

Invitation to participate in the workshop
The Baltic Sea: A Liquid Memorial



Horst Hoheisel and Andreas Knitz. Photo by Emilija Jonutyte

Workshop leaders: [Horst Hoheisel & Andreas Knitz](#)

September 16–23, 2018

Application deadline: June 20

Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts

E. A. Jonušo g. 3, 93121 Nida, Neringa, Lithuania

www.nidacolony.lt

Almost every native inhabitant of the Curonian Spit was uprooted and turned into a migrant during and after the Second World War. Their places were quickly taken by newcomers. The leaders of *The Baltic Sea: A Liquid Memorial* take this episode as a historical example of conflict and new co-existence. Even today on the Curonian Spit one can see an obvious manifestation of conflict between Russia and the EU countries, especially between Russia and the Baltic States – there is this short border next to Nida, which separates the Curonian Spit into two “hostile?” halves.

There were times, when this border was more porous, that projects and meetings between Lithuanian and Kaliningrad universities took place. *The Baltic Sea: A Liquid Memorial* will try to re-establish those lost cross-border ties. The organisers would like the participants to deal with the border in a playful manner (in contrast to the hostile one). Nature doesn't recognise any borders. Today it overgrows the so-called Iron Curtain, the death strip in the formerly separated Germany and forms a wilderness where people can go hiking or simply relax. The Couronian Spit is a nature reserve, but it is cut through by a border guarded by Russian and Lithuanian border patrols.

“With *The Baltic Sea: A Liquid Memorial* we aim to develop our own creative ways of inviting playful border crossings. One example could be to put up a volleyball net on the beach exactly on the spot where the borderline touches the waves of the Baltic Sea, to play a cross-border beach volleyball match with Russian and Lithuanian players and to document it. We could overcome the border on surf boards and boats using our self-created border-sails or kites. We will try to soften the hard border between the two power blocks in an artistic and playful manner.” – Horst Hoheisel & Andreas Knitz.

It is planned to work with objects found “on site”, like beach chairs, boats, surf boards, bikes, etc., as well as with natural materials. The results of *The Baltic Sea: A Liquid Memorial* will be documented and published online. The leaders are partnering with the touring exhibition [On Visible and Invisible Borders](#), which will be installed at the [Jewish Museum Munich](#) in 2019. It might be possible to present the results of the workshop there.

The workshop leaders Horst Hoheisel & Andreas Knitz have worked together since 1994 on many memorial projects known as counter-monuments or negative monuments. They are searching for new contemporary forms of commemoration of the victims of mass murder and dictatorships, mainly in Germany, but also in South America, Armenia, Cambodia and elsewhere. Instead of repairing the irreparable, their goal is to make the absence of murdered people visible and felt.

The most notable of their projects is the memorial in Buchenwald – a steel plate on the ground of the former concentration camp that always retains the temperature of a human body, day and night, in summer and in winter. Hoheisel also made the most radical proposal to the 1995 competition for the Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. Rather than suggesting another edifice to fill a void and allow everyone to forget it, he proposed instead, to create a void – to destroy a monument to German power, the Brandenburg Gate. The artists have participated in [Kaunas Biennial](#) in 2017. Both are based in Kassel, Germany.

The workshop is part of the project [4Cs: From Conflict to Conviviality through Creativity and Culture](#), co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the EU.



Border in Nida. Photo by Paulina Pukytė

Eligible applicants

We invite upcoming as well as established artists (both students and professionals) from Lithuania and Kaliningrad Area to apply and expect a productive mixture of experiences. Interest in contemporary memory, commemoration and cross-border conflict issues as well as knowledge of the works by the workshop leaders is desirable. Fluent English is a must.

Maximum 15 participants will be invited to take part in the workshop, 3-4 of them will come from Kaliningrad.

Prerequisites

Russian or EU visas for selected participants have to be arranged in advance – participants will have to cross the border. Invitations will be issued upon request.

Costs

The organisers cover tuition, accommodation and visa costs. Participants will be accommodated at [Nida Art Colony](#). Production materials will also be provided by the organisers.

Participants are expected to arrange and to pay for their travel and catering. There are well equipped kitchens at Nida Art Colony for collective or individual cooking.

Application

Application materials (in English):

- Motivation letter describing your interest in the *Liquid Memorial* workshop
- CV including contact details and e-mail address
- *Portfolio* (up to 10 images)

Please send your application materials by e-mail to info@nidacolony.lt **no later than June 20**. Please write *Liquid Memorial* in the subject line and do not send files bigger than 10

MB. Larger files should be zipped or sent by online file sharing service (for example: www.wetransfer.com).

If you have further queries, please contact workshop manager and Nida Art Colony executive director Rasa at rasa.antanaviciute@vda.lt

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