



**PRIJS VAN  
DE VRIENDEN  
V/H S.M.A.K.**



**2016**



**COMING  
PEOPLE**

EN

# Prize of the Friends of the S.M.A.K. Coming People 2016

24.06 — 21.08.2016

Chloë Delanghe  
(1991, Belgium)

Joëlle Dubois  
(1990, Belgium)

Tom Hallet  
(1990, Belgium)

Vedran Kopljar  
(1991, Croatia)

Stefan Nestoroski  
(1989, Macedonia)

Diana Tamane  
(1986, Latvia)

Cléo Totti  
(1989, Belgium)

*The Prize of the Friends of the S.M.A.K. | Coming People* is a joint initiative by S.M.A.K. and the Friends of the S.M.A.K. It is a biennial competition for young artists who have recently graduated from a Belgian art college. By focusing on artists who have only just completed their studies, the organisers want to make room for promising talents who do not always easily find their way into the professional art world. In 2014, this initially local competition was for the first time organised on a national scale. The winner then was the video artist Margarita Maximova (1990, Russia).

The members of the international jury for the second nationwide competition are Susanne Titz (director, Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach), Denis Gielen (director, MAC's, Hornu), Zoë Gray (senior curator, WIELS, Brussels), Anders Kreuger (curator, M HKA, Antwerp), Martin Germann (senior curator, S.M.A.K.) and Ann Hoste (curator, S.M.A.K.). They selected the short list and in consultation with the Friends of the S.M.A.K. then chose the winner. This year, the Friends of the S.M.A.K. will also be awarding a public prize. The winner of this prize will be announced when the exhibition closes.

Diana Tamane uses archive items concerning her family. Her oeuvre not only offers an insight into personal histories, but also gives an account of social and economic developments since the collapse of the Soviet Union. In some cases the subject of her work is her grandmother, who suddenly became a smuggler because she took two flowerpots across the Latvian-Russian border. At other times Diana Tamane focuses on her mother who, after her company went bankrupt, became a truck driver, and on her father, who as from the mid-1990s regularly travelled to the West to buy cars and electronic goods to sell in Latvia.

Diana Tamane (1986, Latvia) studied Photography at Tartu Art College in Estonia. She then continued her studies at the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels. She is currently completing her second year at the HISK in Ghent.



*On the Road*, 2015  
HD video, still, 37'00"

In his work, Stefan Nestoroski looks for new ways to understand the world. This search often springs from views found in cultural history, ranging from classical antiquity and the Middle Ages to the Cold War. By analyzing and reinterpreting existing modes of thought, Stefan Nestoroski seeks to bring the essence of things to the surface. His drawings, sculptures, installations and videos ensue from a train of associative thinking. According to the artist, this process results not in mere illustrations of ideas, but also in the enactment of positions of thought. Using materials such as plaster, oil and salt, he tries to get as close as possible to a hidden reality, often by means of quasi-scientific methods.

Stefan Nestoroski (1989, Macedonia) graduated as a Master of Visual Arts from the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels in 2015. He currently lives and works in Rome.

*It is no small matter* (from *Rudiments series*), 2016  
Plaster, tracing paper



Cléo Totti focuses on the relationship between man and technology. In 2009 she spent some time in Rome, where she came into contact with classical sculpture, and this contributed to her fascination for the body. Cléo Totti makes use of numerous media in her work: painting, sculpture, photography, video, sound art, etc. She often experiments with different materials, which she considers to be formal elements, like for example plastic, polystyrene and plaster. These materials are combined with porcelain objects in the shape of body parts, or with life-jackets. Randomly sewn together, the vests resemble muscles or viscera. Her colourful spatial installations, all of whose elements are connected, give rise to new meanings. Sometimes these installations also act as setting for performances.

Cléo Totti (1989, Belgium) graduated as a Master of Visual Arts from the École de Recherche Graphique in Brussels. She currently lives and works in Liège.

*Escaped From My Mantle For Tonic, 2016*  
Silk thread, leather, artificial leather, copper, polystyrene, fox collar  
photo: Jessica Amico



Tom Hallet makes videos and installations and is also a performance artist. In 2015, together with friends, he founded the SOIL Collective, a platform for young artists. He considers this collective to be an important part of his artishood. The dark, fictional short stories he writes often serve as a guideline for new works. He is fascinated by such themes as existentialism, gender and eroticism and wants to get a grip on his own identity and environment. On the basis of the interaction between words and images, he creates situations in which objects may take on the role of props. In the absence of actors, he relies on the viewer's imagination.

Tom Hallet (1990, Belgium) graduated as a Master of Visual Arts at the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels in 2014. He currently lives and works in Brussels.

SomePlace#1, 2014  
Metal, water



Chloë Delanghe documents people and objects from her immediate surroundings. Her work consists of short series of photos and videos that offer the viewer a glimpse into her personal world. At the same time, the artist shows the difficulties she has in portraying people with whom she has close ties. From this vulnerable position, she records everything in a meticulous and obsessive manner. Although her works have a personal element, Chloë Delanghe nevertheless retains a certain detachment as their maker. In this way her oeuvre remains somewhat elusive to the viewer.

Chloë Delanghe (1991, Belgium) obtained a Bachelor's degree from the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels in 2013. A year later she graduated as a Master of Visual Arts from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent. She currently lives and works in Brussels.

*Re-enacted kitchen in Castell Coch, 2016*  
C-print



In her work, Joëlle Dubois examines the impact of social media without subjecting it to any explicit critique. She observes the (unusual) human behaviour that she sees around her. Her interest in new technologies grew when she spent time in South Korea during the summer of 2014. Inspired by the constant stream of photos and film clips on the internet, Joëlle Dubois confronts the viewer with explicit scenes of private life. By means of playful improvised compositions, she captures both the surfeit and the transient nature of these images. In her colourful figurative paintings on wood, she also deals with such topics as gender, sexuality and fetishism.

Joëlle Dubois (1990, Belgium) graduated as a Master of Visual Arts from the LUCA School of Arts in Ghent in 2015. She currently lives and works in Ghent.

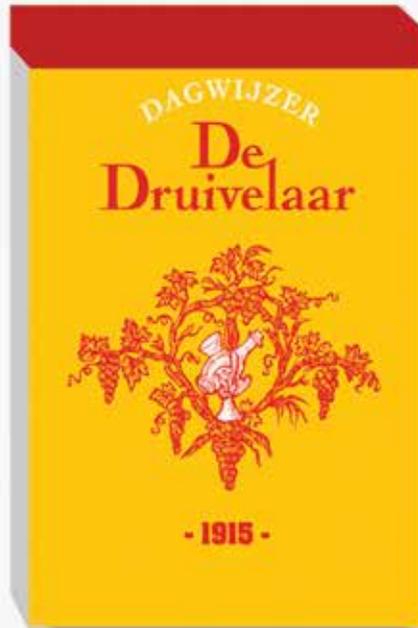
*Sneaky Coffee*, 2016  
Acryl, gouache on panel



Vedran Kopljar explores the boundaries of art. He reflects on artisthood and experiments with the artwork as object. Minor personal obsessions develop into artworks or else he attributes standard academic emotions to paintings. He combines motifs from art history with internet images and elements from everyday life. Humour plays an important part in his work, as does language. He describes the things he depicts on canvas. He gives labels, allots poetic titles or exposes the comical aspect of existing writings by putting them in an artistic context. Kopljar is also a singer and songwriter with the band Fluwelen Koord.

Vedran Kopljar (1991, Croatia) obtained his Master's degree in Painting at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp in 2015. He currently lives and works in Hoboken.

de oude Janssens, 2016  
Paper, metal



*The Prize of the Friends of the S.M.A.K. | Coming People 2016* is organized in collaboration with:

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A close-up portrait of a person with long, wavy, light brown hair. A large red circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text. The text reads "PROUD TO BE VRIEND v/h S.M.A.K." The person's face is partially obscured by the red circle, with only their forehead, eyes, and nose visible. They are wearing a dark blue or black jacket. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**PROUD TO BE**  
**VRIEND**  
v/h **S.M.A.K.**

# Program 2016

S.M.A.K.

Invisible Beauty  
Pavilion of Iraq  
28.05—04.09.2016

Personal choice of  
the museum guards  
10.09—23.10.2016

Lee Kit  
A small sound in your head  
28.05—04.09.2016

These Strangers  
Painting and People  
01.10.2016—08.01.2017

Zvi Goldstein  
Distance and Differences  
25.06—23.10.2016

Nairy Baghramian  
Déformation  
Professionnelle  
19.11.2016—26.02.2017

Kasper Bosmans  
Specimen Days  
Posture Editions  
25.06—04.09.2016

James Welling  
Metamorphosis  
28.01—16.04.2017

From the Collection  
Incontri con Mario Merz  
25.06—30.10.2016

[www.smak.be](http://www.smak.be)



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