

Studio for Propositional Cinema at *Swallow*

Artist: Studio for Propositional Cinema

Exhibition title: *Fabulist Manifesto: Audio / Visual Agitprop (for Children)*

Venue: *Swallow*, Vilnius, Lithuania

Date: 27th August – 16th October 2021

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Text

Swallow is delighted to present *Fabulist Manifesto: Audio / Visual Agitprop (for Children)* – an exhibition by *Studio for Propositional Cinema*. It is the first presentation of the collective's work in the Baltic States.

On the most general level, the show could be received as a commentary on the pervasiveness of mythical narratives and their ambiguous role in our culture; they at once clarify and obscure the world in which we live in. In order to grasp this tension at its most fervent, *Studio for Propositional Cinema* locates these contradictions in the everyday life of children, a locus where fantastical imagination is inhibited by normative indoctrination and open questioning is met with prefabricated answers. *Fabulist Manifesto* elaborates and builds upon this dialectic of curiosity and indifference to the point where we are compelled to ask: could we once again engage the narratives that glue our lives with childish inquisitiveness in order to recycle, reinterpret and reenchant our world?

The exhibition is composed of a series of juxtapositions. 24 gelatin silver prints present archival documentation of everyday life of schoolchildren in the 1950s. They are put into sequence by a manifesto previously published by *A Gust of Wind*, a publisher who is also a fictional character appearing in narrative works by *Studio for Propositional Cinema*. The sequence is reframed here as a 16 mm film portraying children engaging with the sequence of the images. By observing, studying, and mimicking them, they build an additional narrative layer – they engage in critique, they receive the narrative and overcome it. Following this series of transpositions and montage the *Fabulist Manifesto* emerges as a gesture: by repeatedly performing and mediating the sequence of images and text, *Studio for Propositional Cinema* manifests both the fragility and potency of our quotidian myths, revealing their imperviousness and hinting at possibilities for changing them.

Curated by Audrius Pocius

Studio for Propositional Cinema was inaugurated in Düsseldorf, Germany in 2013, and have since used the exhibition format as their primary means of dispersing narratives. They are currently

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constructing *A Manual for Retaining Light in Dark Ages* for a monographic exhibition at Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach in 2022. *Myths and Manifestos*, a compendium of their writing published by Kunstverein München and Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, will be released September 2021.

Works on Display

Studio for Propositional Cinema

Fabulist Manifesto

2021

Installation with three parts:

1. 24 aluminum frames with silkscreen ink on glass and silver gelatin prints, each 51.2 x 51.2 cm, total installation: 164 x 446 cm;
2. sound on hand-cut vinyl record with record player and speakers on wall-mounted table, 7 minutes; 16mm film with 16mm film projector, 7 minutes; white rectangular screen painted on purple rectangular screen painted on wall, 260 x 446 cm
3. painted purple texts on wall, language and dimensions variable.

In Place of a Colophon





We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed their time and thoughts to the realization of this exhibition. *Monika Kalinauskaitė* and *Egija Inzule* for the warm welcome and permission to stay and film at Nida Art Colony. *Vytautas Kazimieras Juozėnas* for his skillful and relentless work in filming, developing and editing the 16 mm film. The young actors *Elzė* and *Davitis Kalmakelidze*, *Tėja* and *Morta Radžiūnaitė*, *Luna Myškina*, *Jonas Motužis* and *Gabrielius Ivanauskas* for their patience on set during a hot summer day. *Dovilis Paliukas* for his care and precision carving the vinyl records. *Jokūbas Čižikas* and *Alexander Bornschein* for their attentive ears during the recording and editing of the audio recording for the vinyl. *Lotte Speiser Ramirez* and *Orius Narkus* for lending their voices to the *Fabulist Manifesto*. *Markus Paul Müller* and *Susanne Gollwitzer* at Recom-Art for their support precision with photographic production, in warm memory of *Christiane Hardt*. *Antanas Gerlikas* and *Laura Kaminskaitė* for their untiring help and support in installing the exhibition. *Nerijus Rimkus* for his accurate glance while developing the graphic design of the exhibition. *Jurgis Paškevičius* for his rigor in manufacturing the support structures in the show and *Sam Chermayeff* for designing them. *Tanya Leighton* and the staff of *Tanya Leighton Gallery* for their ongoing support. *Eglė Trimailovaitė*, *Vytautas Volbekas*, *Yana Foque*, *Edgaras Gerasimovičius* and *Vaida Stepanovaitė* for their friendship and support throughout this whole process. In addition, *Studio for Propositional Cinema* thanks and celebrates *Lorraine Harrison* for her lifelong commitment to improving childhood education.


We would also like to thank *Justė Beniušytė*, *Deimantė Bulbenkaitė*, *Adas Gecevičius*, *Andrius Šoblinskas*, *Aistis Žekevičius*, „Rėmelis.lt“, Studio „Sponge“ and *Tadas Vėbra Arts Workshop*.





Fabulist Manifesto: Audio / Visual Agitprop (for Children) would not have been possible without the generous financial support by Lithuanian Council for Culture and the Canadian Embassy in Lithuania as well as the cooperation of Nida Art Colony.

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Titles and Captions (Installation View)

1.		Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, installation view
2.		Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, installation view
3.		Studio for Propositional Cinema Fabulist Manifesto; Audio/Visual Agitprop (for Children) 2021, detail painted purple texts on wall, language and dimensions variable
4.		Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, installation view

5.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> (Audio/Visual Agitprop [for Children]), film still 2021 sound on hand-cut vinyl record with record player and speakers on wall-mounted table, 7 minutes; 16mm film with 16mm film projector, 7 minutes; white rectangular screen painted on purple rectangular screen painted on given wall surface, approx. 260 x 446 cm; final dimensions variable</p>
6.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i>; Audio/Visual Agitprop (for Children), detail 2021 painted purple texts on wall, language and dimensions variable</p>
7.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, installation view</p>

8.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> (Audio/Visual Agitprop [for Children]) 2021 sound on hand-cut vinyl record with record player and speakers on wall-mounted table, 7 minutes; 16mm film with 16mm film projector, 7 minutes; white rectangular screen painted on purple rectangular screen painted on given wall surface, approx. 260 x 446 cm; final dimensions variable</p>
9.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, installation view</p>
10.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, installation view</p>
11.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, detail</p>

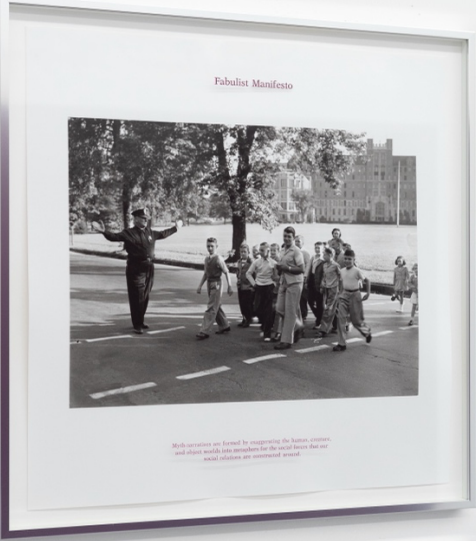

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12.		Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, detail
13.		Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021, detail
14.		Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto</i> 2021 24 aluminum frames with silkscreen ink on glass and silver gelatin prints, each 51.2 x 51.2 cm, total installation: 164 x 446 cm;

Titles and Captions (close-ups of silkscreen prints)

1.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Our Received Realities)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
2.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Our Existential Dread)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

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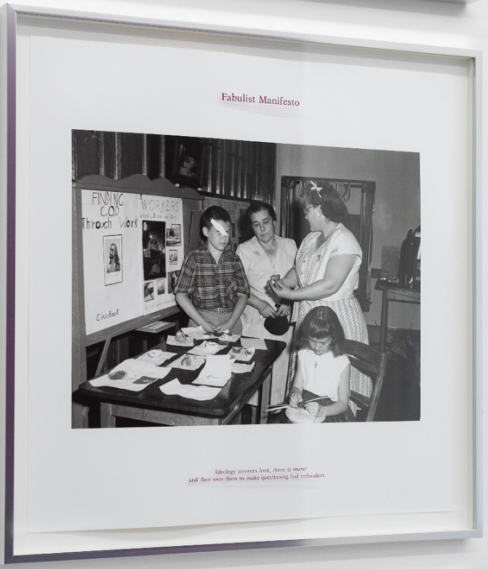
<p>3.</p>		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Our Social Relations)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
<p>4.</p>		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Speculative Thinking)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame</p>

5.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (States of Wonderment)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
6.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Fundamental Questions)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>


<p>7.</p>		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Their Belief Systems)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
<p>8.</p>		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Our Attempts at Explaining the World)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

9.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (The Cruelty of Our Reality)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
10.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Animated by Sinister Players)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>



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11.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Cloak of the Fantastical)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
12.		<p><i>Fabulist Manifesto (Ideology Answers)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

13.		<p><i>Fabulist Manifesto (The Theater of Cruelty)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
14.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Opportunity for All)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

15.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (The Mouths of Ideologues)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
16.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Capital Follows You When You Dream)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

17.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (The Form of Objects)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
18.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Experience of Existence)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

19.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Material Reality)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>
20.		<p>Studio for Propositional Cinema <i>Fabulist Manifesto (Relationships of Ideas)</i>, 2021 silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame 51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)</p>

21.



Studio for Propositional Cinema
Fabulist Manifesto (Designed to Mitigate Hope), 2021
silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame
51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)

22.



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Fabulist Manifesto (Our Lexicon), 2021
silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin print, aluminum frame
51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)

23.



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Fabulist Manifesto (Our Home), 2021
silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin
print, aluminum frame
51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)

24.



Studio for Propositional Cinema
Fabulist Manifesto (Our End), 2021
silkscreen ink on glass, silver gelatin
print, aluminum frame
51.2 x 51.2 cm (frame)

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