

A WORD STARTING WITH “Y”

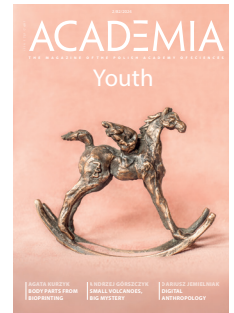
In today’s world, as Francesco Cataluccio suggests, we might be witnessing the triumph of youth. Youth embodies energy, vigor, openness, trust, curiosity, innovation, altruism, and optimism (even though research indicates a rise in psychological issues among young people). The essence of youth transcends age, reflected in our fashion, lifestyles, and the metaphorical feeling of being young.

So what is “Youth,” really? The articles and images in this issue of ACADEMIA magazine explore this concept from a variety of angles: from fond memories of “ice cream on a stick,” to linguistic “youth speak” and teen literature, to the “European City of Youth” and the viral world of internet memes. The titles playfully engage with these themes: “Small Volcanoes, Big Mystery,” “Tadpoles in Trouble,” “Embracing Children’s Voices,” and also pose thought-provoking questions: “Can We Turn Back Time?” and “How to Engage Young Citizens?”...

This issue offers a collection of perspectives that shed light on our perceptions, limitations, and stereotypes about youth. By exploring the semantics of beginnings, of early stages, of still-nacent phenomena, the authors writing herein demonstrate with a sustained enthusiasm that youth is, at its heart, a *timeless* category. We are all, it could be said, striving to build and draw upon a certain youthful “capital” – a valuable resource of values and sensitivity that provides a secure foundation in life. This focus on youth reflects a universal longing for renewal and progress, making the topic compelling, endlessly fascinating and relevant.

Youth is not just a phase of life, but a quality that can be embraced at any age. In the end, the exploration of “Youth” is also an exploration of “You.”

PROF. IWONA HOFMAN



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Katarzyna Karpowicz,
Pocałunek (The Kiss),
2018, oil on canvas,
100×80 cm

Born in 1985 in Kraków into a family of painters (with Anna Karpowicz-Westner and Sławomir Karpowicz as parents). In 2005, she graduated with honors from an artistic high school, then studied at the Faculty of Painting at the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków in the studios of Prof. Grzegorz Bednarski and Prof. Leszek Misiak. She graduated with top honors in 2010. Katarzyna Karpowicz’s works are in many collections both in Poland and abroad, including the NOMUS Museum of Contemporary Art in Gdańsk and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. In 2019, she received a creative scholarship from the Grazella Foundation for outstanding young artists.

