

Presumed Unknown...

Dorota Kozinska

Volume 53, numéro 216, supplément, automne 2009

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/61863ac>

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Éditeur(s)

La Société La Vie des Arts

ISSN

0042-5435 (imprimé)

1923-3183 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce document

Kozinska, D. (2009). Presumed Unknown.... *Vie des Arts*, 53(216), 0–0.

EDITOR

Bernard Lévy

MANAGING EDITOR

Dorota Kozinska

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lori Beaman
David Gameau
John K. Grande
Brian Grison
Virgil Hammock
Dorota Kozinska
Melissa Lam
Bernard Lévy
Julie Oakes
Veronica Redgrave

TRANSLATION

Oliver Haeffely

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Maria Pires

PRINTER

Les impressions Intra-Media

DISTRIBUTION

ONTARIO: MAGAZINE CANADA
QUEBEC AND CANADA: MESSAGERIE
DYNAMIQUE

GRAPHIC DESIGN

CGCOM.COM

RETAIL SALE

Vie des Arts English Edition: \$2.95

SUBSCRIPTIONS

French edition

SODEP

PO Box 786
SUCC. Place d'Armes
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
H2Y 3J2
Phone Number: 514 397 86 70

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

CANADA
\$25.25 for one year
\$21 student
\$47.25 for two year
\$68.25 for three years

STUDENTS

\$22.58 for one year

USA

\$52 for one year

FOREIGNERS

\$72 for one year

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486 Sainte-Catherine Street
Office 400
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3B 1A6
Phone: 514 282-0205
Fax: 514 282-0235
e-mail: pub@viedesarts.com
e-mail: arts@viedesarts.com

Web Site

www.viedesarts.com

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Publication mail-agreement: 40007878
Mail-registration: 09285
ISSN: 0042-5435
TPS: R119009827

Vie des Arts is published four times
a year — in March (Spring), June
(Summer), September (Fall), December
(Winter) — by La société La vie des
Arts, a non profitable company
founded in 1956.

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We acknowledge the financial support
of the government of Canada, through
the Publications Assistance Program
and the Canada Magazine Fund;
we acknowledge the support of the
Canada Council, le Conseil des arts
et lettres du Québec, le Conseil des
arts de Montréal.

Vie des Arts is indexed in Repère
and Canadian Periodical Index.

Member of SODEP and CMPA



Cover
PASCALINE KNIGHT
Crâne de pigeon, 2009

PRESUMED UNKNOWN ...

Always on the lookout for new talent, this edition focuses on *the unknown* artist... but as you can see, the definition is mitigated by the word "presumed", for to be unknown is relative.



Dorota Kozinska
Editor

Some of the artists profiled have already established a name for themselves elsewhere, and are only "unknown" to the Canadian public. Others have been toiling at their art for some time but have yet to see recognition. And others still, are at the beginning of their creative path, emerging, as it were, into the light, and scrutiny.

Their choice of medium and subject matter is as diverse as their backgrounds, and each will draw the reader into a unique universe.

We present South African artist, Ashley Johnson, and his anthropomorphic, disturbing paintings that speak of large issues of society and our place in nature. Juxtaposing these images is the virtual world of computer art by Brenda Cieniuk, and portrait photographs of the gay scene by Toni Latour. James Lindsay takes on military topography in his colourful, abstracted paintings, while Stephanie Weirathmueller offers her personal take on the quotidian in her canvases. Young Montreal artists, Maskull Lasserre and François Carrier, bear the banner of the new generation, with works that are at once spontaneous and grounded in artistic principals. Avant-garde artist Mitchell Chan seeks inspiration for his work in mythology, while photographer Karen Stentaford has an eye for finding the surreal in nature. The art of Pascaline Knight, a true find at my own doorstep, is as much inspiration for the theme as one of its many variations.

The issue also includes reviews of two major exhibitions by very different artists: Philippe Lacelin-Bellefleur and Jim Dine.

And finally, a report from the 53rd Venice Biennale focuses on the work of Canadian representative, filmmaker Mark Lewis.

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see, said Edgar Degas, and it is our hope that all these artists will make you see and reflect upon new sensations. It is the nature of art to open our eyes not only to what surrounds us, but also to what is within us. In some cases it will take courage, in other, it will happen on its own, like the emergence of a symbolic butterfly in Pascaline Knight's as-yet-unfinished art book.

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