

Honeymoon

video, 4 min, 2023

The video explores the dangers of marriage and skateboarding. Like a wobbly flâneur, a white wedding cake on a rickety plastic penny board seeks thrills in the dirty streets - until it crashes dramatically.



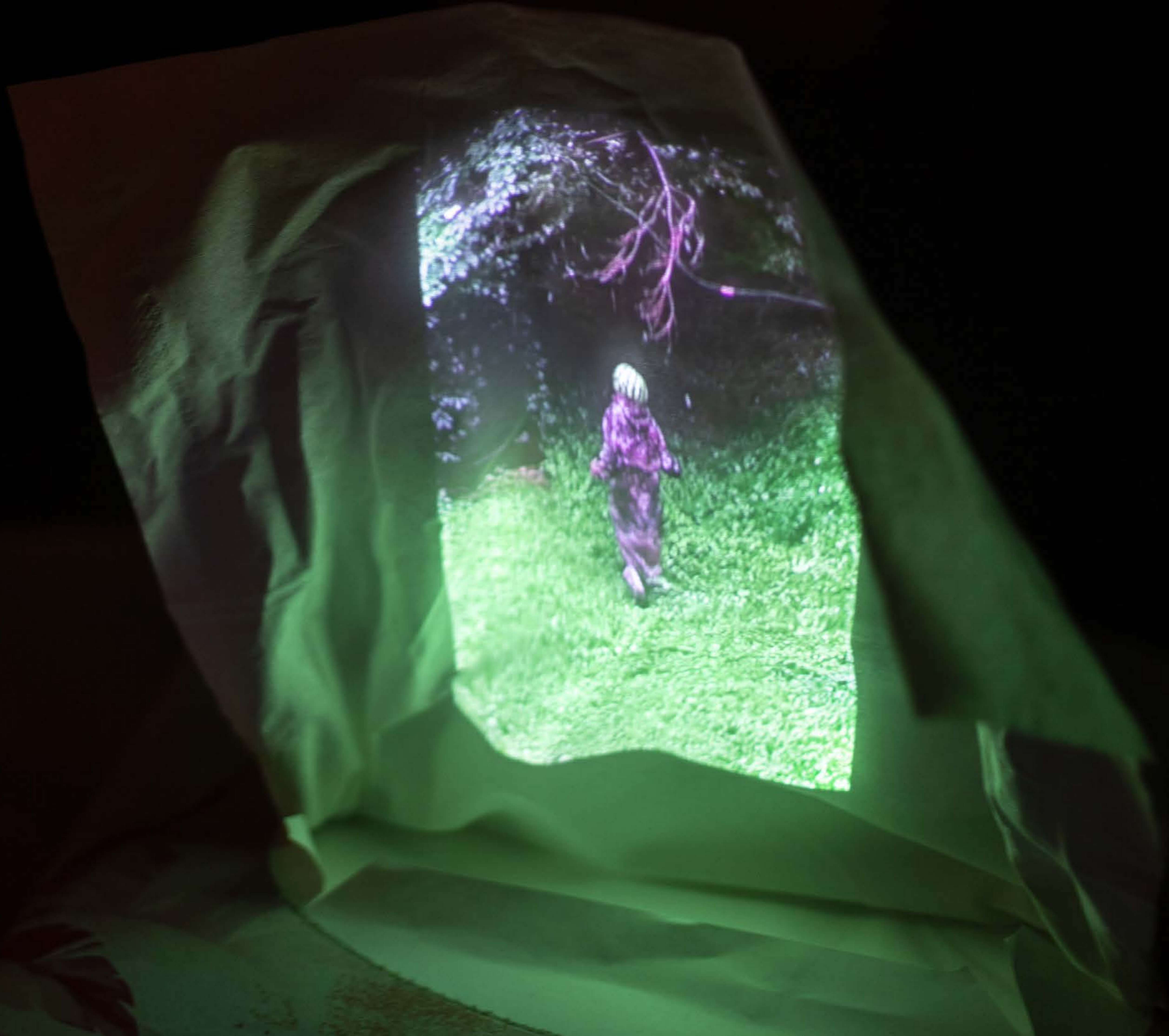
Drrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

Flybykes, Berlin, 2024

Pop-up exhibition at the bike shop
Flybykes in Berlin.
Dirty Romantics draws inspiration
from the concept of mistakes
and mischief, focusing on the
aestheticization of destructive
phenomena.







watch



Dirty Roman

gallery Visuma centrs 2

Madona, 2023

Dirty Romantics & Roman Hruda

One day, Rubber Hedgehog and Sunny Bumbulītis met Dirty Roman, a boy who likes to be naked and play with socks. Dirty Roman told them about Visuma Centrs 2, where a girl named Shady Lady lives. They decided to go together to a Latvian town covered in the hopes of ants.





Artefacts for an intergalactic visitor

gallery PaiR, Pāvilsta, 2024

Reality has turned out to be much closer to Hollywood movie plots, and now the *Dr. Strangelove* scenario feels frighteningly real. Every day, it becomes harder to detach ourselves from global crises and the looming threat of the end of the world. For example, we watch disaster movies or observe real storms from the comfort of an armchair, sipping our favorite drink.





Mākslas Žurnāls #10

Rīga: SIA Valters Dakša, ISSN 2592-9801

Before landing an aircraft, the pilot usually performs several important tasks and checks to ensure a safe landing. The sun disappears into the nanoplastic clouds and Bumbulītis remembers the magic truffles mixed with nuts he brought with him and starts sorting. The black rubber wheels hit the grey asphalt.

Sunny Bumbulītis has brought the Rubber Hedgehog to Riga for the first time!! And so it will be the 8th of March celebration. Bumbulītis is thinking of showing Hedgehog his two mums, his flat with a TOI-TOI toilet and the Bolderāja bookshop. The stairs rolling to the plane.

Soon you will be able to release your knees and touch Rubber Hedgehog, who sits and blinks her eyes. So truffles in one bag, nuts in the other... Let's switch on the phone in case Mum calls. Finally the door is open. Two men in green vests come into the cabin and give a sheet of A4 to the stewardess. Bumbulītis hasn't been in Latvia for half a year, he wants

to get out of this yellow-blue plastic monster.

The girl with the colorful make-up starts to say something into the microphone: "Please... Mr.Gavles....". Silence on the plane. The girl repeats: "Is there Mr.Galejs in the plane?". Bumbulītis looks at the back of his seat and thinks that it probably sounds like "Grāvlejs" and that Bumbulītis is not dreaming.

The girl continues: "Please press the flash light..."... The surrounding silence worries Sunny Bumbulītis. Could they really have found out about the magic truffles? Sunny raises his index finger uncertainly. Passengers' excited fingers point to the dirty button. The button must be pressed... Sunny presses it, the people around him gasp, the stewardess gives a new task: "Please take your personal belongings and get off the plane first."

Sunny Bumbulītis thinks, what to do with the truffles now? Where is my Hedgehog???? I guess I'm famous, there'll be flashlights and interviews, YOU're our most valuable

Ryanair customer!! Bumbulītis deftly picks up his backpack and, as if on the catwalk of a fashion show, heads for the exit to the stewardess and the two green men. YES!!... thinks Bumbulītis.

One of the policemen says, "Don't worry, someone tried to call you.... follow us...."

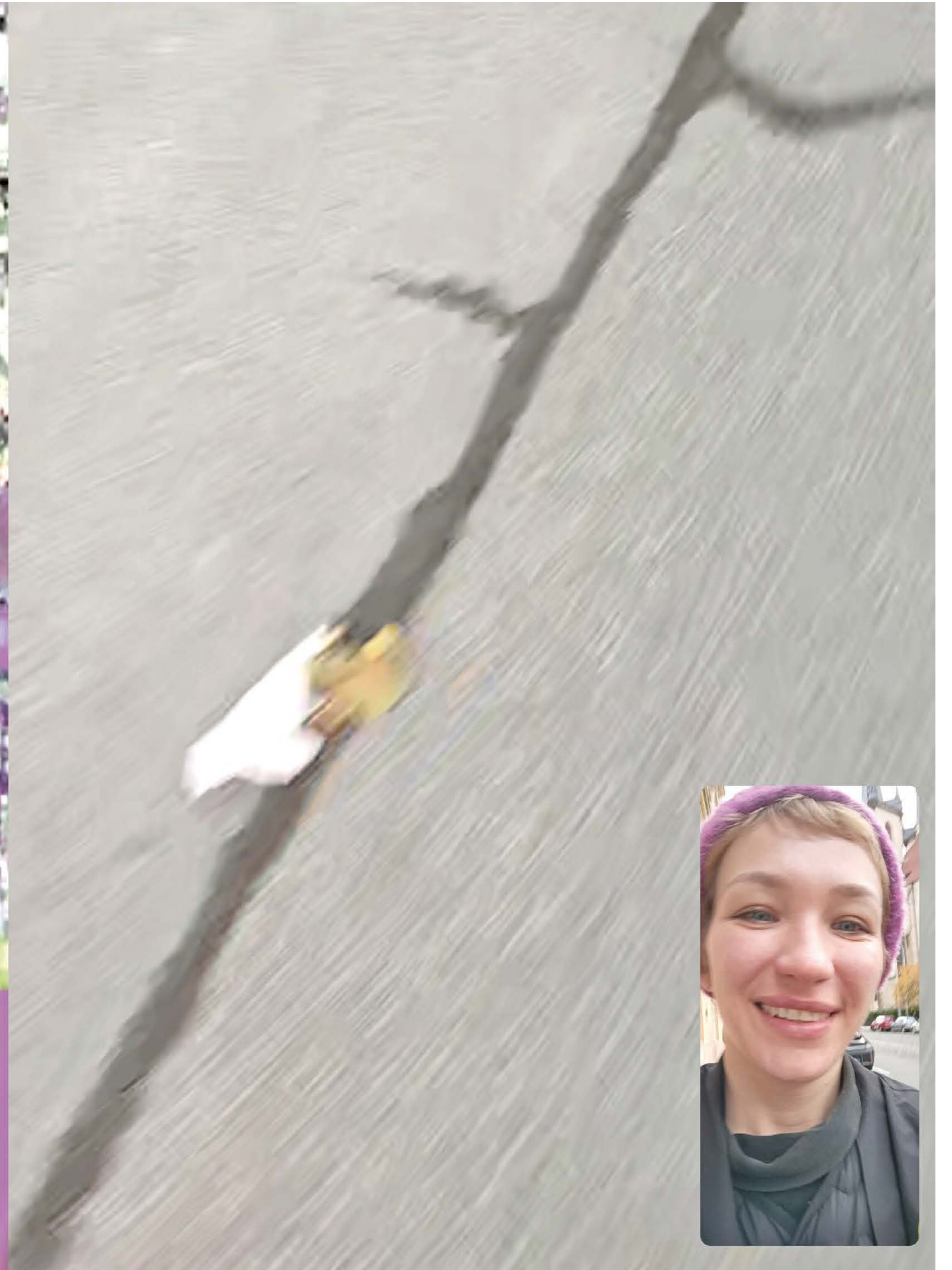
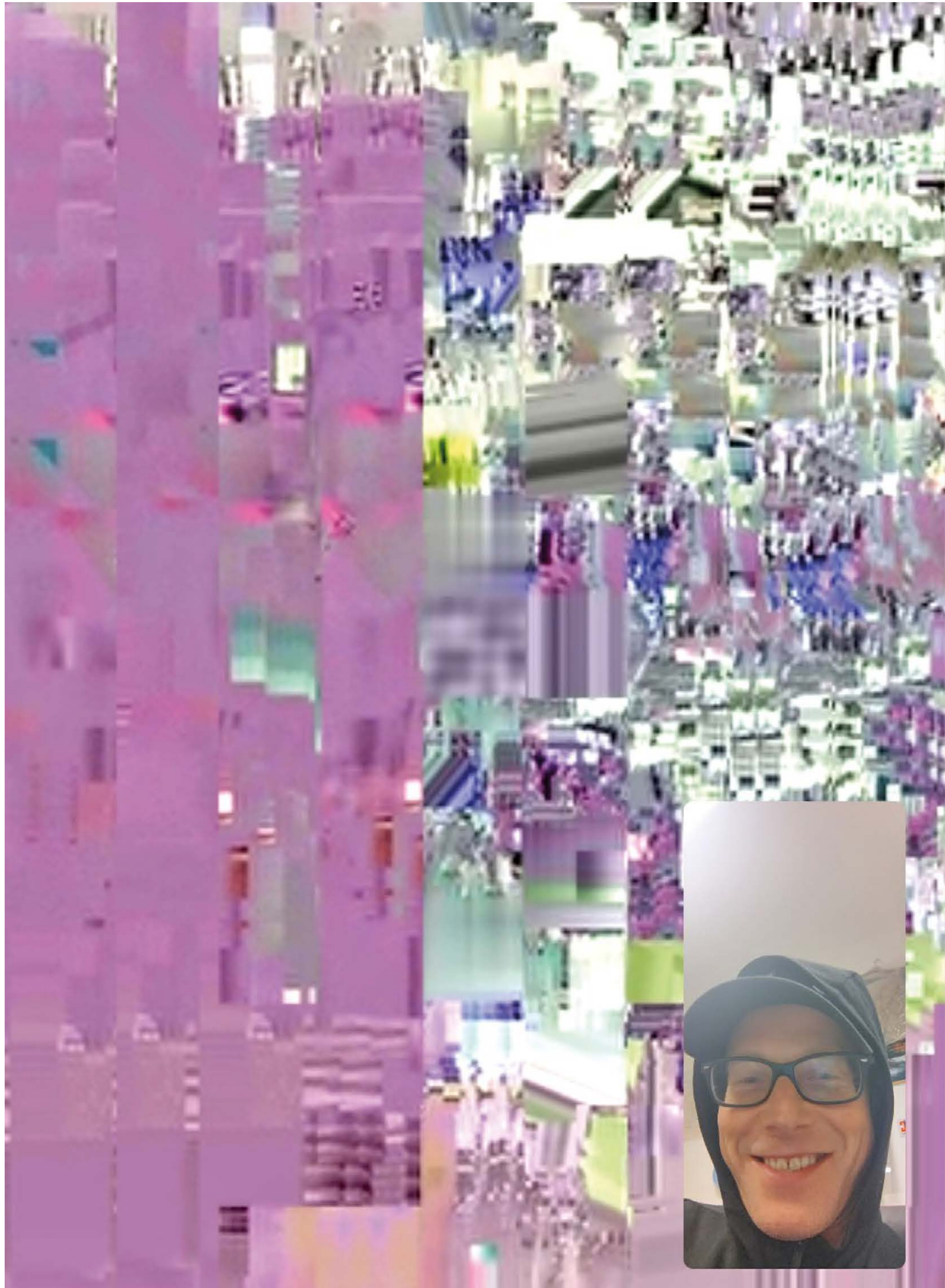
Bumbulītis climbs out, and hopes that in an age of caring and justice Rubber Hedgehog will get rid off the sticky flies with the words,

"Kurli, kurli, kurli..." "The policemen are vulnerable to forced labour and will probably give a fine to Bumbulītis for rarely visiting his fatherland.

After a timid synergy with the guardians of the law, Sunny wakes up and sees his black fingerprints on sweaty paper. A criminal case has been initiated because Bumbulītis publicly confessed his love for Rubber Hedgehog.

Катя люблю тебя, Ivars 2022.





Check - in

Hotel Continental - Art Space in Exile
Berlin, 2025

Exploring the themes of confusion, immigration, and personal frustration, with curiosity and idiotic optimism, we aim to interpret the fragile feelings of non-belonging.

Reflecting the experience of constant movement from place to place, from country to country. As a child on a swing, excited by the dizziness, we are losing the ground and delving into a new and confusing reality.

The group exhibition by Dirty Romantics, Camille Laurelli, Zina Isupova, Felix Oehmann.
Curated by Dirty Romantics.



Felix Oehmann, Simple Touch #4, 2014



Dirty Romantics, German class, 2025



Exhibition view by Dirty Romantics, 2025

Dear Mykhailo,

I've been thinking about your latest project, and I feel I need to say something, even if it's hard for me. When you were a little boy, I always believed you would do great things, things that would make people proud. I thought you'd create something beautiful, something meaningful that would inspire others and reflect all the potential I saw in you. But when I look at this... this chewing gum and wooden circles, I can't help but feel disappointed.

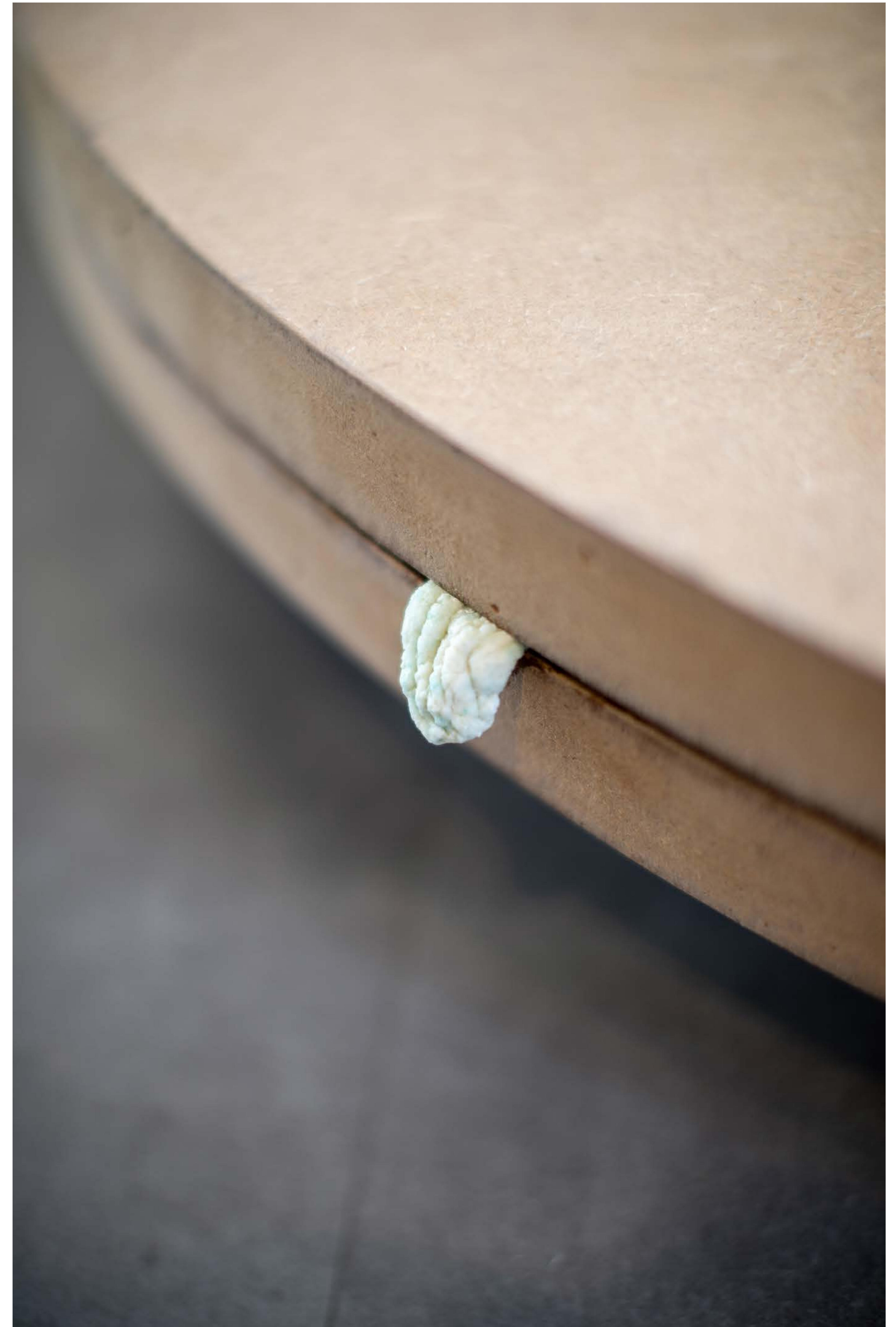
Is this what all your talent and imagination have come to? Chewing gum? Used gum stuck between two wooden circles? I tried to understand, truly. I told myself, "Maybe there's something deeper here, something profound." But no matter how hard I try, I can't see it. All I see is a mess - a sticky, unrefined mess. And I ask myself, where did I go wrong?

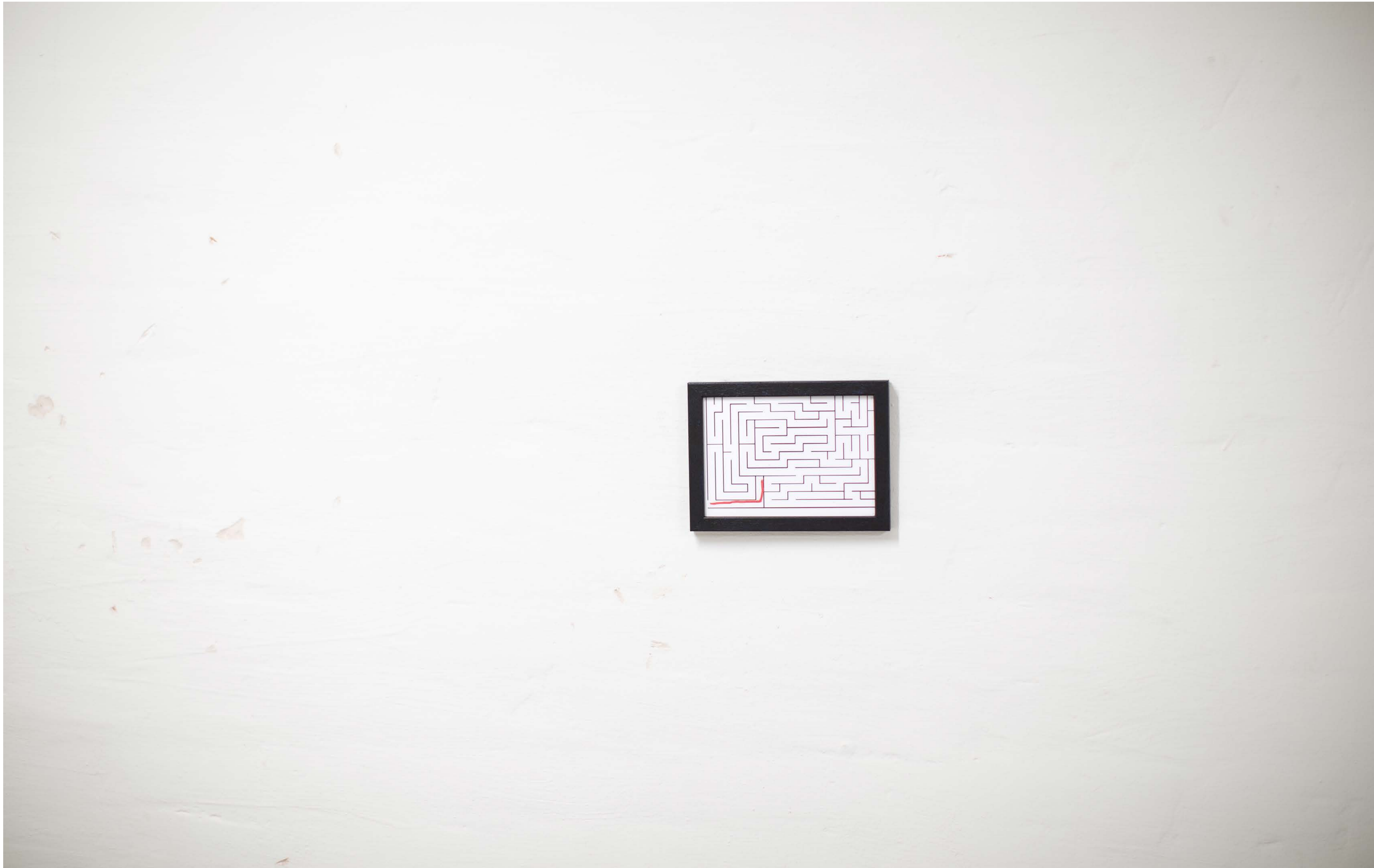
You've always been so creative, so full of ideas. I thought you'd build something lasting, something that shows the strength and determination I know you have. Instead, you've made something that feels temporary, careless, and, dare I say, meaningless. Chewing gum, Mykhailo. Chewing gum!

I raised you to be strong, to respect your work, and to create with intention. But this feels like you've abandoned all those lessons. Have you lost your way? Or is this truly who you are now - someone who sees value in discarded pieces of life? I wanted so much more for you, Mykhailo. I wanted you to be someone I could point to and say, "That's my son. Look at what he's made." But I'm struggling to find that pride now.

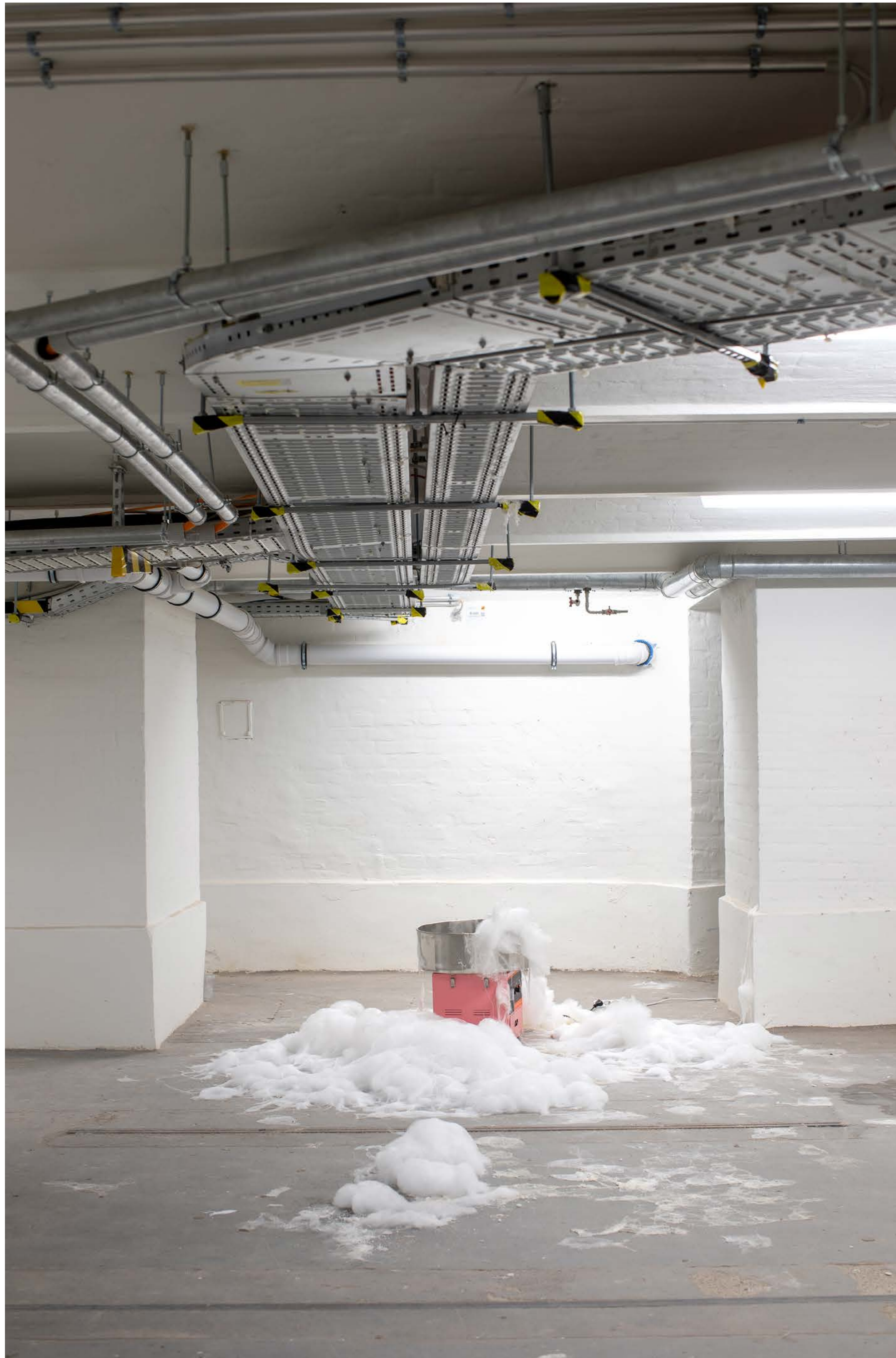
Please, think about what you're doing. Think about how you want to be remembered. You are capable of so much more than this.

Your mother,
Olena Piryzhok

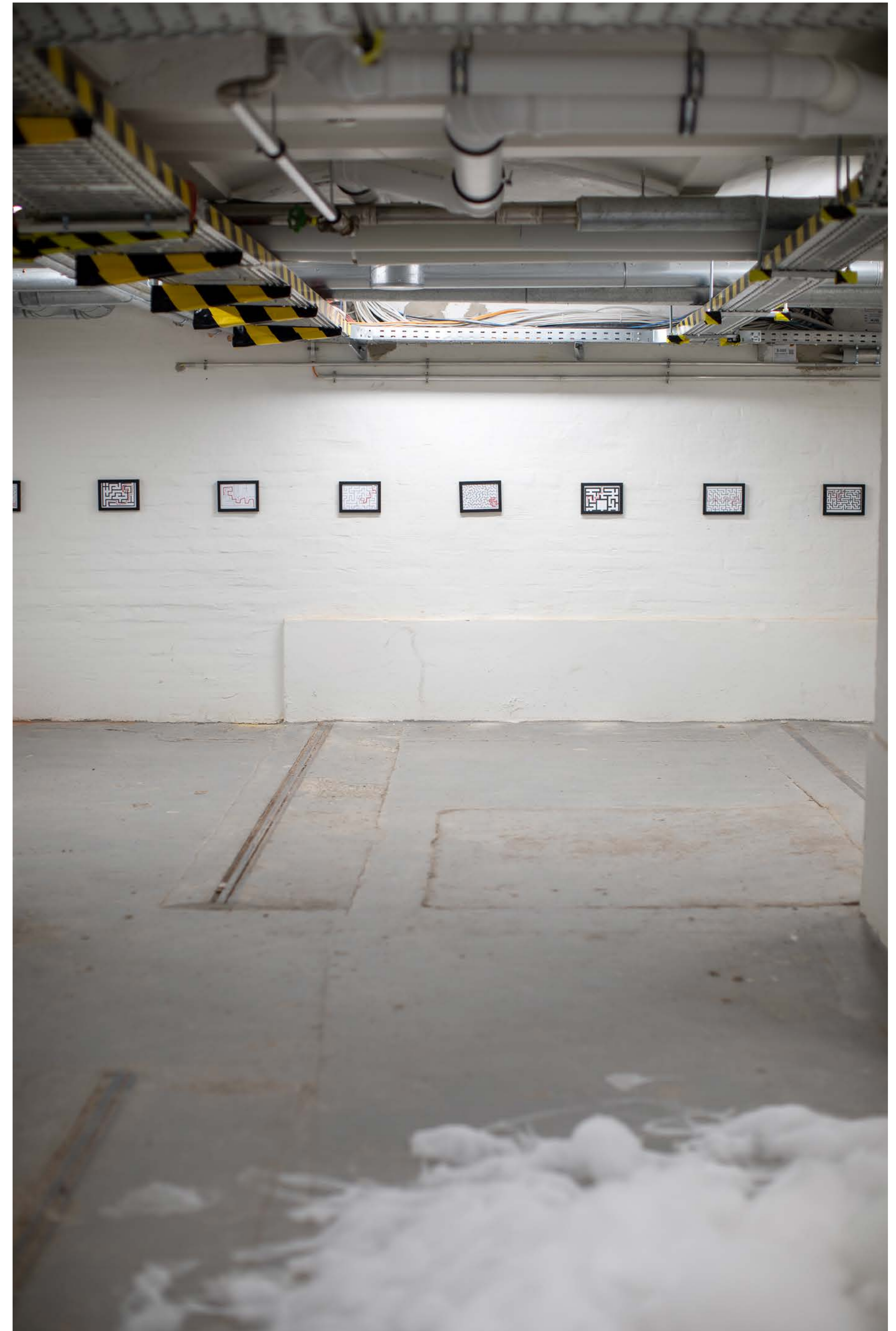




Camille Laurelli, End of the death, 2023



Dirty Romantics, Cotton candy, 2025



Camille Laurelli, End of the death, 2023



Felix Oehmann, Skin of a house #5 and Miserable filthy pig, 2025



Zina Isupova, Hole, 2025

It's never been such bad weather before

gallery Bunkr, Most, 2025

I don't see my mom often, but she calls me every week. Most of the time, I just listen to her complaints - that it's too hot, or too cold again. That the streets are slippery or dirty. That the mosquitoes have bitten her so badly. Her whole body is covered in red, itchy bumps. In short, everything is terrible, and it just keeps getting worse. Even the TV is boring.

I try to understand why she's so pessimistic.

Is she unhappy because she was born in West Germany and her parents later decided to return to Latvia? Or because she wasn't accepted to study architecture? Maybe it's because of the collapse of the Soviet Union, after which she lost her job? Or perhaps it was when the illusion of security dissolved after she met my unpredictable father?

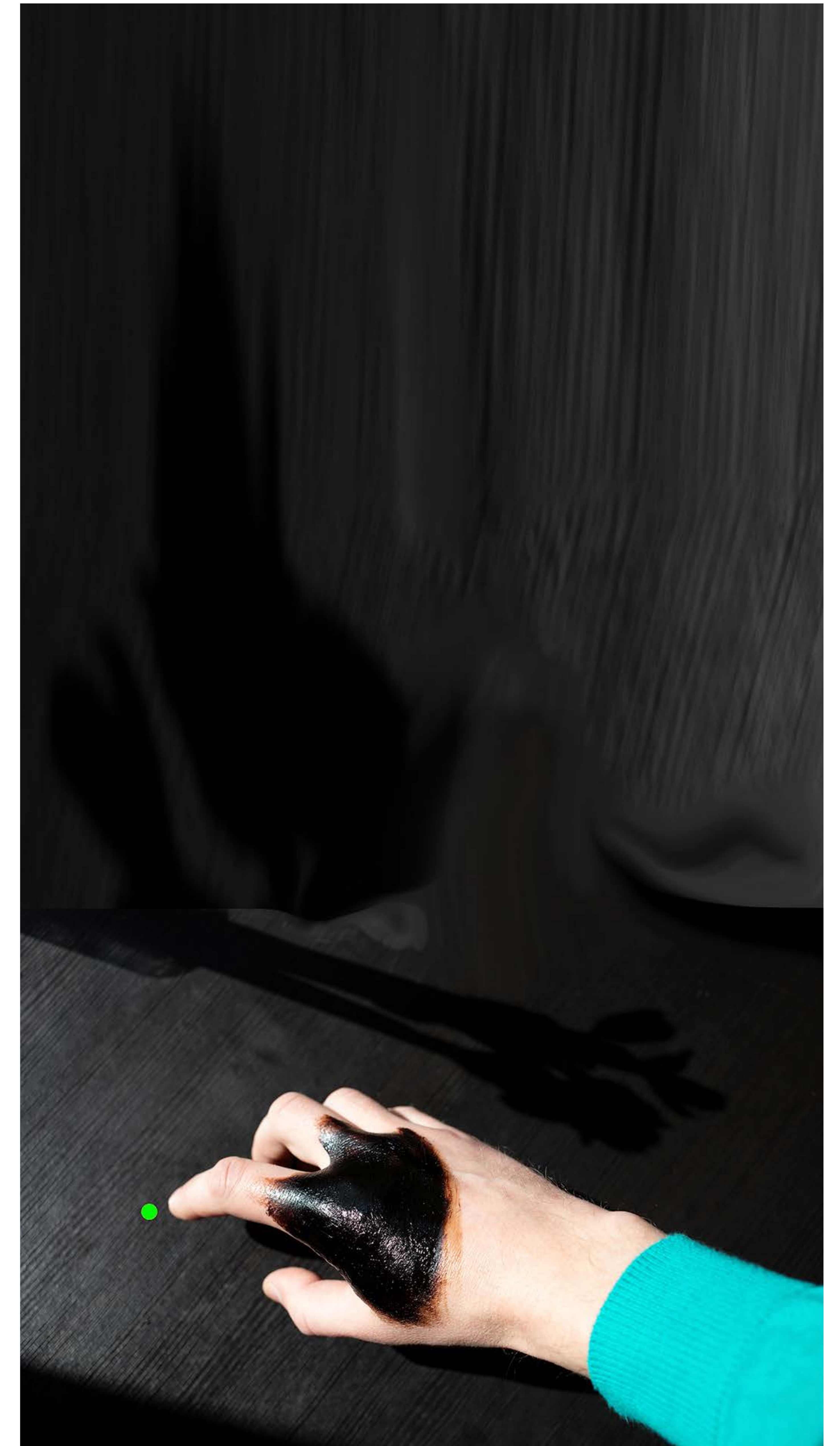
And then I hang up.

Katya looks at me and says, "You're just like your mom. Negative, negative, negative!"

And she continues:

"My mom tells me, she planted tomatoes and cucumbers. Life is beautiful. She waters the flowers, plays with the dog, renovates the apartment — all while Dnipro is surrounded by Russians."

The exhibition *It's never been such bad weather before* dives into naive, childlike dreams driven by hope for a better life - to remain optimistic and never give up.





Losing lottery tickets and Kofola fontaine, 2025



Ring for sale, 2025

Nu labi

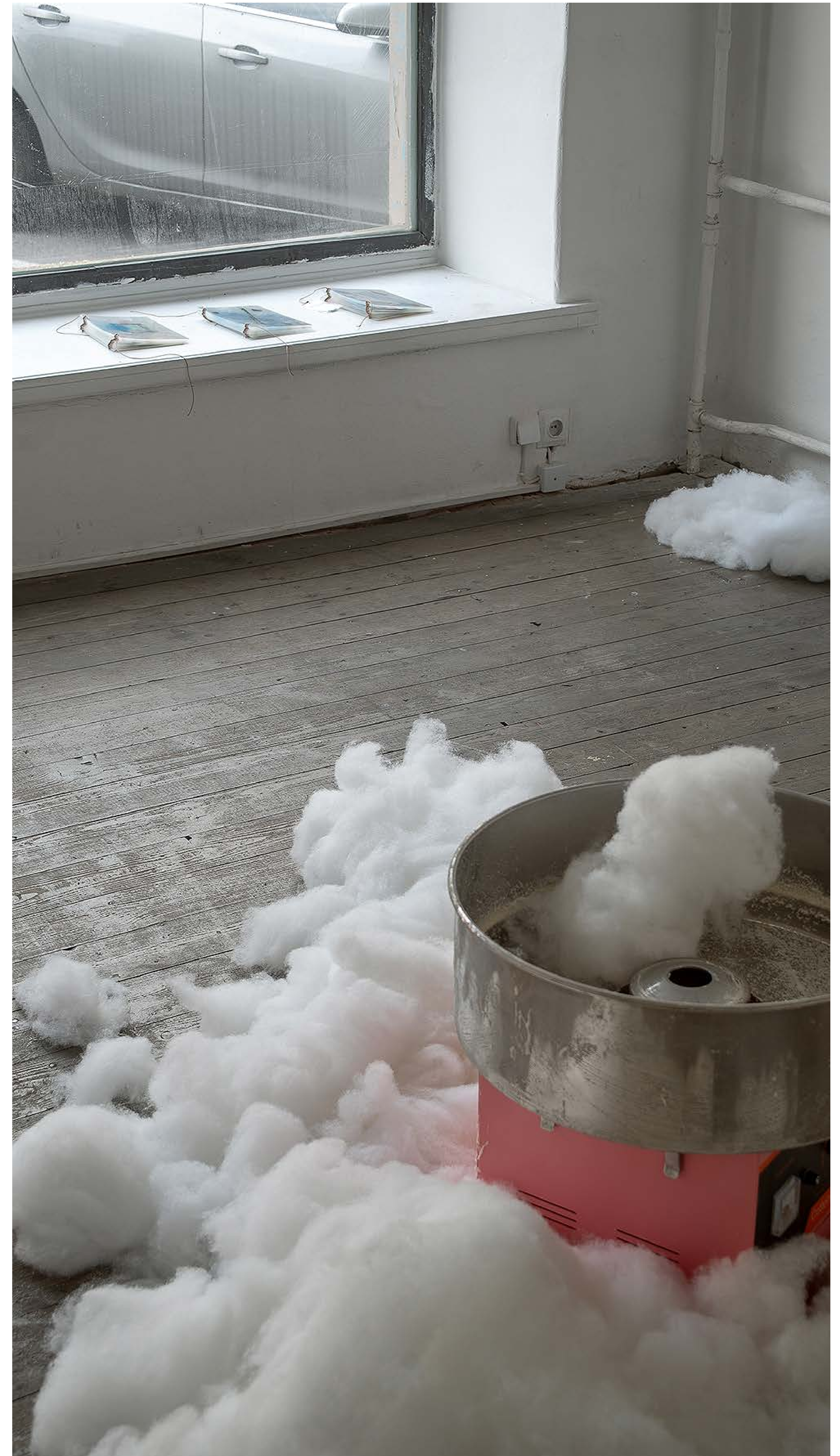
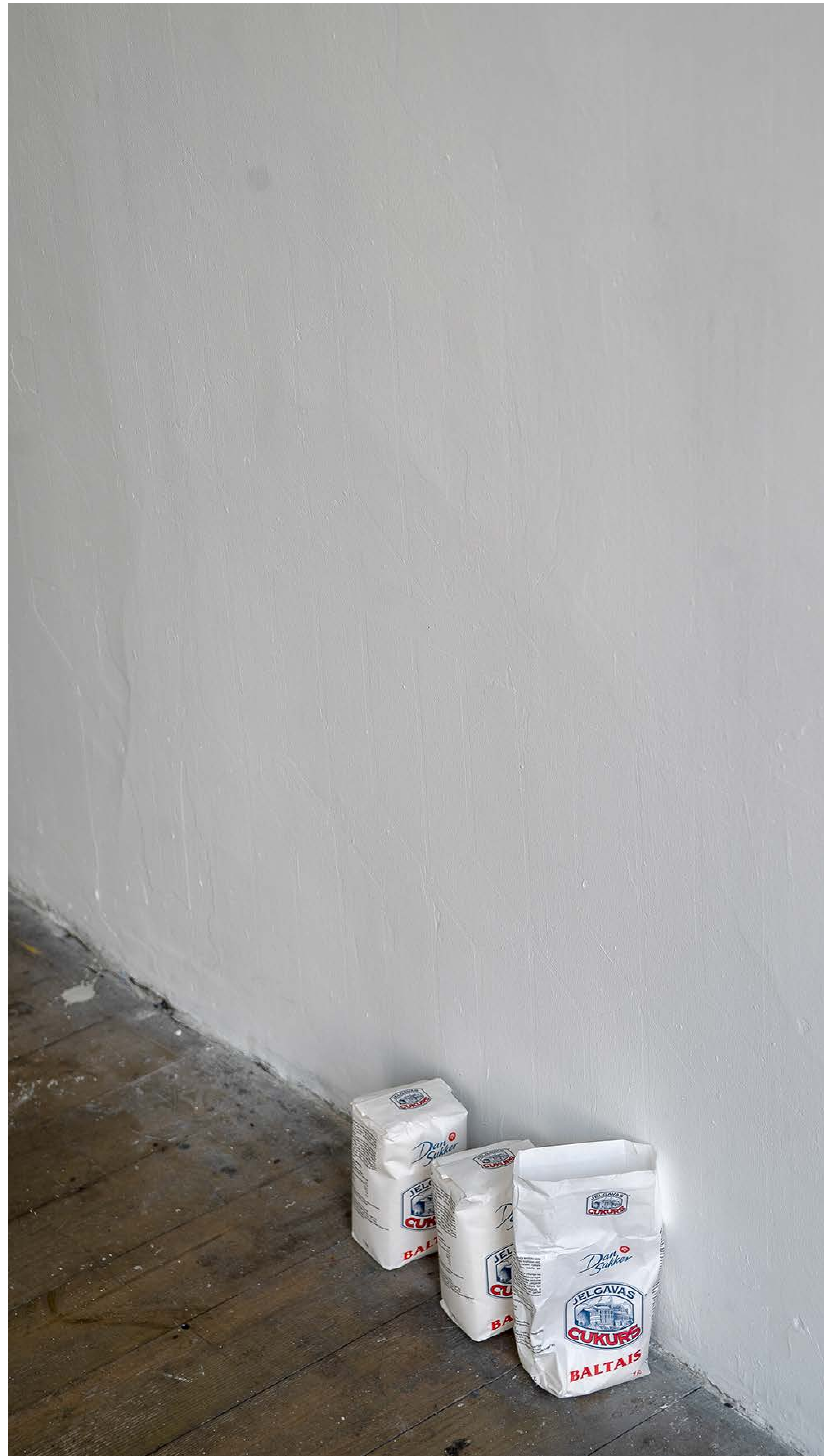
gallery 427, Riga, 2025

Nu labi is often used as a compromise solution – a way to keep the peace, avoid conflict and not step out of your comfort zone.

It is consent without conviction, reconciliation without struggle, and this tonal grayness embodies the spirit of the works in the exhibition.

Like *Nu labi*, these works are also in an intermediate state – between excitement and fatigue, between naivety and criticism.





2025

Nu Labi, Gallery 427, Riga

Untitled, Utopia, Berlin

It's Never Been Such Bad Weather Before, Bunkr, Most

Check - in, Hotel Continental - Art Space in Exile, Berlin

2024

Drrrrrrrrrrrr, Flybykes, Berlin

UKR|RUS, shuttle Brighton Beach < >East Village, New York

Artefacts for an intergalactic visitor, PaiR, Pāvilosta

Octopus Rococo, Kogo Gallery, Tartu

Mākslas Žurnāls #10, Rīga: SIA Valters Dakša, ISSN 2592-9801

2023

Looking for Trouble, Galleri Image, Aarhus

Dirty Roman in collab. with Roman Hruda, Centre of Universe 2, Madona

Ти як?, Museum of Contemporary Art of Ukraine, Kiev

Open Studios, Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht

Kateryna Berlova (b. 1986, Dnipro) is Ukrainian artist currently based in Berlin. Since 2022, she has been a fellow of the Junge Akademie, Akademie der Künste (ADK), and in 2023 she graduated from the Jan van Eyck Academie. Her work delves into themes of repetition and trauma, which she perceives as manifestations of time or its visible traces. Berlova employs video to document repetitive, monotonous, or obsessive actions that often embody failure. Drawing from her personal experiences, she transcends the individual to explore universal ideas. Fascinated by failures, she examines how these elements challenge cinematic conventions and expand its possibilities. Her practice spans multiple mediums, including video, sound, painting, installation, and site-specific art. She currently works primarily with Ivars Gravlejs as part of the duo Dirty Romantics.

More: katerynaberlova.com

Ivars Gravlejs (b. 1979, Riga) is a Latvian artist and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology (Czech Republic). He studied photography at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU) from 2000 to 2007 and later earned a PhD from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (AVU). During his studies at FAMU, Gravlejs shifted his focus from documentary photography to a conceptual approach, leading to the creation of the project *Early Works*. This project was published by MACK and exhibited at Tate Modern in London. After completing his studies, Gravlejs spent a year developing the subversive project *My Newspaper*. Working as a photojournalist for one of the major Czech newspapers, he subtly manipulated reportage photographs before they were published. Gravlejs currently resides in Berlin, where he collaborates with Ukrainian artist Kateryna Berlova as the artistic duo Dirty Romantics. His practice spans various media, including photography, video, installation, and performance. Often described as an *enfant terrible*, Gravlejs continues to explore humor, irony, and critique as tools of artistic resistance.

One day in the Carpathian Mountains, Sunny Bumbulītis, also known as Enfant Terrible, met Rubber Hedgehog. The two called themselves the Dirty Romantics. Rubber Hedgehog likes to squeeze cakes and sniff interesting things. Sunny Bumbulītis likes to ride a penny board. The Dirty Romantics love to experiment, have fun, and discover the world together. This artistic duo draws inspiration from mistakes.

