

PRINCIPLE GALLERY
ALEXANDRIA

CATHARSIS: WILD HEART

Curated by Anna Wypych



Creature by Anna Wypych

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FEATURED ARTISTS:

Jordi Diaz Alamà	Larry Preston
Julie Bell	Ewa Prończuk-Kuziak
Andreas Claussen	Roza Puzynowska
Natalie Featherston	Megan Elizabeth Read
Naoto Hattori	Stephanie Rew
David Jon Kassin	Victoria Steel
Lorena Kloosterboer	June Stratton
Shana Levenson	Ania Tomicka
Serge Marshennikov	Anthony Waichulis
Susannah Martin	Conor Walton
Mathieu Nozieres	Eric Wert
Marissa Oosterlee	Anna Wypych

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A Word from the Curator

Let us create our own catharsis, craft strange and wild worlds, free our hearts, and thereby grant ourselves relief and balance - that is precisely what I asked of the artists. In ancient Greece, the health benefits stemming from catharsis were so esteemed that citizens often did not have to pay for theater visits, and sometimes were even paid themselves, recognizing it as an action for the common good. A citizen would experience strong emotions in the theater, making it easier for them to find peace in life afterward. In today's world, it seems that nobody doubts that we need catharsis more than ever before. Our nervous system calls out for help, perpetually overstimulated, and overloaded with constantly bombarding information. Does Aristotle's method still work? I asked artists to paint their own strangeness, their own catharsis, so we all look at them, and let us not be constrained by anything. Let all the tense strings in our souls relax.

Anna Wypych



Catharsis: Wild Heart, 7 Cats by Anna Wypych

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Jordi Diaz Alamà (b. 1986)



Jordi Diaz Alamà was born in Granollers, Spain. He graduated with a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona and was posteriorly trained in classical art schools such as the Florence Academy of Art where he learned the techniques used by the Great Masters of 19th-century painting.

His work involves an impressive display of pictorial resources with a refined technique, free of mannerisms, that responds to the canon of contemporary classical figuration, continually investigating new concepts and plasticities.

In 2017, he created his most monumental work to date with *La Cruz del Jubileo*, a commission for the Church of Los Dolores in Vic, Spain.



Los Cerro Soñados

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Julie Bell (b. 1958)

Julie Bell is among the world's top superstar illustrators. Her credits include creating advertising illustrations for the elite of the corporate world, such as Nike, Coca-Cola, and The Ford Motor Company, painting book covers for the major publishing houses in NYC, and doing album covers for artists such as Meat Loaf.



She was the first woman ever to paint Conan for Marvel Comics, which paved the way for many other commissions from Marvel, DC, and Image Comics to illustrate superheroes in fully rendered paintings. Her first published cover for Heavy Metal magazine broke ground for other illustrators by introducing her now legendary Metal Flesh. Her hyper-realistic style is known for its sexy, powerful images of warriors and amazons and sensitive, exquisite use of color and texture.



Waves

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Andreas Claussen (b. 1988)



Andreas Claussen is a German multidisciplinary artist who combines traditional drawing and painting skills with modern technologies like 3D rendering. After painting seascapes for half a decade, he is working on a new series called "FLOOD". He has exhibited his work in galleries and at major art fairs in Germany and sold across Europe, South Korea, Canada, and the USA. He lives and works in Lower Saxony, Germany.



Make Use of Your Anger

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Natalie Featherston (b. 1971)



Natalie Featherston is a realist painter specializing in trompe l'oeil. She is represented by fine art galleries nationwide and has won awards from many distinguished art organizations. Her work has been featured in *American Art Collector*, *Fine Art Connoisseur*, and *The Artist's Magazine*. Her collectors include Alice Cooper, J.J. Abrams, and the late Toni Morrison.

The Tell Tale Heart, a diptych from trompe l'oeil artist Featherston, expresses the frailty and resilience of the human heart. The artist has painted herself into the piece as an 18th-century lover's eye brooch ensconced by pearls, where one is invited to observe the painting, but the painting holds them in its gaze as well, with almost mysterious intent. The human heart is protected by bubble wrap but also openly on display; laid bare and forging a connection with the viewer.



The Tell Tale Heart (Heart) diptych

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Naoto Hattori (b. 1975)



Naoto Hattori studied Graphic Design in Tokyo before moving to New York to attend the School of Visual Arts. He has received awards from the Society of Illustrators, the New York Directors Club, and Communication Arts. He has also won numerous art competitions and been published in many art magazines.

Of his work, he says: "My vision is like a dream, whether it's a sweet dream, a nightmare, or just a trippy dream. I try to see what's really going on in my mind, and that's a practice to increase my awareness of stream-of-consciousness creativity. I try not to label or think about what is supposed to be, just take it in as it is and paint whatever I see in my mind with no compromise. That way, I create my own vision."



Palingenesis

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David Jon Kassan (b. 1977)



Raw, poignant, and profoundly honest, David Jon Kassan's artwork aesthetically captures humanity in its true form. As an artist, Kassan is an empathetic intermediary between the subject he portrays and the viewer. More than simply replicating his subjects Kassan seeks to understand them. He aims to capture the essence of those he paints, imbuing them with their voice. They communicate with the viewer interpersonally and we see them through our own eyes. Kassan's work

oscillates between representation and transformation, reality and abstraction.



Apparition

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Lorena Kloosterboer (b. 1962)



Lorena Kloosterboer is a Dutch-Argentine artist born in the Netherlands. She paints contemporary realist and hyperrealist still lifes, seeking to capture the fascinating interactions between colors, light, shadows, textures, and reflections, and unite them in visual poetry.

"My paintings are based on symbolism, conveying my thoughts about life through metaphors and symbolic meaning universally ascribed to my subject matter. This symbolism—representing higher ideals, such as wisdom, awareness, and growth—may not be immediately obvious, yet I believe these messages reach the consciousness of those open to them."



Tempus ad Requiem LVIII

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Shana Levenson (b. 1981)



Shana Levenson is an accomplished painter based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her artistic journey began with a BA in Fashion Design from The University of Texas, Austin. After the birth of her children in 2009 and 2010, she pursued and completed an MFA in Fine Art Painting from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Her work primarily focuses on portraiture and the figure, often capturing significant people in her life. Levenson aims to tell each person's story authentically and meaningfully, drawing inspiration from her own experiences.

Levenson is known for her hyperrealistic style, emphasizing delicate and feminine details in her subjects, like body shape, lace, and jewelry. Her background in fashion has notably influenced her latest series of paintings featuring lace. Additionally, she incorporates surrealistic elements in her current work, highlighting the strength and beauty of women.



Luminous

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Serge Marshennikov (b. 1971)



Serge Marshennikov was born in 1971 in Ufa, Bashkiria. When he was young Serge was always drawing, painting, and sculpting from any material he could lay his hands on. His mother encouraged him to study from early childhood and he had a succession of private teachers and art studies.

The realistic figurative art of Marshennikov portrays female beauty in its purest form. His painting skills take their roots in traditional Russian art of the 19th century. The combination of bountiful beauty and extraordinary realism of female portraits with virtuoso painting techniques, make Marshennikov a contemporary artist who will make a long-lasting mark in art history.



Ongoing Tale

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Susannah Martin (b. 1964)

Susannah Martin's work focuses on the relationship between man and nature. The artist shows naked, mostly female bodies in front of romantic landscape panoramas. But the viewer immediately senses that something is obviously wrong here. The staging is strangely perfect. The escape into the healing, liberating nature is pure utopia. Martin's work critiques our normalized and standardized lives, from whose constraints we seem unable to free ourselves.



Glass Blossoms

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Mathieu Nozieres (b. 1988)



Philosophy is the framework in which Mathieu Nozières wants to understand the world and act on his own life. Painting provides him with the tools by which he can discover his inner truth and improve the world in which he lives.

The imagination of Mathieu Nozières constantly supersedes reality. His paintings, mostly in small formats, are of a rare power with drawing imposing its law, between softness and force, calm and storm. At a time when our societies are gargling with tweets, selfies, and Photoshop models, to draw and observe is an act of resistance.



Goliath

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Marissa Oosterlee (b. 1981)



Marissa Oosterlee is recognized for her hyperrealistic figurative pieces that captivate the viewer with technical detail and the narratives that she brings to life.

The works show her adept hand and subtle nuances, making it hard to believe that art was not Oosterlee's first career. She started, instead, as an aspiring semi-professional cyclist, but a serious accident at age 20 ended the career early. A year after recovering from the accident and picking up brushes and pencils again, she became a professional artist.



Achelois

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Larry Preston (b. 1951)



"I paint what I find beautiful. I do not paint to be relevant, for an audience, or make any statement other than the beauty to be found in the objects I choose to paint. If the viewer chooses to attach some meaning to my work, that would be their prerogative. I find that, in this modern world, there is too little observance of the beauty in our surroundings. The real importance in our lives. I paint to remind myself what I find important and beautiful and to experience the process of painting

my chosen object. I paint for myself and the process. I am very pleased that my work resonates with people."



Untitled

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Ewa Prończuk-Kuziak (b. 1983)



Ewa Prończuk-Kuziak is a Polish contemporary artist who lives and works in Warsaw, Poland. Ewa's oil paintings combine still life, nature, and fantasy. She creates rainbow-colored visions of animals made of materials as if woven out of thread and decorative fabrics. Building on contrast, they are full of life, energy, and fantasy, always idealized in their complicated nature and continuous transformation. In her works, Ewa

uses intensely saturated colors to illustrate the vibrancy of the world her characters inhabit.



Here Comes the Sun

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Roza Puzynowska (b. 1984)

Roza Puzynowska was born in Warsaw, Poland. She studied Fine Arts at the University College of Falmouth (Cornwall, England) and at the National Academy Museum & School (NYC, USA), Costume Design at the International School of Costume and Fashion Design



(Warsaw, Poland), and Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts (Warsaw, Poland) where she obtained an MFA in Painting.

She uses oil painting to express universal values. Joy, beauty, and human relationships are shown through a fascination with what is widely understood as "oddity"—an aspect that can be noble, thrilling, strange, or inconvenient. She creates a dialogue about stereotypes and identity by underlining that every single one of us is different... and that it is a good thing.



Catharsis: Primavera in My Heart

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Megan Elizabeth Read (b. 1982)



Megan (Mae) Elizabeth Read is an American figurative artist living and working in Charlottesville, Virginia. Largely self-taught, she now works almost exclusively in oil with pieces ranging from small still life to large-scale paintings mostly focusing on the female form.

Mae grew up in rural Virginia where she spent most of her time exploring the fields and farmland around her home or drawing for hours on end, both of which were formative. After living in Los Angeles in her early 20's she returned to Virginia and after many years working in the tech field she finally began making space for drawing and painting again, which has since become her sole focus.



Requiem

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Stephanie Rew (b. 1971)



Stephanie Rew is a Scottish painter based in Edinburgh, UK. Painting in the figurative realist style, she combines traditional Early Renaissance gilding techniques with more contemporary ways of painting. When Rew creates oil or egg tempera portraits she uses 24ct gold leaf to decorate her panels.

The women in her paintings are sometimes idealized and often romanticized but they are always strong. She strives to paint contemporary people while maintaining a strong sense of history.



What the Heart Wants

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Victoria Steel (b. 1994)

Victoria Steel is a contemporary realist fine artist and head instructor of ANI Art Academy America. Victoria's artworks can be found in private collections across the United States and have been exhibited in NYC, Tulsa, and Philadelphia. Notably, in 2021, her work was featured in Women Painting – All Over the World at the MEAM Museu Europeu d'Art Modern in Barcelona, Spain.



When Memories Blossom

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June Stratton (b. 1959)



June Stratton was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and now lives in Savannah Georgia. She is known for her oil paintings that bridge the figure with natural landscapes. Recent works incorporate gold leaf and handmade plaster (fresco-secco) casts. The cast is created from the organic environment surrounding her studio and the treasures the artist has collected over the years. Large paintings may contain as many as 30 individual casts which are then gilded or painted with oil.



Blue Crush

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Ania Tomicka (b. 1985)



Ania Tomicka was born in Łódź, Poland. When she was only nine, she moved to Italy, where she started to draw seriously, manga at first, and realistic things afterward. She attended an art institute and graduated in 2004.

During her school years, she began painting with oil colors, a technique that soon became her favorite. Afterward, she attended the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice where she found inspiration for her realistic and academic art. A year later she moved to Tuscany where she graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence.



Infiniti

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Anthony Waichulis (b. 1972)



Anthony Waichulis is a contemporary trompe l'oeil painter from Northeast Pennsylvania. Often celebrated by critics and collectors alike, Waichulis' efforts have captured top honors in both domestic and international competitions and have been published in most major art publications including, but not limited to, The Artist's Magazine, Fine Art Connoisseur, American Artist, American Art Review, American Art Collector, Art News, and Art-Talk.



Acidulcis

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Conor Walton (b. 1970)



Conor Walton was born in Ireland and trained at NCAD in Dublin and under Charles Cecil in Florence, Italy. He holds a master's degree in art history and theory (awarded with Distinction) from the University of Essex.

His art is founded upon a study of nature which he considers the basis of all life, all beauty, and all wealth. Human image drives his work because of his belief we need to see ourselves to gain self-understanding; through that understanding, we can comprehend our relationships with each other and nature.



Midnight Sun

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Eric Wert (b. 1976)

Eric Wert's background as a scientific illustrator is apparent in his astonishing attention to detail. Yet the difference between illustration and fine art is inspiration. Depicting an object in great detail takes skill but to transcend technical virtuosity one needs to have something to say or to be inspired.



Wert intends to shed new light on a tradition that began with Dutch still life. Wert sometimes literally turns that tradition upside down. Instead of sheer beauty, we begin to see a story. Wert accomplishes a balanced combination of technique, humor, and narrative.



Artichoke

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Anna Wypych (b. 1986)

Anna Wypych was born in Gdansk, Poland, and began painting as a child. She earned a degree from the Academy of Fine Art in Gdansk and during her time there she received eight national awards from the Ministry of Culture, the Marshal of the Pomeranian, and the Mayor of Gdansk.

Wypych completed her master's degree in 2011 and has since continued to earn prestigious honors, including "Pomeranian Artistic Hope 2011," the Grant for Culture Creators from the Marshal of Pomeranian, and a Certificate of Excellence Palm Art Award in Germany. The human figure deeply inspires her and uses realistic techniques to depict figures in a way that includes elements of symbolism and emotion.



The Great Magnificent Fire