



Symposium-workshop

Context in Flux

Part I. Nida

A sharing and material thinking event on remoteness, time, communication, solitude, locality and informal education in Nida Art Colony (a part of Vilnius Academy of Arts)

Friday, October 11

PLAN FOR DAY 1: "Value & specifics of time" – 5 hours discussions during the trip in the bus: trip as a time spending and using tool; is the time spent in the trip to remote place gone? Travelling as work.

Moderated by Rasa and Daina

> **16.00** departure from Vilnius Academy of Arts parking lot at Maironio st. 6, (next to St. Ann's church) towards Nida by bus (370 km, 5 hours trip)

Saturday, October 12

PLAN FOR DAY 2: "Atmosphere and solitude. Who is going insane in a remote centre" (Transition from the topic of time to atmosphere and solitude in a remote place)

Moderated by Ernest

> **8.45 - 9.00** morning exercise (optional)

> **9.00 - 10.00** Slow collective made breakfast (from local ingredients in the fridge): everybody is asked to contribute an ingredient from their country or own storage room (bread, cheese, etc.)

> **10.00 - 10.59** Extended breakfast with visual presentations by BAC, Gnesta and NAC and their atmospheres, includes reflection on topics discussed during the bus ride. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the discussion

> **11.00 - 11.15** Introduction to material thinking by Vytautas (in conference hall)

> **11.15 - 11.30** Presentation of experiences "Staying and Working Together" by Ūla, curator of the residency and exhibition "Ritual Room"

> **11.30 - 12.30** Discussion and workgroup led by Ernest, international AIR coordinator of Culture Factory Polymer, Tallinn

> **12.30 - 13.00** Time for Individual Material Thinking

> **13.01 - 14.00** A guided tour to the dunes by Linas / Eglė (NAC). Lunch prep by Group 1

> **14.01 - 15.15** Lunch

> **15.16 -** Talk by psychologist Rūta

> **15.45 - 17.00** group discussion round table with Rūta

> **17.00 - 18.00** Break

> **18.00 - 19.30** Individual work and material thinking. Dinner prep by Group 2

> **19.30 -** Dinner

> **After dinner** more material thinking, as long as you wish...

Sunday, October 13

PLAN FOR DAY 3: "Participation and communities. Inclusion and accessibility: How can contemporary art and culture centres integrate with regional communities?"

Moderated by Pernilla

> **8.30 - 9.30** Morning walk to the sea and back inc. breathing exercises (optional)

> **9.00 - 10.00** Collective self-made breakfast from ingredients in the fridge

> **10.01 - 12.00** Pernilla's workshop and discussion on interaction with local community (invitations, power and other questions) and participatory art practices

> **12.01 - 13.30** material thinking: individual work and discussions if needed. Lunch prep by Group 3

> **13.30 - 14.30** wrap-up over lunch (submitting outcomes from material thinking or continuing to work until next day)

> **16.00 -** Assessment afternoon and work on the publication for core team. Putting thoughts on paper: discussing the two days and their results and publication. Mapping flux: resources

Those who are staying continue to do material thinking and preparing stuff for publication

> **~19.00 -** dinner at a local restaurant

Monday, October 14

Assessment brunch and work on publication from 09.30 (For organisers: NAC, BAC, ALG + PG + MA)

Departure to Vilnius by colony van or with bus+ferry+bus/train (~6-7 hours)

--

> **Lunch/dinner making groups:** group consists of at least 1 local participant and 2-3 guests and is about sharing tastes and skills in simple everyday cooking. It brings a small group together and is kind of material thinking where ideas about local cuisine are shared in the international context

Methodology:

Material thinking throughout the entire symposium. The goal of the symposium is to express ideas. Throughout the symposium collective and individual reflections on key concepts and related experiences are expressed through textual and visual forms and generated as content for the forthcoming publication.

Methods:

- Drawing diagrams, schemes, paths, spatial maps, mind maps
- Making 3D objects/works, collages, surveys and visualisations of thoughts (pictionary)
- Recycling/reusing materials left by other residents (contribution by present residents is possible)
- Writing/recording essays, notes, interviews etc.
- Collective cooking
- Documenting experiences such as cooking and chatting together (multi-context groups)
- Walking individually (with photo/audio/video documentation or without) or collectively (guided and getting lost) walks
- Sharing and discussing experiences with group psychologist
- Socialising, discussing and relaxing in artist made sauna and/or having tea parties



Symposium-workshop

Context in Flux Part I. Nida

Background:

The Swedish Exhibition Agency, Baltic Art Center, Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts and Art Lab Gnesta collaborate to produce two symposiums for invited participants. The aim is to develop tools that can assist cultural institutions who work in many and overlapping contexts.

Baltic Art Center, Nida Art Colony and Art Lab Gnesta are small art institutions that are located in a geographical periphery. They all run residency programs and a range of activities which span from exhibitions to seminars and education. Each institution has their specific profile. At the same time it is evident for these smaller institutions that the conditions are in a continuous change. Target groups are changing, funding is under constant negotiation, new networks develop over geographical and interdisciplinary areas.

Context in Flux are two symposiums, in Nida, Lithuania and Visby, Sweden, that mainly consist of workshops where the participants investigate relationships between place and practice, the interaction between the local situation and the flow of practices and people as well as the residency program as a productive arena and sheltered laboratory.

Goal:

To create a detailed, experiential, performative and materialised case study of Nida Art Colony education and artist-in-residence activities in the context of similar organisations; with an intention to capitalize experiences and transfer them into methodologies which might be useful for other art and culture organisations, as wells as artists working in remote locations, and to publish the results.

Multi-context working group: cultural operators, artists, designers, professors, former AIRs, invited guests (psychologist), curators, experts and students

Topics in discussion:

1. Managing, value and specifics of time: delayed time, anticipated time, direct, indirect and delayed communication; subtopics: extended and concentrated time, sparsity and superficiality, diluted information. Some questions: "How to kill time when travelling every week (Vilnius-Nida-Vilnius, 700km, 10-14 hours)? The choreography of driving a guest or how to make things work: chatting and project making on the road. Do we effectively use travel time for project planning and development? How do we organize travel time for guests?

2. Atmosphere and solitude: "Going insane vs. finding peace in a remote centre" (Staff and residents) temporary communities (including constant flux of welcome and goodbye parties), relation between host and guest, absolute hospitality, community development, privateless space for staff, managing private and public time and space for guests and staff.

3. Methodologies on working with locals; how to make art centres needed by the locals? Involving communities to participatory art projects; Community Integration: Inclusion and accessibility in contemporary art practices, Role playing game (NAC staff/residents play locals and we try out some methodologies)

Participants:

5 team members from Nida Art Colony - NAC (Rasa Antanavičiūtė (executive director), Vytautas Michelkevičius (artistic director), Linas Ramanauskas (producer), Daina Pupkevičiūtė (project assistant)) + intern Eglė Marčiulaitė

*Participant from Baltic Art Center - BAC
Livia Paldi, Director*

*Participants from Art Lab Gnesta - ALG
Signe Johannessen, Initiator
Erik Rören, Initiator*

*Participants from Riksställningar, Swedish Exhibition Agency - RU
Pernilla Glaser, Innovation Developer and Initiator of Lab 13
Maria (Mia) Andersson, Project Coordinator, Context in Flux*

1 artist-moderator former A-I-R of NAC Ernest Tmely (from Culture Factory Polymer; Tallinn, Estonia)

1 emerging artist from LT with experience in NAC projects – Arnas Anskaitis

1 LT curator with experience in NAC curated residencies – Ūla Tornau

1 artist-professor from the Academy Artūras Raila (www.raila.lt) and 2 students (Eglė Vagnoriūtė (LT), George Papalashvili (GA))

1 psychologist Rūta Gražulytė

1 designer with experience in NAC projects - Laura Grigaliūnaitė

1-3 present Artists-in-residency

Co-organisers from NAC: Vytautas, Daina and Rasa with a help by Pernilla and Mia

