

Jan Eustachy Wolski

Untitled (pipe)

February 10 — April 10, 2024

Press Text

In his first solo show at Neue Alte Brücke, Jan Eustachy Wolski delves into dystopian worldbuilding. Applying skilful distortion of timelines and geopoints, the artist transports the viewer into the field of post-apocalyptic landscapes.

Wolski's ardent paintings, radiating with toxic hues and seething with protruding paint relief, feature narratives of a reassembled society grappling for supremacy in the *brave new world*. Everyone in his paintings exists under the heavy surveillance of a tube-like system that seems to sustain human life. While scurrying somewhere, a man in the crowd carries wires attached to his brain, a replicant is meticulously assembled by ambiguous machinery, and the cityscape unveils glimpses into infrastructure taken over by the same uncanny network. In the new series of works, Wolski blends figuration with abstraction, allowing for outlines of street curvatures, building blocks, and street lamps to express the atmosphere engulfing their inhabitants. In each painting, Wolski manages to weave hints of incongruity present in this new order. The works navigate early 20th-century expression, Blade Runner-inspired interpretations of superfuture, and the legacy of abstract art into singular paranoia-laden aesthetics. We do not know whether the people have acquiesced, if their lives are saturated with a sense of impending danger, or if some of them are silently conspiring against the regime. The general atmosphere on the streets, however, has something amiss.

Running in parallel with the paintings is the serpent-like pipe installation transmitting an audio recording in which modern-day paranoia hits new strides. A narrator contemplates the meaning of the unidentified pipe that stretches through the street, with his story veering at each turn. He conjures a web of theories, ranging from a new clean water policy to an underground espionage ring, formed from the mores of technology. The story, voiced over by a robotic female voice, leaks from the pipes and lets the conspiracy theories run amok through the space.

Wolski's show embraces a Butlerian turn of events, that renders machine-induced takeover probable, and feeds on public fears of technology, science, and the apocalypse. In creating imaginative worlds as distorted reflections of our own, Wolski offers a poignant commentary on the anxieties associated with contemporary fears for the future of humanity.

Jan Eustachy Wolski (b. 1997, Cracow, PL) lives and works in Cracow. Wolski studied at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow. His works were exhibited within various solo and group shows at Piktogram, Warsaw, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Stefan Gierowski Foundation, Warsaw, and Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, among other notable spaces.

Neue Alte Brücke
Hafenstrasse 23
60323 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

For appointments:
info@neuealtebruecke.com
Tel. +49 176 64226509
www.neuealtebruecke.com