

LET US INTRODUCE



Table. Architects' picnic. Photo: Grete Veskiiväli

A CITY OF REACTIONS

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Art students are waiting for a new building, inhabitants of Lasnamäe are waiting for a bus. These two groups are not connected by anything else than waiting and the empty lot on Tartu road 1. Here there is a bus stop from where buses go to Lasnamäe. Three years ago was the building of the Estonian Academy of Arts. From the 9th of May till the 9th of September it's the location of *LAUD (TABLE – eds)* – an urban space project part of KUMU's exhibition "Afterlives of Gardens"

LAUD does not directly refer to any familiar object – it is not a bench or a table, a barrier or a road – it is rather a symbiosis of all of the above and even more. *LAUD* is hinting at the construction of EKA's building and offers a place to pause for passers by. When *LAUD* was opened, a void used as a half-empty parking lot turned into an active construction site beneath the eyes of the observers for a few hours. Cranes, a tractor, dumper and special carriages with construction men were putting panels in place in the middle of the night. What should be happening every day, became a reality. An imaginary house became a reality.

When you are acting in urban space the results are unpredictable, a work of art gets its meaning in accordance with people's reactions. A lady from Lasnamäe, who is waiting for the bus is not bothered by thinking of meanings, but uses the object for supporting the bag with her groceries. Tourists from Japan pass the object without giving it a single glimpse. It seems like



Photo: Martin Hoffmann

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their brain registered the object as construction scrap and did not forward the signal. Taavi Tulev records bird sounds in nature and uses the object as a performance space for presenting his sound art. The sound of birds is not a mere attempt to bring the mood of nature to the city, but in its distortion sounds rather like an absurd zoo. Signe Kivi¹ sees an exhibition by the academy's master students planned to be organised next to the object as a threat to her reputation and forbids its taking place. Teenage girls look at the element as a possible catwalk and move their hips imitating a model's walk. A BMX biker sees it as another obstacle line and makes few jumps. Sociologists could use the objects for research into their own behaviour: "Why is the Kaubamaja side of the 48 metres long object attractive for young mothers and lovers and the other side for drunks and a more suspicious crowd".

THE EXHIBITION "AFTERLIVES OF GARDENS" IN KUMU

As a tentacle of KUMU's exhibition "Afterlives of Gardens" that reaches the city centre, LAUD tries to test the surrounding reactions. On the surface of the conceptual subtext, the aim is to create a pleasant and surprising environment, that would force people to look around and ask questions.²

The exhibition "Afterlives of Gardens" is a reflection on idyllic historic gardens and parks and contemporary interpretations of human relationships with landscape, nature and the urban environment. It is on two floors of KUMU, in the garden and on the plot of Tartu road 1. When visiting make sure to be curious, open-minded and take enough time. We especially recommend to wander around with the map in the lush green gardens of KUMU curated by Margit Säde-Lehni, where sound art by artists such as Erkki Luuk & Triin Tamm, Cia Rinne (Sweden), Paul Elloman (UK), Kenneth Goldsmith (USA), Louis Lawler (USA), visual poetry by artists such as Raul Meel, Martijn in't Veld, Kadri Klementi and others is hidden in the bushes and walls. It's a mystical jungle-like atmosphere oozing creativity and language. In addition to that, architect Katrin Koov with EKA students has given new life to abandoned gardens – plants collected from Soodevahe and elsewhere in Tallinn have become an original installation on the stairs, the fruits of which everyone is welcome to pick and eat later.

1. Professor Signe Kivi is the rector of Estonian Academy of Arts.

2. Events taking place on and around LAUD can be followed here: www.facebook.com/GaleriiLAUD

"Afterlives of Gardens" in KUMU. Photos: Grete Veski

