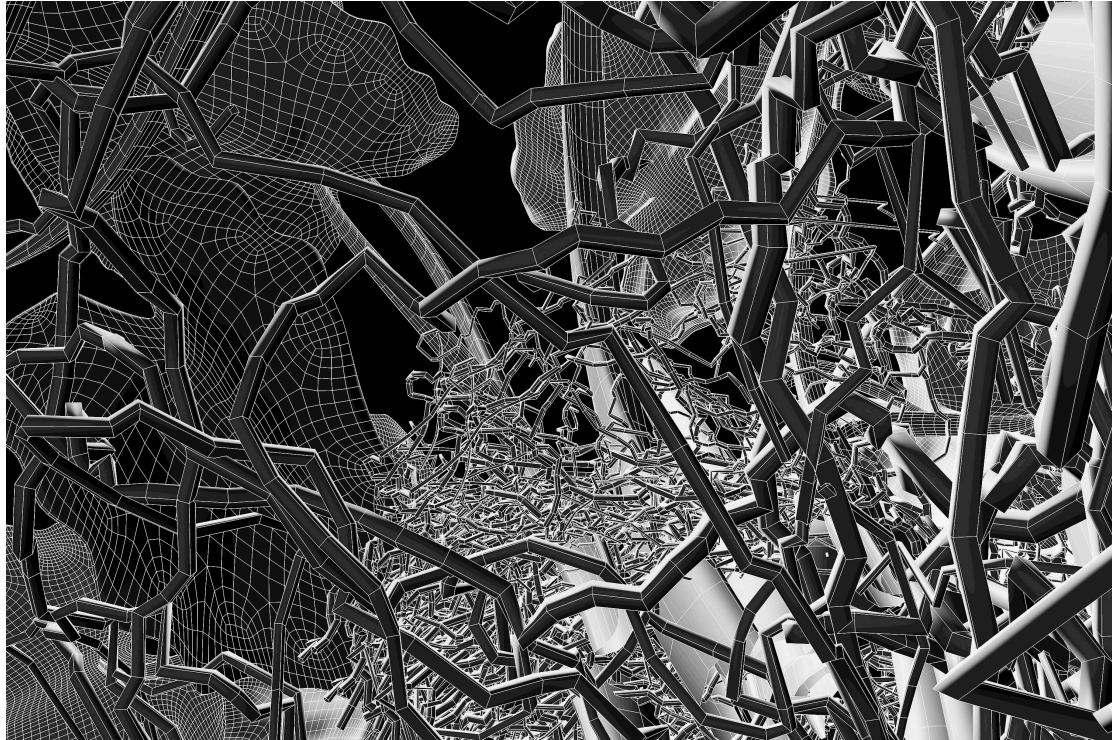


Liepaja University MPLab garden Press Kit

“Planting a Resort for Mental Ecology”

an online exhibition and live-streamed performances from Liepaja (LV)



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Responding to the current uncertainty and socio-economic storms, artists and researchers of MPLab are exploring the fragile structure of mental ecology in processual works, interactive installations, immersive sound and VR environments, and their online exhibition offers a journey through physical and virtual gardens planted for self-sustainability, mental exercise and retreat.

Program:

Part 1 “Planting a Resort for Mental Ecology”

An online exhibition

People of Liepaja know very well that a garden is essential for keeping the status quo – without planting a park along the coast, the little seaside town would be consumed by sand, wind and water. The roots of trees keep the structure of the dunes stable, and people of Liepaja can retreat from the everyday struggles and storms in a safe and constant calmness of the garden environment.

“Planting a Resort for Mental Ecology” is a response to the current overwhelming political, environmental and economic uncertainty of today. Residing in the coastal resort town of Liepaja, the artists and researchers of MPLab are exploring the concept of mental ecology (Guattari 1989) and developing techno-ecological systems and strategies for well-being during the times of change. In the web-based exhibition online visitors will be able to discover vernacular social practices of building places for psycho-emotional retreat; deep technology driven methods for the exploration of the mental sphere, and intimate acts of nurturing the well-being of oneself.

Time: 09/09/2020 00:00 CET – 13/09/2020 23:59 CET

Artists: Maija Demitere, Krista Dintere, Rogier Jupijn, Diana Lelis, Tija Plāce, Andrejs Poikāns, Andra Strautiņa, Līga Vēliņa, Ieva Vīksne, Paula Vītola, Spāre Vītola, Milda Ziemane

Curator: Anna Priedola

Design: Uldis Hasners, Kaspars Jaudzems

Link: resort.mplab.lv

Part 2 “Natural Growth”

60h live streamed tele-gardening experience
planted by Maija Demitere and Rogier Jupijn

The artists are offering to embrace the boredom, to practice mindfulness.

In a world full of uncertainty and anxiety, Maija Demitere and Rogier Jupijn have created a mediated environment where everyone is invited to come and watch the plants grow. Plants will take all the time they need, regardless of human will, nearly all of the process of gardening is waiting.

In this mediated environment, the artists are sharing their life and the life of their plants.

Maija Demitere is an artist and doctoral student of Liepaja University exploring self-sustainability, slow media art and gardening as a method for nurturing a stable mental ecology. Currently she works together with Rogier Jupijn (NL) – a tinkerer and teacher of electronics.

Time: 09/09/2020 00:00 CET – 13/09/2020 23:59 CET

Access via resort.mplab.lv

Part 3 “Mental Acoustics”

Audiovisual performances by various artists

During the performances sound and audiovisual artists of Liepaja will examine their mental architecture using the approach of deep technology and biometrics, which will result in a data driven electronic music concert.

Time: 12/09/2020 21:00 CET – 22:00 CET

Access via resort.mplab.lv

Part 4 “Light Tracks”

Photoacoustic performance by Paula Vītola

It is the belief of the artist that media art can make one's life seem longer by triggering their curiosity and attention, and thus increasing their mental well-being. During her photoacoustic performance Paula Vītola will examine the material and metaphoric aspects of light using an adapted interface of world's first wireless communication device – Alber Bell's Photophone.

Time: 13/09/2020 13:00 CET – 14:00 CET

Access via resort.mplab.lv

Organisers: University Art Research Laboratory MPLab in collaboration with ASTE. Art, Science, Technology, Education.

Liepaja University Art Research Laboratory (MPLab) was established in 2006 as a structural research unit under the Faculty of Humanities, [Liepaja University \(LV\)](#). The general aim of MPLab is to perform scientific research in the field of new media, culture and education, and to establish dynamic, innovative and responsive environment for research in art locally and nationally. MPLab develops new media art education in Liepaja in strong collaboration with art practitioners, NGOs and public institutions.

The main tasks of MPLab are based on the research of the process in visual and sound arts practice and theory, immersive media art and art education realizing national, international and interdisciplinary research projects realizing and promoting them via publications, conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, short term artist residencies and annual international art festivals and platforms like Update festival (update.mplab.lv), Sound Days (sound.mplab.lv) and Open Lab produced in collaboration with Latvian media art centres like [ASTE](#), E-LAB and [RIXC](#).

Web: mplab.lv

ASTE. Art, Science, Technology, Education is an artist-led NGO established in 2019 in Liepaja (LV) to organize and implement regional and international cultural and educational activities in the fields of new media art and sound art, and to promote media literacy for school age children and young people by organising regular exhibitions, workshops, seminars and other art and science education activities.

Web: aste.gallery

Contacts:

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- Press photos in zip file
- Logo(s) in zip file