



COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ANTON KERN GALLERY, NEW YORK. PHOTO: PAWEŁ GARDYŃSKI

Wilhelm Sasnal, *Marine Le Pen*, 2012, 35 x 40 cm

WILHELM SASNAL

20 April — 20 May
Anton Kern, New York

Wilhelm Sasnal's paintings often feature prominent politicians—except Hillary Clinton, Jean-Marie Le Pen and Angela Merkel all to show their faces—alongside more obscure figures and scenes: a heap of wasted rubber tyres is the focal point of one, a formation of rocks near southern Israel's Mitzpe Ramon of another. The works often question the public and personal lives of their subjects, and the contradictions that ensue. The past is often a strong focal point too, Sasnal questioning the change that some of his featured figures have gone through, including Merkel's history with East Germany and Clinton's experience as First Lady and Secretary of State.

Bio: Sasnal was born in Tarnów, Poland in 1972. He studied architecture at Kraków Polytechnic, 1992–94, and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków until 1999. He currently lives and works in Kraków. The artist has a prominent public profile, and this will be his seventh solo exhibition with Anton Kern. He has previously shown at Hauser & Wirth, Zurich; Sadie Coles, London; and the Swiss Institute, New York.

Quote: "I think of painting as being like when you slide down a mountain on a snowboard—you don't know what's coming along the way."

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