

Edition 23, 2021

# ART MAZE Mag



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interviewed

On the performativity of gender and gendered bodies:  
In conversation with Witalij Frese .....14



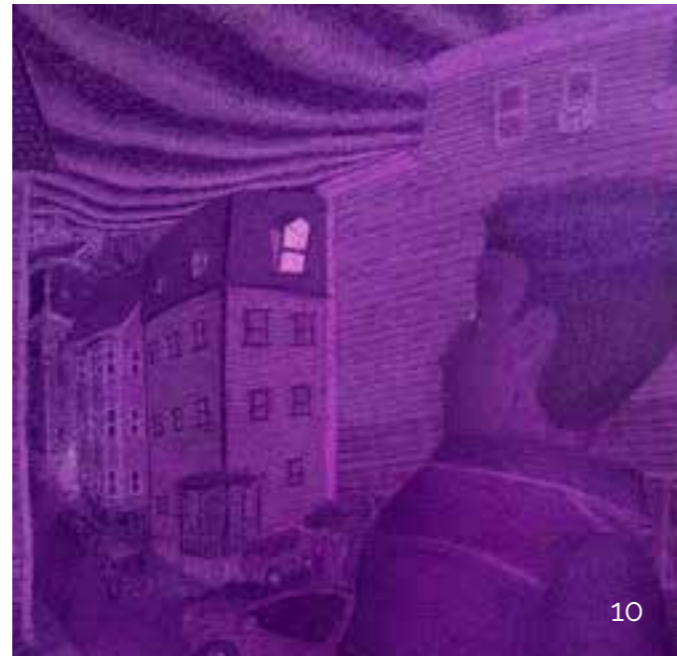
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Featured image:  
Cecilia Fiona  
*At the end of the world*  
rabbit skin glue and pigments on canvas  
120 x 100 cm  
more on p. 120-121

## from the editor

We are delighted to present one of our biggest editions, the 23rd, with a total of sixty-two insightful artist features.

It was such a pleasure to have worked with our previously interviewed and published cover artist, Julie Curtiss, on this edition's curated selection which comprises the forty-three artists on p.30-117, whose artworks were carefully chosen by Julie from the submissions that we received over the course of Spring 2021. We were most fortunate to finally meet Julie Curtiss and her husband, Clinton King, in London whilst at the opening of her solo show 'Monads and Dyads' at White Cube gallery at Maison's Yard this May. Having achieved success in her own career, Julie has always shown remarkable enthusiasm in supporting her fellow contemporary makers and most notably, curating a striking new group show at Anton Kern gallery in New York, called 'Shoo Sho'. Julie has a very acute and distinct curatorial approach when selecting a line of work, which is why we felt so excited to be able to present you with yet another of Julie's successful shows, but this time in ArtMaze print, and, of course, giving spotlight to yet more artistic discoveries through our open calls!

Our editorial selection (p. 118-155) presents you with another eighteen artists whose works are also very much worthy of attention, following and recognition. Such comments apply to the work of the only interviewed artist of this edition, Witalij Frese (p.14-29), whose sculptural pieces were part of our Issue 18 editorial selection. We were eager to showcase Witalij's work and to use our interview to discuss crucial topics of gender, gendered bodies and nudity, as "a way to free yourself from social roles and constraints"—following Witalij's descriptions, as well as making important comments on the taboo subjects involving natural appearances.

Our current new 25th anniversary call for art will be running until October 14th, and is to be led by one of the most notable contemporary curators, Danny Lamb, who has founded an exhibition based platform @painterspainingpaintings (www.painterspainingpaintings.com) and most recently—ADZ gallery, based in Lisbon, Portugal (www.adz.gallery). Having met Danny in person a few years ago, we were inspired by his extensive knowledge and thought-provoking ideas behind his compelling gallery programming and his passion for exhibiting contemporary artists' works in a domestic setting with historical character features, offering a personal experience to the viewer away from the original white cube environment. We are most excited to see how our anniversary edition will shape when teaming up with Danny.

If you are interested in submitting your work to be seen and considered by our guest curators and the editorial team of ArtMaze, and would like a chance for your work to be published in our print editions and promoted online, please feel free to check out our website for more information [www.artmazemag.com](http://www.artmazemag.com) and hopefully we'll be able to work together in the near future. We would love to have you as part of our community!

Yours truly,  
Editor and Founder  
Maria Zemtsova

C e c i l i a F i o n a



[www.instagram.com/cecilia\\_fiona](https://www.instagram.com/cecilia_fiona)

Image:  
*The earth in its arm*  
rabbit skin glue and pigments on canvas  
120 x 100 cm



Cecilia Fiona, born in 1997 and based in Copenhagen, is a so far self-taught artist who will finish her bachelor's degree in art history this summer. Recent shows: From 29/4 until 23/5 the submitted works including some other new works at @ Gallery Kant; in July a solo show curated by J. B. Fals founder of @ Original Paperworks at @ Grand's Art Club in Copenhagen. In August, Emil Krog, Sofie Burggaard and I will be having a big exhibition at 'Reventlows Museet' on Lolland, Denmark. We will be exhibiting in their 400 m2 antique riding hall.

I am interested in how motives and myths of the past move across history, reappear and are transformed. What happens in the meeting between material reality and the world of fiction? In the submitted paintings I have been inspired by the cosmological tale of the origin of the world as described in Plato's 'Timaios'. In this narrative the creation of cosmos is told as a process from chaos to order. In other words, cosmos equals order and symmetry. Order and cosmos become the good, while chaos represents evil and a world we do not want. I think it is a shame how chaos often only has a negative vibe, because with chaos comes the possibility of eternal change and new world views.

In my submitted works, I have explored the space before the world is created, before it is in order. The works are tales of chaos, lack of boundaries and eternal change. They are investigating the space that exists before the world is transformed into cosmos and before humans, animals and nature become separated creatures.

Image:  
*Under a new sun*  
rabbit skin glue and pigments on canvas  
100 x 120 cm