



HESSEL MUSEUM OF ART

TOBIAS KASPAR

VYTAUTAS JUREVICIUS

COLLIER SCHORR

Balticana is a poetic exploration of obscure but illuminating connections between the historic, cultural, and sociopolitical contexts of the Baltic region, emphasizing a shared mood across art, society and behavior. Relying on artists, art works and ephemera, and departing from the particularly Baltic atmosphere of fog, the exhibition collects and weaves together metaphors—Portal, Mood, Faktura, Onion, Balts, and Balcans—central to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to produce *Balticana* as a new allegory and imaginary fourth state.

The exhibition features painting, manuscripts, photography, and collage by artists such as Auseklis Bauškenieks, Peter Fend, Ilya Lipkin, and Collier Schorr, and a reflective panel by Tobias Kaspar, in addition to new commissions. These newly commissioned and site-specific works include an ephemeral light installation by BRUD (Aditya Mandayam), sound and performance by Vytautas Jurevicius, and an online intervention by Ian Rosen. The display of *Balticana* is conditioned by architectural elements, including one conceived as a portal into national, philosophical, historical, contemporary, absurdist, and postcolonial dramas of the Baltic region.

ILYA LIPKIN

BALTICANA HERSELF

HIT

PETER FEND

AUSEKLIS BAUŠKENIEKS

BRUD

IAN ROSEN

On its opening day, *Balticana* turned into a set for the thirty-minute performance *Is Happiness an Illusion* (2019) by artist Vytautas Jurevicius who performed in response to the prompts of love, belonging and identity. His props remain present after the conclusion of the performance. The accompanying soundtrack was produced in collaboration with Molly Emeline and will be audible for the duration of the exhibition.

The curator would like to acknowledge all those involved in the process of claiming and establishing *Balticana*.