout* refers to the name of a trailer park in the film *Twin Peaks – Fire walk with me* (1992) by David Lynch, a location, where detectives searched for clues concerning the murder of Teresa Banks. In the film a fat trout was depicted on the welcome board of this mysterious and frightening location. This motive in combination with the dark atmosphere of David Lynch's film provided the motivation for Jankowski's further explorations.

In *Fat Trout* Jankowski explores the topic of cruelty that he has already taken up with his *Frogs* series, in which the frogs are pumped up with air in a children's game. His current works are predominantly presentations of animals on a 1:1 scale and are strongly simplified. Cats, foxes, fish, cows and birds emerge from these monochrome backgrounds. They all appear motionless, and perhaps that is making it so disquieting. They seem to sense danger, such as an impending fire, paralysed, yet ready - as if led by instinct- to run away in a split second. However, these animals appear calm, motionless and frozen in time. The inherent violence in his paintings is not obvious; it is lurking in the background and doesn't show its true face at first sight. The paintings display neither blood nor violence, but appear to be taking stock of dark potentials. The fight is over, the culprit not to be seen.

The weird presentations of animals allow us to evoke the graphic works of Pieter Brueghel (like the *Bee-keeper*), Hieronymus Bosch or Francisco Goya with their frequently drastic displays*. In the dark, monochromatic colour palette the influence of the old masters is also

recognisable. At the same time Michał Jankowski is an author of presentations born from large gestures with thin paint. He paints quickly and fiercely, yet very precisely. Realistically looking animal furs are nothing else but a couple of strokes of the brush. This brush would be more suitable for painting of walls.

As with Lynch, Jankowski's mysteries cannot be fully solved. Jankowski reminds us, that (...) *In a town like Twin Peaks no one is innocent***.

The violence directed against animals confronts with the destructive potential of the human being. The disquieting feeling of unease, that creeps up while looking at Michał Jankowski's paintings results from the aberrance and absurdity of the situation that those creatures are put into, which would be impossible without a human action. Yet, the artist is not a moralising, he does not want to arouse the compassion or stigmatise the violence in itself. Despite that the animals are the corpus delicti in Jankowski's oeuvre essentially they are not what it boils down to. He is more refined than that. He suspects the spectator will find amusement in the perverted violence and feel uncomfortable with it. Indeed: no one is innocent.

Julia Wielgus (translation Weronika Bachmann and Ron Rocco)

*The character behind a mask is actually a bee-keeper, seen first in one of the works of Brueghel. The same goes for the Kindling series in which Jankowski also refers to graphics originally developed by Brueghel.

**David Lynch, *Twin Peaks Fire Walk With Me*, 1992



Parasite, 2008, 110x90 cm

Monkey, 2008, 130x130 cm

Fat Salmon, 2008, 110x90 cm

Untitled, 2008, 110x90 cm

Untitled, 2008, 60x50 cm

Cuckoo, 2008, 50x40 cm

Shawl, 2008, 90x60 cm

Mink Coat welted around with a Fox Fur, 2008, 110x90 cm

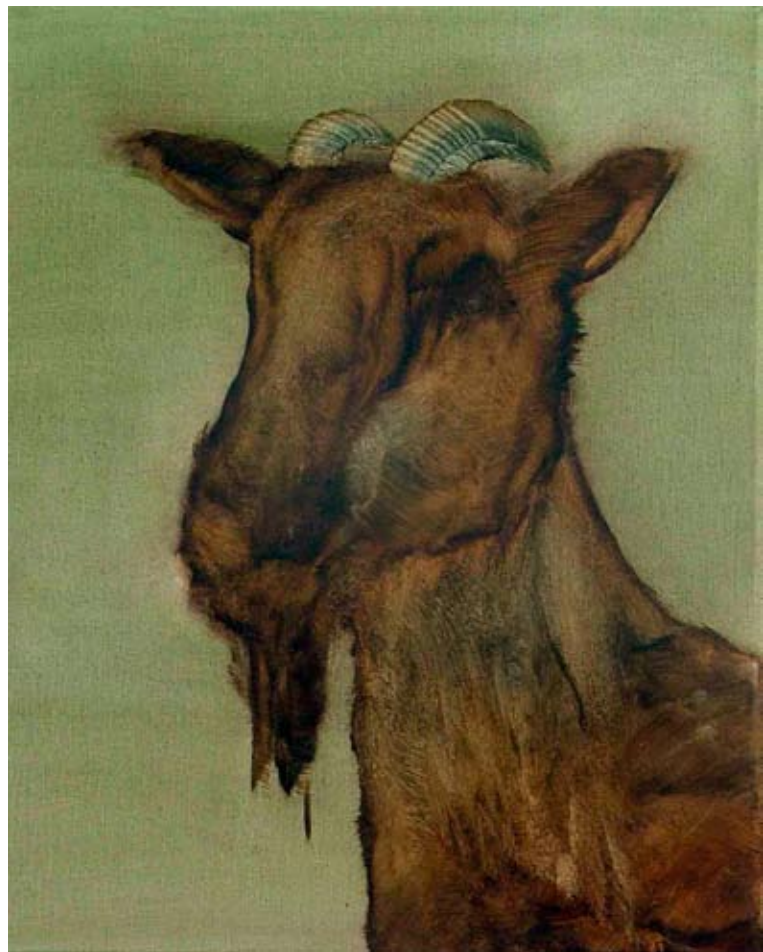




Pelt, 2008, oil on canvas, 120x110 cm



With a Cosset on the Neck, 2008, oil on canvas, 110x90 cm



Stuffed Goat Portrait, 2008, oil on canvas, 50x40 cm

Hoof, 2008, oil on canvas, 30x24 cm

Pedicure, 2008, oil on canvas, 30x24 cm

Fox, 2008, oil on canvas, 70x60 cm



Michał Jankowski

Born 1977 in Zielona Góra, Poland.
Lives and works in Zielona Góra.

2005 – he graduated from the Faculty of Art and Artistic Culture at the Department of Arts at the University of Zielona Góra with degree in Painting

Solo Exhibitions (selection):

- 2008 *Fat Trout*, ZAK BRANICKA, Berlin, D
- 2007 *Oil Painting*, BWA Gallery - Bohomaz, Zielona Góra, PL

Group Exhibitions (selection):

- 2007 DSW (Days of Contemporary Art), Gallery Stara Winiarnia, Zielona Góra, PL
Jeżeli nie umarli to pewnie jeszcze żyją, Baltic Gallery of Contemporary Art, Słupsk, PL
The Lord of Lard, Gallery Szewska 36, Wrocław, PL
- 2006 *The Fall Salon 2006*, BWA Gallery, Gorzów Wielkopolski, PL
XXI Festival of Contemporary Polish Painting, Szczecin, PL
Read Polish Phantasy Books, Pies Gallery, Poznań, PL
Najpierw smutna a potem płacz, Kolonia Artystów, Gdansk, PL
Birthday Exhibition, Pies Gallery, Poznań, PL
- 2005 *Exhibition (Diploma work)*, BWA Gallery, Zielona Góra, PL
Bielska Jesień 2005 (with a distinction) BWA Gallery, Bielsko-Biała, PL
Longing for Painting (I), Galerie Szyperska, Poznań, PL
- 2003 *No i cóż, że ze Szwecji*, Gallery PWW, Zielona Góra, PL

Hen, 2008, oil on canvas, 100x90 cm



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