

Saskia Fischer

AFTER DARK

2025.02.13 – 03.29

At night, as children, we dream of the unknown, and our limbs grow.

As we age, we dream about what has passed, and our bodies heal.

Saskia Fischer's first solo exhibition with Drifts Gallery, her second in Lithuania, traverses the night's edge. Twilight contains infinite possibilities to dream, hide, and engage in other nocturnal activities, in secret and anonymous. This exhibition includes Saskia's new film *Nakties Daržininkė* (*The Night Gardener*), a suite of four light sculptures, and four short stories by international authors.

Her work scrutinizes the complex relationships between natural and built environments. Understanding that contrast is intensely individual, influenced by each person's intimate image of mobility, migration, gender, and identity.

The film *Nakties Daržininkė* (*The Night Gardener*) follows a surreal character roaming dim landscapes during the blue hours. We listen to their inner voice, their thoughts on being a fluctuating, migrating, shapeshifting, ever-changing character that mirrors the changing seasons. They witness the persistent human alteration of geography and its corresponding effect on individuals and their surroundings. Shot on 8mm film during the spring and autumn of 2024 on the Curonian Spit, it imagines the mythical caretakers who might act as eternal stewards of the vast lands humans can only borrow.

The colourful lanterns, fabricated from genuine antique glass, guide us through the exhibition rooms. Their glow draws us into and out of the film, mimicking a grand theatre, or an illuminated pavement. Short stories accompany each sculpture, each reflecting several of the film's motives: dreams and cinema, care and identity, language and transience, fruit and power. These texts introduce us to the film, but also guide us away from a literal interpretation, strolling down different footpaths through this metaphorical garden.

Those with power politicize migrants as alien bodies, albeit to varied degrees and privileges. By choice or by force, by physical relocation or cultural isolation, an individual's sense of place is continuously in flux. Each transplanted body undergoes a slow, strenuous estrangement from their former homes and the people they once were.

Saskia Fischer (born in Stuttgart DE, lives in Vilnius LT and Stuttgart DE) is an artist researching the paradigms shaping the landscape as a reflection of cultural and social values. In particular, she investigates how Western worldviews reinforce a false separation between anthropological urbanism and the concept of nature through colonial taxonomies, building artificial barriers between land and communities. Her work synthesizes architecture, mobility, urban planning, landscape design, horticulture, and art history through interdisciplinary installations, public interventions, and photography.

Saskia studied photography at Folkwang University (Essen DE), glass, sculpture, and installation at the Estonian Academy of Arts (Tallinn EE), and completed an MFA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College (London UK). She is a lecturer and fellow at the Weissenhof Programme at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste (Stuttgart DE), and a former resident at Cité internationale des arts (Paris FR), Hangar (Barcelona ES), Fundaziun Nairs (Scuol CH), Rupert (Vilnius LT), and Nida Art Colony (Nida LT). Recent projects include *A Place Between Night and Day*, Tallinn Art Hall (Tallinn EE); *Zero is the Moon*, Nova Space and Bauhaus University (Weimar DE); *Touched Untouched*, Württembergischer Kunstverein (Stuttgart DE), and *LIGHTS, apiece* (Vilnius LT).

JL Murtaugh (born in Chicago US, lives in Vilnius LT) is the curator of residencies and public programmes at Rupert (Vilnius LT).

AUTHORS

Francesco Urbano Ragazzi is a curatorial duo born in Paris in 2008. They are known for testing the intersections between independent cinema, visual arts, and digital media, as well as their long-term collaboration with Jonas Mekas. Recent projects include *Save Me From Tears*, Kursaal Theatre (Bari IT), Jonas Mekas: *Images are Real*, Mattatoio (Rome IT), and *Fantasmagoriana*, the 2022 Lofoten International Art Festival (Kabelvåg NO).

Mirela Baciak (born in Warsaw PL, lives in Salzburg AT) is a curator, and director of the Salzburger Kunstverein. Her practice is guided by hospitality as a process capturing one's ethical relation to the unknown and strange. She was formerly a curator at *steirischer herbst* (Graz and Styria AT) and *Public Art Munich* (DE). Recent projects include *The Color of Energy* (with *viennacontemporary*), *The Myth of Normal*, and *ECHO**: Martin Beck and Sung Tieu.

Edita Anglickaitė-Beržinskienė (lives in Klaipėda LT), is an educator and guide at the Neringa Museums in Nida LT. She graduated from the Kaunas University of Technology, studying the philosophy of culture. Edita researches the culture of memory, how each of us creates history, and how everyday objects can become treasured relics. She writes cultural articles for *Dorė*, a Curonian Spit almanac, and scripts for documentary films.

Goda Marija Gasiūnaitė (born and lives in Vilnius LT) is a researcher and historian. Her work challenges cultural narratives of progress and control, blending anthropological analysis with poetic, sensorial reflections that trace how landscape and gender intersect across time. In 2022, with Belgian designer Delphine Lejeune, she released *Evergreen*, an intimate publication exploring emancipation through nature.

After Dark I – IV

genuine antique glass, steel, and wire; variable dimensions, 2025

Nakties Daržininkė (The Night Gardener)

17'30", Super 8 / 2K, 2025

Sutemos (After Dark)

Texts: Edita Anglickaitė-Beržinskienė, Mirela Baciak,

Francesco Urbano Ragazzi, Goda Gasiūnaitė

Curator: JL Murtaugh

Production: Eglė Kliučinskaitė

Graphic Design: Short Notice Studio

Translation: Alexandra Bondarev

Technical Support: Vadim Šamkov

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Gallery of Art

Nakties Daržininkė (The Night Gardener)

Cast: Dani V. Keller and Ana Lipps

Screenplay: Saskia Fischer and JL Murtaugh

Photography: Saskia Fischer

Editing: Saskia Fischer

Music: Liudmila

Production: Eglė Kliučinskaitė

Costume: Melitta Baumeister and Mihał Plata

Choreography: Barnett Cohen

Colours: Justinas Vencius

Art Direction: Short Notice Studio

Translation: Alexandra Bondarev

Audio Recording: Justina Šimonytė

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Tubinyte, Kuršių Nerijos Nacionalinis Parkas, Modestas Bružas,

Neringa Museums, Nida Art Colony, Vaida Stepanovaitė, Yana

Ustymentko