

Natural Proximity: Latvian Video Art Archive (2018–2021)

The selection features Latvian video artists Diāna Tamane, Elza Niedre, Eva Vēvere, Ilze Ance Kazaka, Līga Spunde, Mētra Saberoba and Margarita Ieva Loze with video art produced between the years of 2018 and 2021, from the Latvian Video Art Archive, arts centre NOASS.

The concept of being natural in recent years has been associated with moral judgment and compliance procedures, regulations on human nature, a singular form of being. Video artworks in the programme *Natural Proximity* reflect on such questions as: What do we consider as being natural? To what extent is nature related to human-centred ideas of being and acting natural?

Programme:

- Līga Spunde, *There's No Harm In Any Blessings (Neviena svētība par jaunu nenāks)*, 2020, 15'34"
- Diāna Tamane, *Letters from mum III, Mishanya (Vēstules no mammas III, Mišana)*, 2020, 14'11"
- Mētra Saberova, *Putty*, 2018, 5'33"
- Ilze Ance Kazaka, *Nerves on Nerves (Nervi uz nerviem)*, 2018, 3'30"
- Elza Niedre, *The Green Mystery (Zaļā mistērija)*, 2018, 6'49"
- Margarita Ieva Loze, *Meditation in Blue (Zilā meditācija)*, 2019, 4'50"
- Eva Vēvere, *Gudrun Holck, Set Sound To Can Lis*, 2021, 26'.

Duration: 1h18'

Synopsis

Līga Spunde, *There's No Harm In Any Blessings (Neviena svētība par jaunu nenāks)*, 2020, 15'34"

The video is created as a poetic collage of facts and interpretations, using motifs from the life of the artist and David Vetter, the Bubble Boy. It is organized in four parts, two of which are dialogues in a dark, abstract space. The author of these dialogue scripts is David Vetter. They are borrowed from the book about the boy's life in complete isolation "Bursting the Bubble: The Tortured Life and Untimely Death of David Vetter".

The video was made in collaboration with Lāsma Bērtule, Andris Kudors, Una Eglīte, Māris Uzuliņš, Kristaps Opincāns, Kaspars Greizis, Uldis Sņķeris and Klāvs Mellis.

Diāna Tamane, *Letters from mum III, Mishanya (Vēstules no mammas III, Mišana)*, 2020, 14'11"

Diana Tamane's mother became a long-distance driver after her company went bankrupt. Since 2014, she has been traveling around Europe, exporting various goods. Sometimes she sends

Diana emails and video clips filmed along the way. "Letters from Mom III, Mishana" is the story of Mishan, a little mouse who joined her mother on one of the trips. The video is a collection of footage from the mother-filmed vlogs and the artist's observations of nature, captured around the same time.

Mētra Saberova, Putty, 2018, 5'33".

The animation "Putty" follows a seven-month process, with the author completely tattooing her chest black, at the same time presenting amusing snippets from her everyday life. The work is a reference to the art of drag performance, in which the breasts are used especially for the study of gender. The end result tattoos are like two black holes that don't look like that visually, all the more so in reference to gender ambivalence.

Ilze Ance Kazaka, Nerves on Nerves (Nervi uz nerviem), 2018, 3'30".

"Nerves on Nerves" is a lighthearted animation about neurological disorders, in particular, misophonia, the discomfort that arises from sounds and noises. The events take place during a lecture, where the teacher's narration soon becomes a distant background sound, because the restless habits of the classmates quickly take over the mind of the sensitive young person. Every trembling leg and click of the pen drives this student into deeper despair until his patience is exhausted. He is trapped in his sense of the world, small and endangered, with no way to escape. In a panic attack, he lets go of his emotions and finds himself in the spotlight.

Elza Niedre, The Green Mystery (Zaļā mistērija), 2018, 6'49".

"There is a duel in the imaginary realm and in reality.
In the imaginary world, fictional laws will be invented.
A lonely man goes in search of happiness,
but is entangled in the usual delusions of the system.
In the black and white world, black and white people
play games in the curtain kingdom.
Mother Gaya cries for her great pain in the earth.
What are you so wrong about, my Child?"

In ingenious simplicity,
In the Garden of Paradise surrounded by flowers of life
people are learning to live their great life on Earth.
The woman and the man agree,
to become holy creators.
In the desire for consciousness for joy, in the swing of opposites, a new world is formed.
In fractal unity, peace, harmony and love,
crystal light illuminated,
the Tribe of the future is being formed. " - Elza Niedre

Margarita Ieva Loze, Meditation in Blue, 2019, 4'50".

“Meditation in Blue” is a deep-sea exploration through words and moving images that is meant to induce a relaxed state of mind, give the audience a bit of time to clear the clutter from one's head and enjoy the purely visual nature of the piece. In collaboration with poet Toms Dumpis.

Eva Vēvere, Gudrun Holck, SET SOUND TO CAN LIS, 2021, 26' (Latvia, Denmark, Spain, Norway).

The video offers references to mythological images, the experience of the indoor-outdoor and the light relationship through moving image, sound and performance, as well as a new interpretation of the ways in which the cultural heritage of the iconic Danish architect Jørn Utzon can be experienced. In his summer house CAN LIS in Mallorca, Spain, the architect implemented the idea of a free-standing complex of buildings on the cliff side, paying special attention to the light, the continuity of the seascape and using materials typical of Balearic island construction. The video invites to experience CAN LIS as a space of feelings, which are connected by different characters in a cascade of audiovisual stories.