

29 April, 6 pm — opening of the exhibition 'Liump! Fitness?' by Laurynas Skeisgiela at Vartai Gallery.

Fitness refers to the logic of adaptation — the ability to survive, respond to one's environment, and act within it through mimicry, camouflage, and other deceptive signals. In Skeisgiela's exhibition, fitness becomes a lens through which strategies of appearance, sensitivity, and survival are explored.

Deception and misdirection are not exclusive to humans but are widespread across the natural world. By altering their appearance and imitating other species or objects, organisms extend their chances of survival. Non-poisonous animals mimic poisonous ones, insects reproduce patterns resembling those of wild mammals, and tiger moths adopt visual traits associated with zebras or wild cats, marked by striking patterns. Microorganisms survive by adapting to environmental signals through mimicry, metabolic flexibility, or opportunistic behaviour. Similarly, nocturnal moths respond to external stimuli that shape their movement, orientation, and behaviour.

Through 'Liump!', Laurynas Skeisgiela develops an ongoing artistic practice focused on ephemeral phenomena, opening up new interdisciplinary research trajectories, including the observation of nocturnal moths."

In 2023, during a residency at AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederösterreich, Skeisgiela combined a moth observation session with the Austrian Heuriger* tradition, dating back to the 18th century. This connection emerged from the shared use of wine scent and specific lighting as attractants in nocturnal moth observation.

Interwoven across different media, the installation 'Liump! Fitness?' invites viewers to consider survival as a constantly shifting

relationship with the environment, suggesting that what is fragile, elusive, or temporary may itself constitute a distinct mode of survival.

*Heuriger refers to seasonal wine taverns operating during the grape-growing season. Known for their social openness, local hospitality, and continuity of tradition, they attract both local audiences and visitors.

Laurynas Skeisgiela (b. 1994) is a Vilnius-based artist, filmmaker, and curator. Laurynas studied at The Vilnius Academy of Arts (The Department of Photography and Media Art) and The Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design. Together with Milda Dainovskytė, he is a co-founder and curator of the curatorial initiative and meeting space 'Lokomotif' (2019–2021). His recent work develops through the project 'Liump!', an interdisciplinary research practice exploring mimicry as a biological, cultural, and social mechanism of adaptation.

Milda Dainovskytė is a contemporary art curator, lecturer, and artist. Together with Laurynas Skeisgiela, Milda is a co-founder of the curatorial initiative and meeting space 'Lokomotif' (2019–2021), which brings together contemporary art practices and strategies of urban identity formation.

Curator: Milda Dainovskytė

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Organised by: Vartai Gallery

Funded by: The Lithuanian Council for Culture

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Special thanks: Kotryna Džilavjan, Pamėnkėlnis Gallery, Darius Mikalauskas, Joana Kairienė, Rufcut, Martyna Šulskutė, Bon Alog, Christian Berkes, Sophie Wohlgemuth, Inės Lisser, Sandile Radebe, Klaus Krobath, Lisa Saahs, AIR – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Niederėsterreich, ‘Liustrai’, Tomas Martiėauskis.

The exhibition will run until 28 May.

Address:

Vartai Gallery, Vilniaus st. 39, Vilnius