

# Watery Day's Eye

## A solo exhibition by Indriķis Ģelzis

August 25 – October 8, 2023  
Kim? Contemporary Art Centre  
Curator: Zane Onckule

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In his most spacious exhibition to date, Indriķis Ģelzis turns his attention to the *'liqui-modern'* individual engulfed by a sea of turbulent change. Mediated through our society living under the precondition of shattering flux that permeates the politics of relationships, identities and economics, *Watery Day's Eye* is an ode to the personalized, analog cyberspace masquerading itself under the foil of visual resemblances and contextual meaning of the public swimming pool.

A folkloric, nature-inspired color palette casts the customary white walls of institutional normality with brightness. Flashes of experience and memory act as binders for sculptural appropriations of the infographic ecosystem in metal. Urban planning and the ebb and flow of the stock market are represented in the gallery via welded, bended, oiled artworks which absorb and entrap the shapes and forms of the living organisms and bodily details. While the functionally utilitarian details - tiles, carpets - of the living or communal spaces lying underneath, establish the rhythm-grid to which the emotional passage of the entire *Watery Day's Eye* plays out.

The infinite space of an endlessly reflective mirrored surface is fixed with the precision of geometric zoning, while the meanings of its semantic core drift somewhere between the reflections of sea/water, the phone screen, or within each individual. The otherwise mute *pool* is punctured by verticality; the figures of larger-than-life chromed metal daisies pulsate ever so subtly at intervals of mechanical, short-cut jittery movements, as one must always be careful and stay on guard.

The immersive aspirations of this show are revealed in the looped streams of voice and light. The mood of the installation is successively shifted by sonic absurdities that defy its unambiguous interpretation or logic. In the intervals between the aural "ticks" and murmurs, which induce varying degrees of tension, *Watery Day's Eye* flares up in the color of the digital water symbolizing the nutritional value of the daisies.

Emotional, adrift and clinging tightly to its corporeal and social backbone, Ģelzis' installation is the result of transformative reflections made while being immersed in nature, the sea, the internet and, of course, the pool.

As part of the exhibition, a freestanding sculpture by Indriķis Ģelzis is on view at Sporta 2 Quarter until October 8.

*The Name for Green is Camouflage*  
Indriķis Ģelzis' sculpture

August 25 - October 8, 2023  
Courtyard area of Kim? Contemporary Art Centre,  
Sporta 2 Quarter

Reaching up from the roots, two standing figures embrace each other in a position that cannot be changed. The work resembles the tip of an iceberg or a plant-like entity that has emerged from a seed—a force strong enough to break through the encapsulating surface. The way the sculpture is positioned suggests a shin bone or a heel—a kind of plug in a socket. Like the germination of seeds, there are different ways that thoughts can break out of the body: through words, gestures and the fifth generation cellular network (5G). With 5G, our thoughts can reach faraway places, leaving our bodies behind as a camouflage of the surroundings. The green-painted volumes, made of stainless steel sheets and arranged like packaging, are designed to substitute and mimic body-covering fabrics, embodying a steel skeleton with arms, legs and gestures. These gestures can appear in different positions, depending on experience and circumstances. The artist aims to achieve a physical state that befits a technological fossil or a snail that has left its shell behind.

### Artist biography

Indriķis Ģelzis (born 1988 in Latvia) lives and works in Rīga, Latvia. Ģelzis holds an MA in Visual Communication from the Art Academy of Latvia (Rīga, LV) and a Post-Graduate degree from HISK - Higher Institute for Fine Arts (Ghent, BE). Selected solo and two-person shows: *VAGABOND / A Place Hard to Place*, Jenny's (New York, 2022); *Yawn holding Fields*, Tatjana Pieters (Ghent, 2022); *Figure of Everything*, Castor (London, 2020); *Pause for the Cause*, CINNAMON (Rotterdam, 2019); *TABLEAU, ASHES/ASHES* (New York, 2019). Recent group exhibitions: *The 4 Gate Connection*, Tatjana Pieters (Ghent, 2020); *Doors of Paradise*, Union Pacific (London, 2018); *Superposition*, Joshua Liner Gallery (New York, 2018). His works are featured in the collections of the Latvian National Museum of Art; Museum of Recent Art / Romania; S.M.A.K. The Municipal Museum of Contemporary / Belgium; The Lewben Art Foundation / Lithuania; CELINE ART PROJECT / FRANCE; Paul Thiers Collection / Belgium; Alain Servais Family Collection / Belgium; Antoine De Werd Collection / The Netherlands; Tanguy Van De Weghe Collection / Belgium; Frédéric de Goldschmidt Collection / Belgium; Wang Jianlin Collection / China; Colin Fernandes Collection / US; Zuzāns Private Collection / Latvia.

Artist acknowledgements:  
Bianka Ģelze, Sabine Skarule

The opening of Indriķis Ģelzis' sculpture *The Name for Green is Camouflage* is one of the events of the Riga Summer Culture Programme. All events organised by the Riga City Council can be found on the Riga Summer Culture Programme website <https://summer.riga.lv/> and followed on the "*Rīga notiek*" social media page.

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Kim?

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Supported by:





1

*Watery Day's Eye*, 2023

Stainless steel, audio on loop (22"), blue neon

Text: Indriķis Ģelzis  
Voice: Melissa Whittenburg

Chapter 1.

Brown earth turns into peanut butter, turns into a brown linoleum floor, turns into a brown background of a monitor, turns into a curled paper map, turns into a wrinkled skin of an eyelid, turns into hot and dry deserts, turns into sulphur.

What supplies the flame in your throat?

Chapter 2.

Water flows into saliva, flows into liquid soap, flows into medicine, flows into tears, flows into tomato juice, flows into blood, flows into paint, flows into lava, flows into a geyser.

What does your body convey?

Chapter 3.

Sun burns into a dream, burns into a warm and blood-soaked heart, burns into a city light, burns into kidney pain, burns into a cigarette butt, burns into an advertising display screen, burns into a melting steel sphere, burns into tonsillitis.

How old is the cave of your lacrimal gland?

Chapter 4.

A droplet spins into a snowflake, spins into a feather, spins into an unidentifiable bird, spins into an urban drone, spins into a fan, spins into a boat propeller, spins into a daisy, spins into a clock.

From which eye are you falling?

Chapter 5.

A black hole expands into the pupil of the eye, expands into an ice hockey puck, expands into a mole hole, expands into a traffic tunnel, expands into an ear canal, expands into a funnel cloud, expands into a skull, expands into a stage, expands into a kaleidoscope, expands into an iPhone.

Where is the house of the lost voice?

2

*Cave of Lacrimal Gland*, 2023

Stainless steel, powderpaint, MDF, veneer, plastic, textil  
195×193 cm.

3

*Time Camouflage: Border*, 2023

Stainless steel  
42,5×28,5×3 cm.

4

*Grey Sun is Also a Sun*, 2023

Stainless steel, powderpaint, MDF, veneer, plastic, textil  
170×175 cm.

5

*Time Camouflage: Eye Clock*, 2023

Stainless steel  
42,5×28,5×3 cm.

6

*Night Flame*, 2023

Stainless steel, powderpaint, MDF, veneer, plastic, textil  
165×265 cm.

7

*UFA (Unidentified Flying Arrangement)*, 2023

Stainless steel, acrylic paint  
165×260 cm.

8

*Time Camouflage: Mouth, Cave and Raining Saliva*, 2023

Stainless steel  
42,5×28,5×3 cm.

9

*New Twirl*, 2023

Stainless steel, acrylic paint  
186×42 cm.

10

*Mechanical Splassh*, 2023

Stainless steel, acrylic paint  
220×75 cm.

11

*Sleeping Sun Bunny*, 2023

Stainless steel, acrylic paint  
196×95 cm.

12

*The Name for Green is Camouflage*, 2022

Stainless steel, acrylic paint  
240×55×55 cm.