

**TARTMUS**

**15.05. – 03.10.2021**

**Tartu Kunstmuuseum**



# TARTMUS

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Tartu Art Museum

[tartmus.ee](http://tartmus.ee)

**Besides everything else, in Estonia the 1990s were a time of youthful bravado, energy, new opportunities and rough manual skills. The following decades have not been as “untamed”. That special something that could be experienced in the galleries of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s has disappeared and nothing comparable has been born in the new and more professional art life.**

Some of the participating artists were active during the tumultuous artistic innovations of the 1990s. For example, Tommy and Laurentsius broke the traditional established rules of panel painting by introducing punk freshness, intentional carelessness and random materials. In his annual summer painting projects, Andrus Joonas used highways instead of galleries and offered art works to passing drivers. This was the impetus for various highway art exhibitions that numerous young Estonian artists participated in. The possibilities of the era in art were also characterised by the introduction of new media: Jasper Zoova, a true multimedia artist, managed to express himself in painting, printmaking, sculpture, video and photography.

Many of the artists continued or started “untamed” practices in the 2000s despite the fact that under the guise of professionalisation and normalisation in the art life opposition to the “nosy nineties” took place. Academia Non Grata, which was active in Pärnu, brought together a colourful group of artists and art students. Since one of the teachers was Sorge, who was mainly known as a performance artist, the focus of the teaching was on performance. Although the essence of this art form is process, the joint activities have been captured in numerous

video and photo documentations, linocuts (Toomas Kuusing) and comic strips (Marianne Männi). When the school closed, the vibrant art life in Pärnu also ebbed and the untamed tendencies of Estonian art died down.

A yearning for tenacious and unrefined art prompted the curators to find artists whose works still support, in one way or another, the spirituality of Estonian art in the new millennium. Erki Kasemets has documented his life throughout his career and his works have become ever larger and heavier as they trace his everyday activities. Albert Gulk continues to fill square meters of paper with graphite, creating fantasy worlds that reject the norms that have developed in the art world.

**Artists:**

**Toomas Altnurme, Mila Balti, Janno Bergmann, Albert Gulk, Andrus Joonas, Erki Kasemets, Toomas Kuusing, Tarrvi Laamann, Marianne Männi, Sorge, Priit Pajos, Remo Randver, Tanel Saar, Mari Sobolev, Tommy ja Laurentsius, Ville-Kaarel Viirelaid, Kaarel Vulla, Jasper Zoova**

Curators: Kristel Sibul and Kristlyn Liier

Designer: Andrus Joonas

Graphic design: Marko Kekišev and Taavi Oolberg

Exhibition team: Richard Adang, Nele Ambos, Tanel Asmer, Indrek Grigor, Joanna Hoffmann, Mare Joonsalu, Margus Joonsalu, Jaanika Kuznetsova, Kadri Mägi, Julia Polujanenkova, Anti Saar, Peeter Talvistu, Kristo Tamm, Ago Teedema and Urmo Teekivi

# UNTAMED

Works from the Art Museum of Estonia  
the Tartu Art Museum and the artists  
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