

Augustas Serapinas

Greenhouse from Užupis

Lichtenfels Sculpture 2023, 7 May – 29 October 2023

In its second edition Lichtenfels Sculpture presents a site-specific installation by Lithuanian artist Augustas Serapinas. Situated on the shores of the Ottenstein reservoir in Austria, near the Lichtenfels Ruin, *Greenhouse from Užupis* blends into the landscape and will be activated through a series of events from May - October 2023.

Serapinas' works are often created in direct relation to the exhibition site, tracing hidden structures or histories and making them visible. In his practice, he deliberately plays with the viewer's curiosity, inviting them to activate his works, while offering new perspectives on the object itself, its environment, and its history.

For *Greenhouse from Užupis*, Serapinas relocates a formerly abandoned greenhouse from Lithuania to the Waldviertel region. The seemingly useless and broken structure is transferred to Lichtenfels, rebuilt on site, and reactivated in a foreign environment with a new function. Like the ruins of Lichtenfels, the greenhouse no longer serves a purpose but tells stories from a different and bygone time.

In recent years Užupis - an area of Lithuania's capital Vilnius - has gone through a rapid gentrification process. The increase in property prices forces residents to abandon their homes thus shifting its locals urban habits. This leads to a continuous decrease of gardening resulting in the abandonment of greenhouses. *Greenhouse from Užupis* is a signifier of this ongoing process. Serapinas reveals these processes by assigning a new use to the object and its surrounding space.

In *Greenhouse from Užupis*, Serapinas sows beetroot - a staple food in Lithuanian cuisine - and potatoes, which are a fundamental part of agriculture in the Waldviertel region, alongside cucumbers, onions and dill. Together, these form the basis of Lithuania's national dish, the Šaltibarščiai, a chilled beetroot soup traditionally prepared in the summer. Historically, Šaltibarščiai dates back to the 14th century and is still common in Eastern European cuisine in various forms. Although prepared from simple foods, the dish was served at tables in rural spaces as well as royal courts, in combination with simple or very precious foods.

Šaltibarščiai forms the basis for the accompanying program that will take place in Lichtenfels from May - October 2023. Serapinas invites visitors to prepare the Lithuanian dish on-site during the summer.

Accompanying program

Opening in the presence of the artist: May 6, 2023

Guided tour in the presence of the artist: July 22, 2023

Guided tour with the curators: August 19, 2023

Guided tour with the curators: October 6, 2023

For further information please visit our website.

Šaltibarščiai

(for 4 people)

Ingredients

For the Soup

1 cucumber (approx. 300g) diced
1 jar pickled grated beetroot (510g)
4 eggs
10 g dill finely chopped
2 spring onions sliced on the diagonal
salt & pepper
1 l kefir
500 g baby potatoes
butter

Instructions

1. Boil potatoes until tender. Then drain, add a knob of butter and fresh chopped dill and shake the pan to cover the potatoes in dill butter.
2. Hard boil the eggs. It will take about 12 minutes in boiling water. Cool the eggs under cold running water in the sink. Peel and slice the eggs into rounds.
3. Add the grated beetroot, cucumber, dill and half of the spring onions to a large mixing bowl. Pour in the cold kefir, season with salt and pepper, and mix. Add the eggs, scatter the remaining spring onions on top and serve with hot boiled potatoes.

Augustas Serapinas (born 1990) lives and works in Vilnius, Lithuania. His work has been shown at the Toronto Biennial (2022), steirischer herbst, Graz (2022), 58th Venice Biennale (2019), RI-BOCA2 Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (2019), Baltic Triennial 13, Vilnius (2018), and Kunsthalle Wien. Solo exhibitions have been held at Galerie Tschudi, Zouz; Emalin, London; Apalazzo Gallery, Brescia; Basement Roma; David Dale Gallery & Studios, Glasgow; Fogo Island Arts, Newfoundland and Labrador; and City Salts, Basel, among others.

His works are included in the permanent collections of Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR; M HKA, Antwerp, BE; MO Museum, Vilnius, LT; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, DE; and Tate, London, UK.

Lichtenfels Sculpture 2023 is curated by Margherita Belcredi and Olivia Thurn-Valsassina and organized by *Verein zur Erhaltung und künstlerischen Bespielung der Ruine Lichtenfels*.

Lichtenfels Sculpture 2023 is made possible by:



Additional support:

