

**DUO EXHIBITION BY TUOMAS A. LAITINEN & KRISTINA ÕLLEK „CYANOCEANS“  
AT KAI ART CENTER 27.01–4.08.2024**



## **EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

### **About Kai Art Center**

Kai Art Center, opened in the fall of 2019, is located in a century-old former secret submarine plant. It is the cultural heart of the seaside Noblessner harbor complex – a fascinating mix of regional history, period-tinged architecture, and contemporary art and culture.

### **About the artists and the exhibition**

The duo exhibition by Tuomas A. Laitinen (Finland) and Kristina Õllek (Estonia) focuses on marine ecology, climate change and species adaptation. “Cyanoceans” is an invitation to go on an underwater journey into the deepest layers of geological and ecological time of the oceans. While focusing on marine ecology in the age of climate change and loss of biodiversity, the exhibition invites us to contemplate and speculate on the subjects of human impact, desire, and adaptability.

Tuomas A. Laitinen's work explores the complex relationships in our ecosystem, inspired by biology and myths. He focuses on cephalopods, studying their behavior and adaptation. Laitinen uses glass for his sculptures, made by littala glassmith near Helsinki. His new video, "Proposal for Octopus," shows octopuses changing skin color, filmed at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology.

Kristina Õllek studies marine ecology, using experiments with different materials. Her recent work for the Kai installation involves the Baltic Sea, creating art with sea salt, cyanobacteria, and fluorescent pigment in aquariums, which changes over time.

## **About the education programme**

### **Students will:**

- get to know Kai Art Center and the surrounding Noblessner district;
- take part in a guided tour of the exhibition and get an overview about the artists' practice;
- exchange thoughts on the connections between art and science;
- get an insight into the research on octopuses' sleeping patterns and the artist's approach to this;
- engage in a discussion about the human impact on the Baltic Sea and how we as individuals, can do our part in protecting it, as well as whether art could instigate consideration over environmental questions and inspire change;
- disserting concepts such as climate change, mutualism, hypoxic, cyanobacteria
- take part in an interactive task.

The programme lasts approximately 60 minutes.

### **The participants of the education programme will:**

- analyze a contemporary artwork and discuss the topics currently relevant in contemporary culture;
- get acquainted with the terminology used in contemporary art;
- learn to see the connections between art and other areas of life;
- get acquainted with the wide interpretation of the term "contemporary art" and the scope of artistic methods;
- will understand the international context and local level of the exhibition;
- get to know one of the newest art centers in Tallinn and get inspiration for further independent visits.

### **Practical information:**

- the programme lasts approximately 60 minutes;
- the programmes are created for all school levels and students from hobby schools;
- the cost of one programme session is 4 euros per person;
- for camp programmes, there is an additional fee of 25 euros per programme;
- the minimum size of the group is 12 students (for a smaller group the cost for the programme is 48 euros);
- education programme sessions can be held at any convenient time by appointment.

### **Additional information and booking:**

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