

Oto Hudec **All what we could do together**

Gandy Gallery Exhibition: January 17 – March 8, 2024



All What We Could Do Together

Imagine all what we could achieve together.

Imagine all the things we could do together - instead of cut down lives, instead of evicted dreams. Often we act against each other, growth against growth, chainsaws and fire against wilderness. But do not forget! The forest is a multi-species organism, and is always open to include humans into its community!

This work represents a small list of what we could do together. How people and trees can act together, physically close, for a common interest. And although we can't always win, we can always achieve something.

Often, my work is based on an almost documentary, museological strategy, but choosing a DIY, visual approach to themes of activism, civil resistance and valuable moments when humans act in harmony, almost collaboration with Nature. The core of the project and exhibition is a movie based on miniatures of the protesters and their temporary architecture placed in natural areas of Upper Balaton. Each movie angle, each type of tree and light was researched to fit the original - historic situations of protests around the world. The idea of Floating Arboretum is present here as a series of smaller objects made of used/recycled wood and plywood.



Floating Arboretum / canvas, 2024 (detail) fabrics, digital print, MDF, acrylics 390 x 240 cm → All We Do Together, 2024 fabrics, styrodur, wood, digital archival print on paper, pins 132 x 100 cm





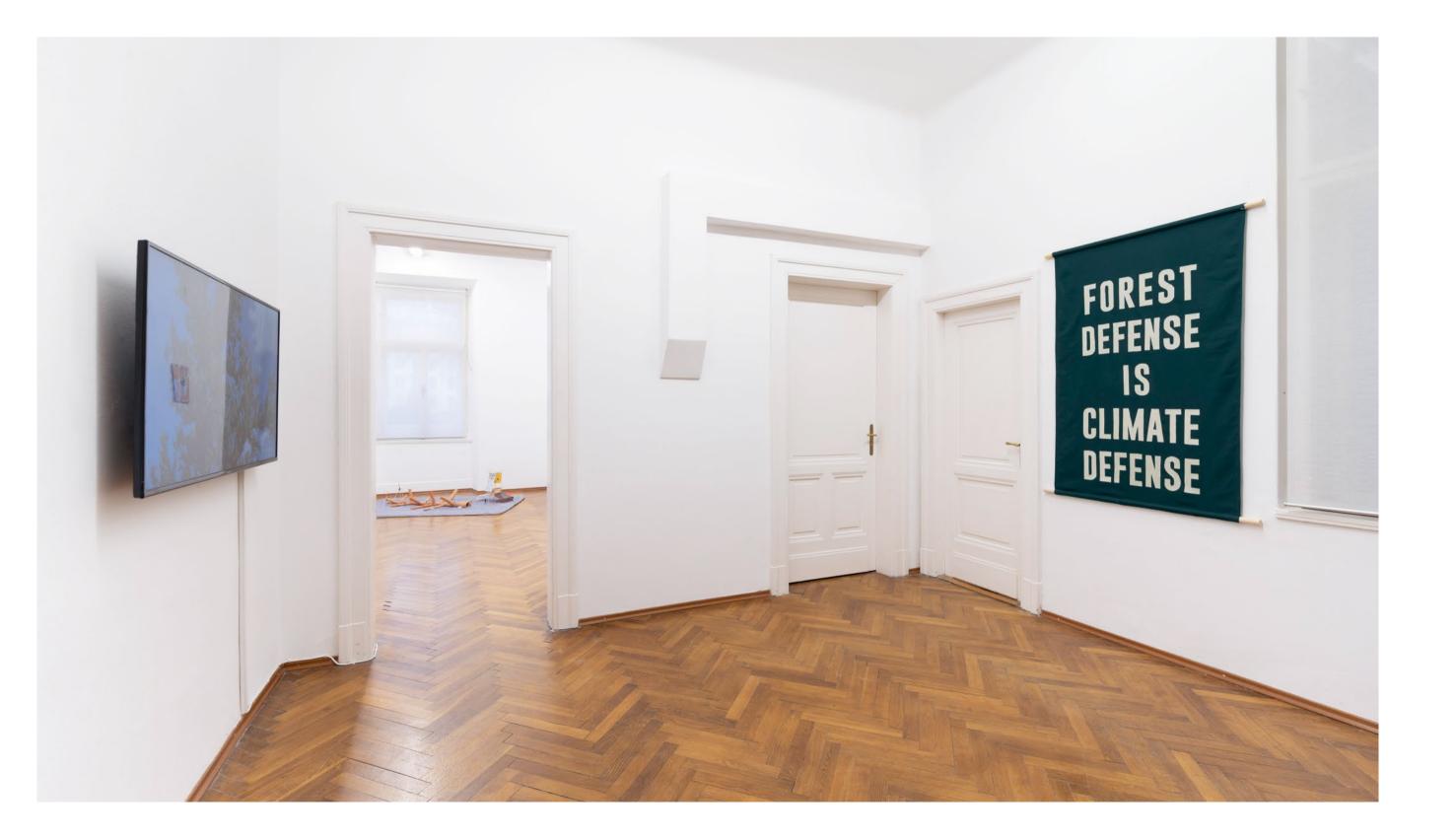
Left to right:

Buds, Shoots and Sprouts / installation, 2024

fabrics, ceramics, wood, paper, aquarell, styrodur, aluminum foil 195 x 140 x 45 cm

The House- Color Chart, 2023 aquarell on paper mounted on aluminium 29,5 x 40 cm

All We Do Together, 2024 fabrics, styrodur, wood, digital archival print on paper, pins 132 x 100 cm



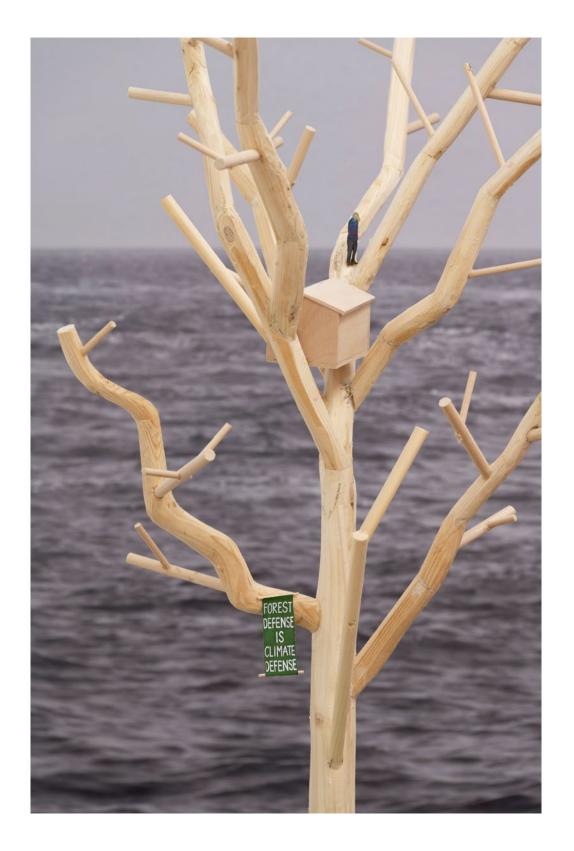
All We Could Do Together, 2024 HD video, 12:27 min

Forest Defense is Climate Defense / Evicted Dreams, 2024 fabrics, acrylics, wood, pastel 103 x 145 cm



← Floating Arboretum /
installation, 2024
wood, plywood, paper,
digital print on wallpaper,
acrylics, aquarell
variable dimensions

ightarrow Detail

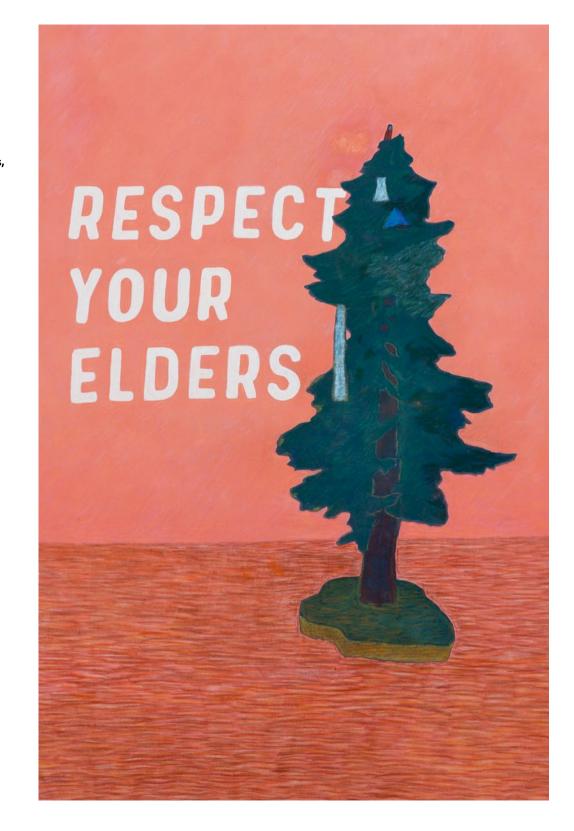






Floating Arboretum / installation, 2024 (detail)

Respect the Elders, 2024 pastel and acrylics on fabrics 120 x 166,5 cm





We are all carbon

Most of our life depends on matter - resources, minerals, water and air. The energy our civilization is based on also comes from the sources stored beneath the soil. The exhibition is an excursion to some of those basic natural elements: coal, water, rare metals-and shows how we provide the energy and materials for faster and faster spinning wheels of our civilization and consumption. We leave a scar on locations where these resources come from.

The exhibition is showing some works that were a result of collaboration with climate activist groups. The video and object "Back Where I Belong" is based on a mascot, a human-like model of a lump of coal. It made its appearance in Greenpeace and Limity jsme my (We are the Limits) protests in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. And in Slovakia it became part of an important Greenpeace protest in Nováky coal mine, with the aim of stopping the operation of the mine and the coal-fired power plant, which had a significant impact on Slovakia's CO2 emissions and was also loss-making.

The coal, through its human-like personality shows a desire to return back, where it belongs, to the mine, under the soil. And as it is searching for its original home, it might reflect our own confusion, and insatiable desire for more – as humans, we are a lost species, divided from nature, disconnected, and searching for "home". Whether it exists, or ever existed, or not, we could at least try to approach something that resembles it - some safe place. We are carbon and water, but we are humans in the end. And as a container ship is sinking on a horizon, somebody has escaped from the wreck - and starts a journey for a new home.

Marx's Paradox, 2019

Banner: fabrics, wood, acrylic paint 190 x 80 x 70 cm

* Photo from the exhibition We are all carton, Gandy Gallery (December 11, 2019 - February 28, 2020)





* Photo from the exhibition We are all carbon, Gandy Gallery (December 11, 2019 - February 28, 2020)



Waiting for the Rain, 2016 Ceramic, metal, plastic

40 x 40 x 40 cm

* Photo from the exhibition We are all carton, Gandy Gallery (December 11, 2019 - February 28, 2020)



The Man who travels with Bees

In the beginning there was a story. This story talks about a bee-keeper from the village of Dúbravica in central Slovakia who built a bee house in the shape of a spaceship in order to fly with his bees to the Land of Mirrors. A planet similar to ours, hidden behind the Sun, unspoiled. Although it is hard to believe, this spaceship DBSP 01 (Dúbravica Beekeeper's Space Program) does exist - on a hill near the village of Dúbravica. And a man in a space suit with a portable beehive on his back was also spotted there...

The exhibition in Gandy Gallery was an account of this story. It is a book written through objects. Or perhaps a final ode to escapism, but escapism with a purpose. Or an ode to the work of beekeepers, those who share a bond with their bees - although "stealing" their honey, they protect and care for the families. Today, bees, one of the key elements of our ecosystem, are also one of the most vulnerable. Changes in agriculture, global warming and the spread of disease are threatening their existence. And ours - they are nature's best pollinators.

The central object of the exhibition is a large helmet. This large scale object is part of a complex story of a fictional character - a beekeeper - cosmonaut. It's scale allows the viewer to enter it, to walk inside this shell, symbolically to enter the head of the hero. What the viewer discovers inside is a whole universe, built from the names of fruits and vegetables pollinated by bees. A Universe seen from the bee's perspective.

The library of the day, 2016

wood, bee's wax 170 x 190 x 50 cm

* Photos from the exhibition The Man who travels with Bees, Gandy Gallery (March 16 - May 13, 2016)





* Photo from the exhibition The Man who travels with Bees, Gandy Gallery (March 16 - May 13, 2016)



The Helmet, 2016

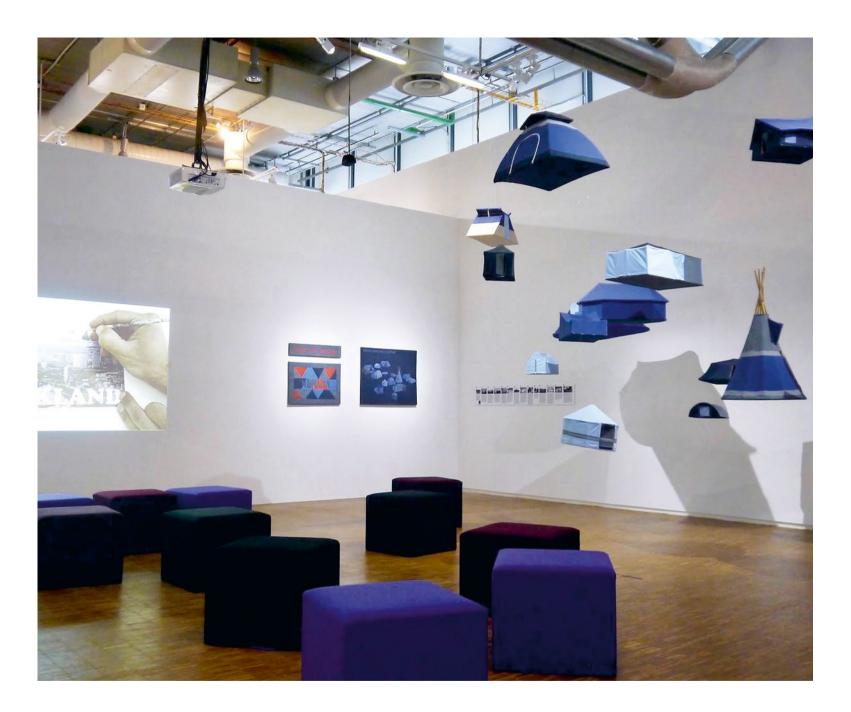
wood, plywood, fabrics, acrylic paint 200 x 200 x 200 cm

* Photos from the exhibition The Man who travels with Bees, Gandy Gallery (March 16 - May 13, 2016)



Installation view

* Photo from the exhibition The Man who travels with Bees, Gandy Gallery (March 16 - May 13, 2016)



Nomadia Travelling Museum

Nomadia is an imaginary country, without traced borders, without land ownership. As it extends over nationalities, it extends over time – the past, present and the future are all interconnected.

Nomadia is a country of travelers in tents. Its history is unwritten, and floats only from the mouth to ear of storytellers.

I was inspired by at that time present events of the occupy movement in the USA, Indignados in Spain, Acampamentos in Portugal, where tents and camping became a form of peaceful but powerful protest. Tents have been used in different cultures, as North American indigenous people, Mongolian shepherds and Sahara tribes. All these nations and tribes were living just with basics, to own very luxurious and heavy things just wasn't useful for someone, who is always ready for a journey. To live in the tent is almost to live as one with nature and therefore people of Nomadia don't consider Nature a property of man, but a man being part of Nature. I consider that this way of rethinking our existence could be the way out of many of today's crises.

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Nomadia Travelling Museum. 2012

installation with 14 tentes textil, wood, plywood 500 x 400 x 200 cm

Collection Centre Pompidou, Paris

* Photo from the exhibition Nomadia, Gandy Gallery (December 13 - February 28, 2013)

Centre Pompidou, Paris





OTO HUDEC (1981 Košice, Slovakia, where he lives and works) is a multimedia artist, who created and exhibited his recent works in Slovakia, in Austria, South Korea, Cabo Verde, Portugal and the USA. He creates videos, murals, animations, sculptures, sound pieces and works for public spaces about immigration, refugees and the effects of globalization on the environment. His projects often include a utopian perspective as a way to understand the production of food, energy; he tracks transformations of the industrial landscape or the decline of bees. His research on the topics of climate change, ecology is often focused, instead on new scientific solutions, on how nomadic and indigenous people achieved sustainability. He often collaborates on projects with children and youth from disadvantaged communities.

Since 2013, he has been working on a participatory project with Roma children in Slovakia - Project Karavan together with Daniela Krajčová.

Currently a teacher at Faculty of Fine Arts, Technical University, Košice, Slovakia, Associate Professor.

His works have been presented both as solo shows and as part of numerous group exhibitions in Slovakia and abroad. Recently, his projects were presented in the Gandy Gallery in Bratislava (2024), in the East Slovak Gallery in Košice (2022), AlbumArte, Rome, Italy (2022), Biennale Zielona Góra, Poland (2022), Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary (2022), Kunsthalle Bratislava (2021, 2019, 2017), tranzit.sk, Bratislava (2021), Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2017), De Appel, Amsterdam, Holland (2017) and Venice Biennial 2024.

Opening: Museum on/off Curated by Alicia Knock 13 Avr - 13 Juin 2016 Centre Pompidou

Oto Hudec

Gandy Gallery Sienkiewiczova 4 Bratislava Slovak republic

January 17 - March 8, 2024

Editor: Gandy Gallery, Bratislava Photo credits: Adam Šakový, Archive of the gallery Texts: Oto Hudec Layout: Ervín Gejdoš

All photographs are Courtesy of the artist and Gandy Gallery.

www.gandy-gallery.com

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