

# ROMAN ROAD

## PRESS RELEASE

### *APOPHENIA*

Private View:

Tuesday 26 June 2018, 6 PM – 9 PM

Exhibition:

Wednesday 27 June – Wednesday 18 July 2018

Opening Hours:

Wednesday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM

Saturday, 12 PM – 5 PM and by appointment



Pascal Ungerer, *Mask I* (from the series *Erasure*), 2017. Archival pigment print, 60 x 60 cm, edition of 7 + 2 AP.  
Courtesy of the artist, the Cork City Council Arts Office and Roman Road

*Apophenia* is a group show proposed by Alix Janta-Polczynski investigating the divergent practices and overlapping interests of three artists: Anna Perach, Mariana Mauricio and Pascal Ungerer. Patterns emerge, connections are revealed and a common ground of interpretation smoothly unfolds: obsolescence and identity.

A sense of the past being reclaimed resurfaces in different ways, both in the displayed works and in the artists' individual practices, whether as a means of analysing social narratives in a strictly material sense or through reconstituting found objects or media into new meanings.

Methods of retrieval and reuse play out through much of the show, where the acts of collecting and altering imbue materials with a sense of new potential. This process of recycling also functions as a ground against which to examine the human relationship with a media-crazed consumer society; collecting and reconstructing fragmented detritus of the everyday somehow enables a partial reconciliation with a world of waste and disposability.

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Anna Perach (b.1985, Ukraine) was born in the former Soviet Union and brought up in Israel. Her practice draws on personal experiences and memories of Soviet domestic environment. She explores how cultural transitions influence one's sense of self, relationships in the domestic sphere and gender roles. Her tufted masks *Birth Mark* (2018) and *Shadow* (2017) are inspired by Slavic folk stories and ritual traditions. They also recall the Soviet practice of hanging carpets on the wall as means of protection from the cold, isolation, and decoration.

Mariana Mauricio (b.1983, Rio de Janeiro) examines the relationships between the body and the erotic in a new series of small paintings based on found photographs. In these miniature scenes, where the body seems subject to labour rather than pleasure, she explores the contexts of intimacy and domesticity. Mauricio systematically identifies, collects and moves piles of discarded furniture, building parts and other found objects into her studio. From this detritus of the discarded she creates new multifaceted narratives that speak about her own personal experiences, relationships amongst individuals and their anxieties.

Pascal Ungerer (b.1978, Cork) has a particular interest in marginal habitats, which are obsolete or dysfunctional and do not fit into conventional socio-geographic norms. His practice is primarily concerned with spatial cultures in the context of peripherality, contested space, social history and geopolitics. He often constructs digitised fictional landscapes that form an intersection between time, narrative and place, and uses them as a means of recontextualising liminal and peripheral topographies and as a metaphorical space within his work to address socio-political, historical and ecological concerns. His piece *Suspended Animation* (2018) is a photographic synthesis presenting one image in several different ways in a digital montage. An attempt to subvert traditional notions of aesthetics by recontextualising the banal, he creates a dichotomy between the grotesque and the beautiful. The rearranged photographic construction presents the unwanted, the overlooked and the thrown away objects of contemporary society in a work that explores ideas of temporality, mutability and waste.

## ABOUT ALIX JANTA-POLCZYNSKI

Based between London and Athens, Alix Janta-Polczynski is engaged in various independent projects. In 2009, she co-founded Art Barter ([www.artbarter.co.uk](http://www.artbarter.co.uk)), a platform to promote the use of barter between artists and the public through exhibitions. Successive events were held in London, Berlin, New York, Madrid, Istanbul, Mexico City and Dubai, amongst others. Their goal to support young talent materialised in 2012 through the creation of Alteria Art ([www.alteriaart.com](http://www.alteriaart.com)), a collaborative vehicle closely working with both emerging and established artists through an eclectic program of exhibitions, talks and commissioned works.

## ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road was founded in 2013 by Marisa Bellani and initially began as a project space. The peculiarity of the premises has had a direct impact on the gallery's programme since its beginning. Tall and with a small footprint, the space led the director to challenge artists to employ the architectural elements in order to develop or restructure a body of work. Artists have frequently been asked to use the exhibition as a medium and have managed to transform the gallery room into a unique work of art. In 2014, the building underwent refurbishment to instate an additional private viewing space that gathers varied works by the gallery's represented artists, which are viewable by appointment. Since completing this renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme, including participations at art fairs, and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors.

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