

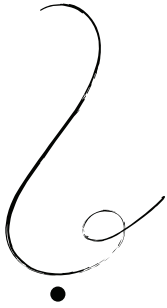
December 7, 2018 – January 27, 2019

Open Marriage

A solo show by Ditte Gantriis

When You Read This, Nothing Special Will Have Happened

A solo show by Armands Zelčs



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December 7, 2018 – January 27, 2019

*WHEN YOU READ THIS, NOTHING
SPECIAL WILL HAVE HAPPENED*

Armands Zelčs

Games

We don't know where exactly we are. Indications disappear in the noise of automobiles, the forms of buildings are like holes in cheese that remind us of one another, despite them being different. There are various public institution interiors which lead every visitor into an impossible labyrinth, however, no matter where you go, something as red as Chagall's paintings is fluttering. Anyone who has arrived unprepared here becomes an electricity blowout which sparkles in the eaves.

Under the asphalt are toes which nervously flick across the glass. Behind the glass is a little screw that is part of a mosaic from which hang occurrences that happen, but never end. Visitors arrive, get lost and leave, repeatedly, again and again each and every day. It is a performance without intermissions, because even visits to the loo have been measured, calculated and systematized. The play, the costumes and the gestures - unimportant shifts in the midst of the cigarette smoke by the service exit and Champagne bubbles above the main door. *C'est fini*, sooner or later we understand that those whose seats have remained empty have gained nothing and lost nothing. The Sun is still rising and falling. Above hats and bonnets is the ceiling which unforgivably hangs there in spite of a world record in the long jump or the shot put.

The desk drawers are full of photographs and the pockets are full of batteries. Skyscrapers are full of clouds.

Clouds are full of flashes. Each click creates a suspicion that we are somewhere else and that sometime it will be interesting for someone. Each attempt to catch the Moon in one's fingers is a false hope to leave behind an impression on the data highway. Each person who has sent greetings to the Sun in May is like an interdimensional traveller and a silent witness who is real and crumbled. And yet every cycle surprises us anew - our affection for moments is endless. Like lotto numbers, we stumble between chandeliers, decorations, pedestrian crossings, road signs and guidelines. We win and lose, but that is not of large importance, because we do not know where exactly we are.

Text by Kaspars Groševs

Armands Zelčs (1978) is a Latvia-born artist. Zelčs studied at the Latvian Academy of Art and Berlin University of the Arts. Armands Zelčs' exhibition "Trails of Fading Landscapes" was displayed at Hobusepea Gallery in Estonia and at Kim? Contemporary Art Center in Latvia. Zelčs has taken part in several group exhibitions - "NNN" at the Latvian National Museum of Art, "TERRA INCOGNITA. Familiar Infinity" at KUMU in Estonia, "Gaisma kabeļa galā" at the Latvian Railway History Museum, "LILIY'S POOL" at Art in General in the United States, "Exchange" at Stiftung akku Emmen in Switzerland, "24 SPACES-CACOPHONY" at Malmö Konsthall in Sweden and others.

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OPEN MARRIAGE

Ditte Gantriis

Curator: Dita Birkenšteina

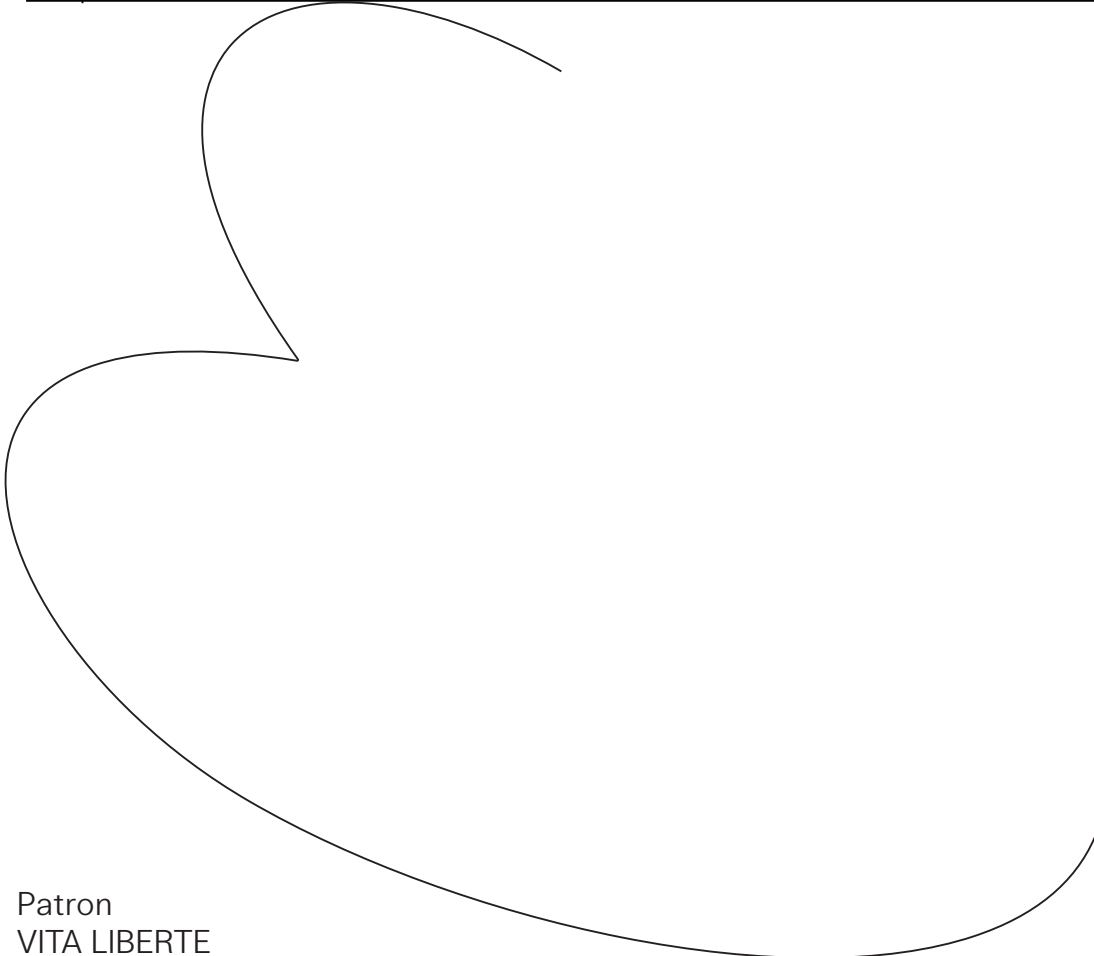
Kim? Contemporary Art Centre is delighted to present a solo exhibition by Ditte Gantriis which is her first presentation in the Baltics. The artist works across a range of media in order to create immersive installations. On many occasions Ditte Gantriis appropriates widely used symbols and signs, even clichés if you will, to question and re-purpose their meaning. Appreciation for artisanry of varying materials grants her work with sleek shapes and is present characteristic of her practice.

In the exhibition *Open Marriage* Ditte Gantriis investigates ways of care for co-existing in the time when there's no time, and in has come a need for immediate solutions to fix what is broken. Relationship, a state of being connected romantically or platonically, is an ongoing negotiation, thus the concept of an *open marriage* is an invitation to consider relationship as a contract, a compromise reached by making concessions. You give some and you get some but you never have it all. But when do you, really? Gantriis unfolds the idea of a relationship as a lasting symptom rather than a resolution, and seeks variations of means to restore the perished bonds. Unlike previously in Ditte Gantriis' practice, in *Open Marriage* each of the works is to be seen as an individual unit that carries its own story and longing. As a unifying thread, in each of them there's a succession of universal symbols. Zodiac signs, pyramid, water, and egg among others, is a vocabulary referring to the order life and of the Universe, the

ultimate source of wisdom. The polysemy of these symbols allows endless possibilities for interpretation, which makes them so appealing when communicating to a superior cosmic power. In a much like New Age manner, these symbols function as charms or problem-solving talismans. The unity of these individual stories can be read as a cluster of self-soothing quests for comfort under confining circumstance. *Open Marriage* is not a praise nor critique but rather a suggestion to ponder the idea of a relationship and the best of intentions, renunciations, and investments to nurture them.

Ditte Gantriis (born 1980) is a Danish artist living and working in Copenhagen. She has completed her Master's degree at the Danish School of Design. Gantriis has participated in exhibitions in Europe and the United States, of which the most recent is the solo exhibition "Sexual Feeling" at Frutta Gallery in Rome (2016), "Peace, Love & Harmony" at SALTS Gallery in Birsfelden, Switzerland (2016), and group exhibitions "The Grove" Hester Gallery in New York (2016), "In the Depth of the Surface" at Ex Fabbrica Orobia in Milan (2016), "Trust" at Kunstal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen (2015), and Frutta gallery expositions in the arts fairs, including Frieze London in 2016 and others.

The artist would like to express her gratitude to woodcarver Raitis Stiuka.



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