

NART

ANDREA STANISLAV / *VARIALAMBO* (VARIA SJÖSTRÖM, HATZ LAMBO)

НА КОЗЕ НЕ ПОДЪЕДЕШЬ

(YOU CAN'T GET THERE ON A GOAT)

29/10/22 - 04/12/22

PRESS RELEASE:

OPENING: 29th of October, 2022

NART Joala 18, 20103 Narva, Estonia

This exhibition debuts two site-specific spatial gallery interventions by recent NART Artists-in-Residence Andrea Stanislav (US) and *varialambo* (Varia Sjöström, Hatz Lambo) (FI/DE). The two solo projects link to transfigure NART's gallery spaces through a physicality of visual poetics and theatre, informed by dreams, experiences, performances, and unexpected events which took place at NART on the Estonian-Russian border in the Summer of 2022. Both artists reflect upon the sight of Narva as a contextualised charged corridor or 'Zona', where language, exile, history, neighbourliness, rapprochement, diplomacy and cyclical memories shift into immersive environments of light, sound, sculpture and moving image.

Andréa Stanislav (b. 1968, Chicago) is based in New York City. Her hybrid practice spans sculpture, complex multimedia installations, collage, and public art and performance interventions. Through spectacle or experiential immersion, her work questions how histories re-contextualize in the present — focusing on themes of genocide, migration and space exploration. For NART, Stanislav's *Заграница* (Over the Border) is an immersive multimedia experience of labyrinthian fabric and sound sculptures leading to a multi channel video presenting three female subject groups, who reflect on the themes of love and loss through exile and waiting. The group includes 90-year-old Estonian and Russian women, friend group and WWII survivors from the town of Kohtla - Nõmme, the artist as a 50 year old subject, and 20 year old Ukrainian refugees. The interviews are montaged with images of Estonian folk dancers, the historic Kreenholm textile factory grounds, and NART's Soviet era theatre - channelling a cyclical existence. The audio includes music of Fedor Lavrov, composer, punk and techno musician and producer; and Mart Niineste, punk and rock musician, producer and writer.

***varialambo* (Varia Sjöström, Hatz Lambo)*1980** is an interdisciplinary artist-duo founded 2018 in Berlin, currently based in Helsinki. Their vision is to create a world where talking about violence is possible without repeating the painful experience. Using the tradition of post-traumatic expressionism, futuristic feminism, and absurd comedy, they work with sculpture, installation, music, performance and poetry. For NART, *varialambo's* *A POEM TO PARTICIPATE FOR TWO BODIES AND MORE* presents a multi-channel video accompanied by sculpture and experiential

sound and light installation. The work was informed by a dream the artists had of worsening communication on the Russian border - becoming forbidden zones. The video questions the interpretation of growing regression and resentment via two bodies which are trying to enter these zones, uncovering the unknown. The video is paired with a poem written by the artist in Russian. During *varialambo's* residency, part of their artistic process was to learn Russian - resulting in poetry and also practised as an exercise in keeping the discussion culture going in times of violence and war, and using multilinguality as a game of echoing. The audio for the three channel video is composed by the musician Valentin Kimstedt. The exhibition opening will be accompanied by the publication of a Zine called *Prelude To Cyclone*. It is the start to the poetic project GEOPOETRY, an interaction between geopolitics, geostrategy and poetry.

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