

Tobias Zielony (b. 1973, Wuppertal, Germany) studied Photography at the University of Wales in Newport and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Leipzig.

He is internationally recognized for his long-term projects with adolescents and young adults portrayed in particular architectural and social contexts. The people and spaces that attract Tobias Zielony are places in deprived areas where adolescents meet, hang out and show off: be this in Wuppertal, Trona, Naples, Osaka, Halle-Neustadt or Kiev. Zielony operates globally and allows himself to be guided by his curiosity, which affords him ever new encounters with young people in their respective social contexts. In all of this he explores the intersection of fictional and documentary assertions and investigates the political and aesthetic potential as well as the boundaries of authentic self-representation. His photographic works and films are characterized by a critical understanding of the genre and the quest for self-determination and emancipation of those portrayed in them.

In 2010 he produced with Galleria Lia Rumma, the project *Vele*, dedicated to the housing complex of the same name conceived in the 1960s-70s by architect Franz Di Salvo in the Scampia neighborhood on the northern outskirts of Naples. The project was presented in 2012 in two major solo exhibitions at MAXXI in Rome, and at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Other major solo exhibitions include; *Dark Data*, Marta Herford (2022); *The Fall*, Folkwang Museum Essen (2021); *Jenny Jenny*, Berlinische Galerie (2013); *Tobias Zieony*, MMK Zollamt Frankfurt (2011); *Manitoba*, Camera Austria Graz (2011); *Story/No Story*, Kunstverein Hamburg (2010). In 2015, with the work *The Citizen*; he is among the artists invited to exhibit in the German Pavilion, curated by Florian Ebner, at the 56th Venice Biennale.

He received the GASAG prize in 2006 and the Karl-Ströher-Preis in 2011; he participated in the International Studio Program, New York (2006).

Recent publications include: *Wolfen* (2023), *The Fall* (2021), *Vele* (2014), *Jenny Jenny* (2013), *Manitoba* (2010), Spector Books; *Maskirovka*, Mousse Magazine (2017); *Story / No Story*, Hatje Cantz (2010).

Since 2022 he has been professor of photography at HFBK in Hamburg.

