

PRESS RELEASE

A new exhibition at Kogo Gallery explores the position of painting in the context of the screen era

At Kogo Gallery in Tartu, Estonia, is currently on view a solo exhibition [Exobiota](#) by an Estonian artist [Mihkel Maripuu](#), curated by Lilian Hiob-Küttis. *Exobiota* explores the position of painting in an era when visual culture is increasingly mediated by screens and digital imagery. The exhibition remains open until 19 April.

Mihkel Maripuu's solo exhibition *Exobiota* rips post-internet art from the slick, weightless void of the screen and forces it into physical space, giving the virtual what it has never had: a body. Airbrushed gradients, hyper-clean hues, and high-res perfection – visuals built for seamless digital flow – are locked down, chained to the gallery, forcing the digital to bear the weight, rawness and intensity of the physical world. To breathe the same air as us. The exhibition's title, *Exobiota*, is derived from the Latin terms *exo* (outside) and *biota* (living forms). It denotes a hybrid body that transcends traditional biological boundaries – an emergence from a tangled ecosystem of code, data, cells and tissues. *Exobiota* brings the complexity and contradictions of the contemporary human experience into sharp focus and does it with an uncompromising boldness. While inseparably tied to digital aesthetics, Maripuu redirects attention to the material presence of the object. In contrast to the trend of the infinite reproduction of visual information through screens that risks the complete erasure of the original, his works demand the viewer's physical presence and time. They resist passive observation, creating a reciprocal relationship between the artwork and its audience.

Exobiota is open from 28 February until 19 April 2025 at Kogo Gallery, located at Aparaaditehas in Tartu, Estonia. The gallery is open for visits Wed-Fri at 12.00-18.00, Sat at 12.00-16.00 and by appointment. The exhibition is part of Kogo Gallery's this year's programme [Thrifters and Transformers](#).

The exhibition is funded by the Cultural Endowment of Estonia and the City of Tartu.

Mihkel Maripuu (b. 1987) is an artist examining the evolution of visual language in the digital era, addressing its impact on contemporary aesthetics and materiality. His practice interrogates the shifting dynamics between technological systems and organic worlds, tracing moments where the two collapse into one another. Through compressed, multi-layered, and at times aggressively rendered compositions, Maripuu constructs environments in-which digital logic glitches into painterly materiality, creating a space of tension, resistance and reinvention. Through a dynamic, boundary-pushing practice, he defines the intersections between the illusory and material in contemporary art.

His work has been featured in both solo and group exhibitions across Estonia and internationally, including Germany, Denmark, Belgium and Greece. He holds a BA from the University of Tartu, Institute of Cultural Research, Department of Painting and an MA from the Estonian Academy of Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Painting.

Maripuu has been nominated for numerous awards, including the AkzoNobel Art Prize (2024, 2019), Kristjan Raud Art Award (2020), Konrad Mägi Art Award (2019) and the Young Painter Prize (2013).

Lilian Hiob-Küttis (b. 1991) is an independent curator and gallerist, a founder of Hoib Gallery and the former manager of Temnikova & Kasela Gallery.

She has an MA in Art History and Visual Culture from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She is a guest lecturer in curatorial studies at the Estonian Academy of Arts and teaches at the university's Open Academy.

Hiob-Küttis' curatorial work has included collaborations with companies such as Sunly and Synlab. Her recent exhibitions include *Exobiota* at Kogo Gallery, Tartu; *Shifting Sand* at Asni Gallery, Riga; *Breaking up of Ice on a River* at Margot Samel Gallery, New York; the group exhibition *Femisphere* from Kaupo Karelson's private collection; *The Shape of Things to Come* at Noewe Foundation, Vilnius; and *Present yet-to-be* at Hobusepea Gallery, Tallinn. Hiob-Küttis' upcoming projects include exhibitions at Punctum Gallery and the Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design.

Artist: Mihkel Maripuu

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LINKS

exhibition *Exobiota* www.kogogallery.ee/en/exhibitions/exobiota

artist Mihkel Maripuu www.kogogallery.ee/en/artists/mihkel-maripuu

Kogo Gallery's 2025 programme *Thrifters and Transformers*

www.kogogallery.ee/en/exhibitions/2025-programme

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[Exobiota](#)

Mihkel Maripuu

Curated by Lilian Hiob-Küttis

Kogo Gallery, Tartu, Estonia

28.2.-19.4.2025