



## **FTPB “fotopub” 2015**

**Iza Pavlina (SI), Tim Cullmann (DE), Alessandro Calabrese (IT), The Cool Couple (IT), Douglas Mandry (CH), Aladin Borioli (CH), Craig Wye (UK).**

25 September – 24 October 2015  
KiBela, MMC KIBLA

From the ruins of a well-known documentary photography festival emerged a renewed artist-run Fotopub. The motive behind our newly established team is to thicken the focus of the festival onto contemporary photography, to promote Slovenian and international photographers of the younger generation and to build bridges between professionals and the public. Fotopub is therefore attempting to develop a necessary platform, intended for connecting young artists and professionals with their already established colleagues, thus evoking a constructive dialogue amongst them. In our efforts to expand the festival in the future, we started off in Novo mesto with the infrastructure built by the previous festival, but more importantly, we see its potential to become an international key player in the development of the emerging contemporary photography.

This year's programme of six exhibitions reaped the fruits of the first re-contextualised edition of the festival as it helped to define our role and ethos that we want to develop in the future years. The exhibition summarises the six shows we organised in August and is a fitting representative of the practices we pursue to feature. Subsequently, this exhibition in Maribor shows a qualitatively upgraded level of awareness of contemporary photographic practice – from differently reconfigured and utilised mediums to its considered and repeatedly conceptual presentations.

The spirit of a good art festival could be arguably seen in its upgrade, improvement and an eternal doubt, which stimulates the audience to witness and question a contemporary cultural fetishism. Whenever the content and the appearance of an object arises above a horizon of everyday usage, its use value changes into a catharsis of idolising the privileged. Repeatability of this sort of reversal is obviously common in the art world, although it needs a grip and a continuously perfect execution, to become a qualitative and, naturally, culturally and educationally instrumental factor of perception of contemporary art.

A known tradition in the Slovenian art scene, where fresh approaches and usage of distinctively different, and therefore qualitatively created and presented works, hardly find its place of presentation. It is important that the enthusiasm of young and the euphoria of older people unite and subsequently contribute to the progress and materialisation of the Slovenian contemporary creativity, which can unite with the spirit of international authors around the world.

**Iza Pavlina** (1991, SI) is an MA student of painting at the Academy of Fine Arts, Slovenia. She had her first major solo exhibition entitled Talk to Strangers! at the Erotic Gallery Račka (Celje) in 2014. She has also exhibited her work in group exhibitions at Media Nox Gallery (Maribor), Miklova Hiša Gallery (Ribnica), and Vžigalica Gallery.

**Douglas Mandry** (1989, CH) graduated at ECAL in 2013. Since then he has exhibited his work at Young Swiss Photography at Palexpo, ECAL Photography at Display Gallery and Galleria Carla Sozzani, Prix Voies-Off at Les Rencontres de la photographie, Arles, Jungkust at Fotomuseum Winterthur, Art Basel, and many more. He has been nominated for Les Boutographies, Swiss Photo Award - ewz.selection, and Paul Huf Award 2015! The list goes on and on... Website: <http://www.douglasmandry.com/>

**Craig Wye** (1991, UK) graduated last year at Brighton University. He has shown work at Brighton Fringe (UK), Ryerson Image Centre (CAN) and others. His work was featured in Source Photographic Review by Lorenzo Fusi and Karen Downey. Website: <http://www.craigwye.co.uk/>

**Alessandro Calabrese** (1984, IT) graduated in 2012 at NABA (Milano). He was selected for Fotomuseum Winterthur's Plat(t)form 2015, resided at Ca 'l'Isidret Edicions, exhibited at FOTOGRAFIA EUROPEA - Reggio Emilia and has been most recently nominated for PRIX Levallois and became one of FOAM Talents of 2015. Website: <http://alessandrocalabrese.info/>

**Aladin Borioli** (1988, CH) graduated last year at ECAL (CH). He was recently nominated for the Swiss Design Awards and will show his work at Art Basel this year. So far he has shown work in JUNGKUNST at Fotomuseum Winterthur, Festival Circulations (Paris) and OSLO 8 Gallery (Basel) among others. Website: <http://www.aladinborioli.ch/>

**The Cool Couple**, nicknamed TCC, is an artist duo started in late 2012 by Niccolò Benetton (1986) and Simone Santilli (1987). TCC mixes the two artists' previous researches on contemporary photographic languages and visual culture combined with their interest in 'human habits'. So far this year the duo have participated in Les Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles, France, Circulation(s), Festival de la jeune photographie européenne, Paris, France, and Plat(t)form, Fotomuseum Winterthur. Website: <http://thecoolcouple.co.uk>

**Tim Cullman** (1989, GER) studied at University of Siegen in Germany and Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. He was awarded "Deutschland - Stipendium" // "NRW Stipendium", "Art Award" University of Siegen and in 2015 "fotopub" Portfolio Prize. He exhibited his work in numerous exhibitions in Germany, Hungary, Netherlands and Slovenia.

**"fotopub" directors:**

Jure Kastelic & Dušan Josip Smodej

**"fotopub" team:**

Aljaž Celarc, Bojan Mijatović, Dare Sintič, Eva Pavlič Seifert, Gregor Kocijančič, Klemen Ilovar, Miha Erjavec, Reinis Lismanis, Tadej Vindiš, Živa Kleindienst.