



ERMES

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DARIUS MIKŠYS
“SOCKS FOR JOHN WATERS”

14 FEBRUARY - 20 MARCH 2025



Via dei Banchi Vecchi 16
00186, Roma





Darius Mikšys, "Socks for John Waters", 2025, exhibition view, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT

ATTORNEY RIOT IN ROME

Séance & Exorcism

Darius Mikšys
Attorney Riot in Rome, 2025
Handmade book, glass, wood
Variable dimensions



Darius Mikšys
Attorney Riot in Rome, 2025
Handmade book, glass, wood
Variable dimensions



Darius Mikšys
Attorney Riot in Rome, 2025
Handmade book, glass, wood
Variable dimensions



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The Chief

I assisted Daniel Bozhkov in creating yogurt infused with his own DNA. Later, I helped him prepare Bulgarian yogurt soup for a public event. Wearing a chief's apron, I began chopping cucumbers. "No," Daniel corrected me, "chef's apron," emphasizing the pronunciation. It sounded different, though I couldn't discern the distinction.

Daniel then extended his Buddha-like hands—one transformed into a feathered headpiece, another became a hairy tail, and a third morphed into a sound instrument, resonating with the air expelled from his mouth. To complete his demonstration, he leaned forward slightly and spun in a circle.

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Darius Mikšys
Attorney Riot in Rome, 2025
Handmade book, glass, wood
Variable dimensions



Darius Mikšys, "Socks for John Waters", 2025, exhibition view, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT



Darius Mikšys
Socks for John Waters, 2025
Cotton, inkjet print on fine art paper, pencil, amber pin
Variable dimensions



Darius Mikšys, "Socks for John Waters", 2025, exhibition view, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT



Darius Mikšys
Attorney Riot in Rome, 2025
Handmade book, glass, wood
Variable dimensions



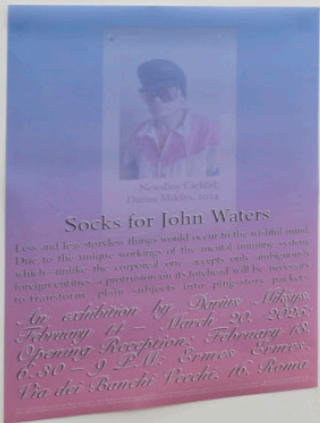
Darius Mikšys
Attorney Riot in Rome, 2025
Handmade book, glass, wood
Variable dimensions



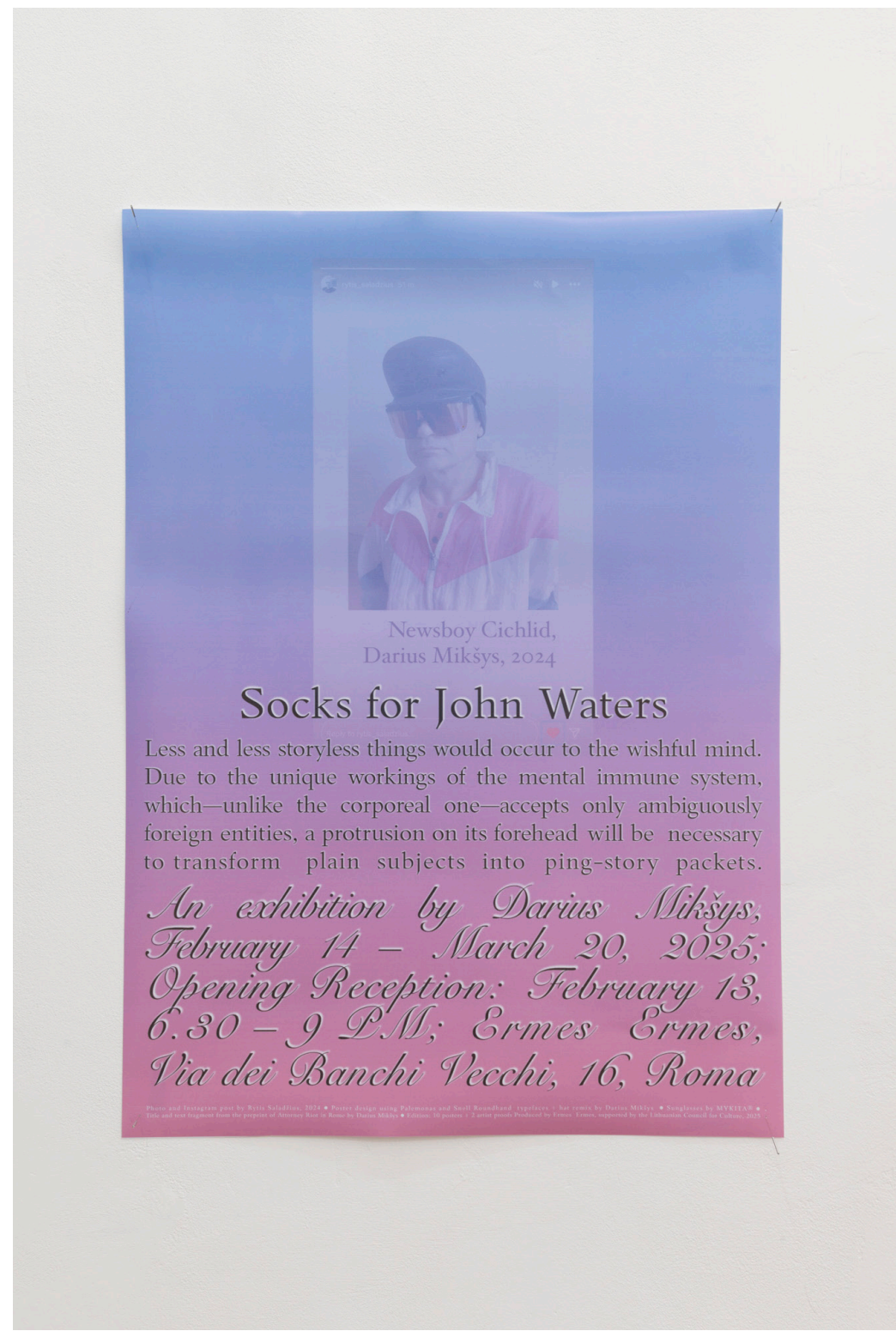
Darius Mikšys, "Socks for John Waters", 2025, exhibition view, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT



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Darius Mikšys, "Socks for John Waters", 2025, exhibition view, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT



Darius Mikšys
Poster for Socks for John Waters, 2025
Inkjet print on glossy paper, acupuncture needle
29,7x42 cm (51,7x16,5")
Variable dimensions



Darius Mikšys
Poster for Socks for John Waters, 2025 (detail)
Inkjet print on glossy paper, acupuncture needle
29,7x42 cm (51,7x16,5")
Variable dimensions



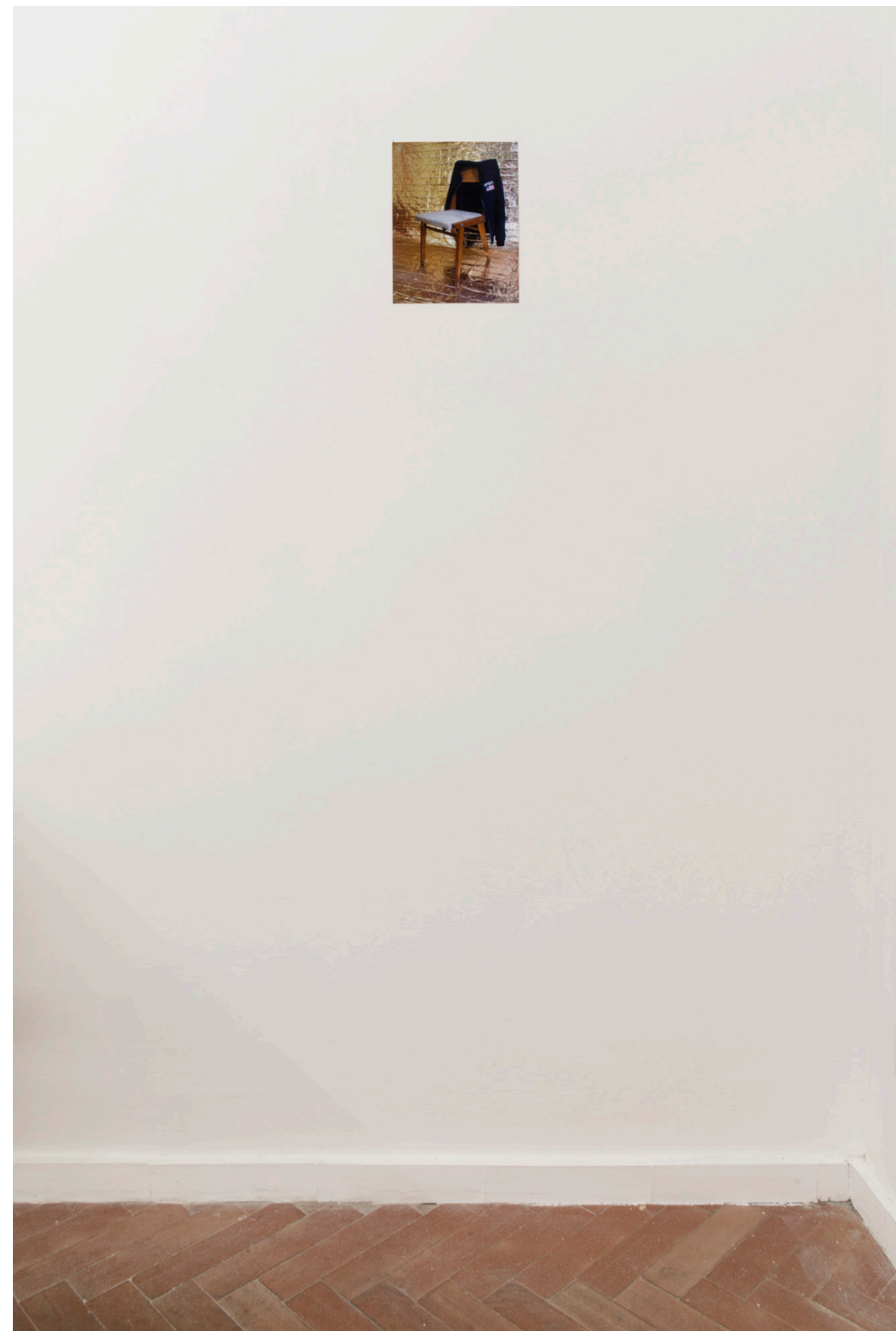
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Darius Mikšys, "Socks for John Waters", 2025, exhibition view, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT



Darius Mikšys
Beiga chair, Space blanket and NASA chair, 2025
Inkjet print on fine art baryta paper
26,5x20,6cm (10,4x8,1")



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“Less and less storyless events would occur to the wishful mind. Because of the distinct functioning of the mental immune system, which accepts ambiguously foreign entities only, a protrusion on the head as an additional organ or limb will be required in order to corrupt plain objects into the ping-story packets that will be mitigated into larger communication units further.

The storyline-driven mind activity then must look like the exchange of short epistolary novels, although the language involved is not quite the same as the literary one. The meaning here will be made during the process, similar to gold panning: repeating stages of sifting through the material will eventually make clearer what is meant, at the same time resulting in an accidental logical connections that will gradually distance its host subject, whether it is an individual or a country, from the essential topics that were foreseen to be contemplated.

Then, such a compositional stories, as if they were attorneys advocating one or another stance, can clash and debate among themselves alone, relegating their host subject to listen. The scene is now framed in rich detail and sketchy meaning, conveying mere intentions and forms, like those of Lenin’s writings¹.”

The “story line” exists here as a sign of wasted potential - a potential that comprises a storyless world, that loses its energy and falls into disorder² through the various story lines, irreversibly consuming the so-called ‘now’. In this exhibition, the genre and style of the narrative may vary, and the important moment here is the point at which a witness or a character ‘catches’ the plot in order to appear within it, to begin his or her own storytelling.

Image: objects in the show; photo by author. Portrait and Instagram “stories” post by Rytis Saladžius: <https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18101071195487265/>
Supported by the Lithuanian Council for Culture, 2024

Darius Mikšys, 2025

¹ The press release annotation has been sourced from the coffee table book “Attorney Riot in Rome.” The exhibition title is taken from the eponymous work in the show.

² Metaphor based on the second law of thermodynamics.



Darius Mikšys (b. 1969, Kaunas, LT), lives and works in Vilnius.

He attended Marijampolė Art School for several years from 1976 (dropped out).

He graduated from Justinas Vienozinskis College of Arts in Kaunas (1984 to 1988), and from Vilnius Art Academy in Vilnius (1991 to 1995). In 2011, for the 54th annual Venice Biennale, he presented, for the Lithuanian Pavillion, the project “Behind the White Curtain”, tallying up to over 200 artworks by artists who have received the State Grant from Lithuania’s Ministry of Culture in the last two decades (1992-2010).

Selected solo and group exhibitions: 2025, “*Socks for John Waters*”, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT; 2022 *Role Play*, Osservatorio Fondazione Prada, Milan, IT; 2013 *Fusiform Gyru*, Lisson Gallery, London, UK; 2014 *Last Seen Entering Biltmore*, South London Gallery, London, UK; *The Working Life*, IMA, Brisbane, AU; 2015 XII Baltic Triennial, CAC, Vilnius, LT; *Framework*, Kaunas School of Arts, Kaunas, LT; 2021 *Empire Dissolves Into Its Subjects*, Ermes Ermes, Rome, IT; Solo presentation with Ermes Ermes at Panorama Italics, curated by Vincenzo De Bellis, Procida, IT; 2016 *Hayward & Tamayo*, Kunstverein München, Munich, DE; 2012 *Artes Mundi*, Wales International Visual Art Exhibition and Prize, Cardiff, WS; Wide Open School, Hayward Gallery, London, UK; *Soundworks*, ICA, London, UK 7th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, Shenzhen, CN; 2011 *Behind The White Curtain*, 54th Venice Biennale, Lithuanian Pavillion, Venice, IT; *Delay in glass*, GAM, Turin, IT; *Salon du Mercredi*, Paris, FR; *Pawnshop*, e-flux, Basel, CH; *Museums, Galleries, Homes and other stories*, Galleria Enrico Astuni, Bologna, IT; *Somewhere else*, Blanchard Gallery, Barcelona, ES. 2010 *Time and Again*, Galeria Arsenal, Poznan, PL; Manifesta 8 - , Murcia, ES; *Lithuanian Art 2000–2010: Ten Years*, Contemporary Art Center. CAC, Vilnius, LT; *HaVE A LoOk! HAve a Look!*, FormContent project space, London, UK; 2009 Vision Forum, 1:1 projects, Rome, IT; “*This place you see has no size at all...*”, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, FR; *Performa 09*, e-flux, New York City, NY, US; *The X Baltic Triennial of International Art*, The Baltic Triennial of International Art, CAC, Vilnius, LT; *Structures of nothing*, workshop-event at Sutro Baths, San Francisco, US; *Code Share*, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, LI; 2008 *On delay and delaying*, lecture at CAC, Vilnius, LI; *Ready To Dispose*, solo project on ebay.com. Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, AU; 2007 Lyon Biennial 2007, Lyon, FR; 2004 *PR 04*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, PR; 2001 *Looking for Mr. Fluxus: In the Footsteps of George Maciunas*, Art In General, New York, USA.