

Mykolas Valantinas' solo exhibition 'Father II'
21.02.2026—01.03.2026
Contemporary Art Centre

Curator Povilas Gumbis.

The second phase of the exhibition 'Father' transitions from day to night. The uniform lighting of the space and its exhibits gives way to staged twilight. The narrative of father and son remains in the foreground, but no longer as a continuous sequence: only a small number of works is illuminated, hinting at a previously hidden internal structure – or at one of the fundamental principles of memory: constant selection, determining what is retained and assimilated, and what is allowed to fade. What is brought to the fore begins to appear essential, although in reality it is simply the result of a conscious mode of (not) seeing. Here, personal family history is traced through an eternal ritual of return, a constant regrouping of real, possible, and fictional (but no less significant) details.

The exhibition's sudden transformation and brief duration recall supernatural phenomena described in fairy tales or mythological stories: they appear only after dark, only briefly, and only to those able to perceive them. Like the Aitvaras – a nature spirit from Lithuanian folklore – flying through the night sky, fleetingly illuminating the horizon and disappearing into the darkness again, leaving behind not only the memory of the event but also a lingering doubt about the authenticity of what was seen.

Likewise, the exhibits of 'Father' disappear and reappear: some are absent, some have been moved, while others assume new shapes. Within this nocturnal economy, redistributions of space, forms, and value take place silently and constantly – like transactions unfolding behind the tinted windows of luxury cars. Changing the exhibition ensures that the value it generates does not diminish. The past is reshaped in order to create the future.

– Povilas Gumbis

Photographer: Andrej Vasilenko