N°3 Late Night 2024

The season started in the bushes and ended with a big party

Jelena Chekulayeva and Anna Shkuratova from the project team

The beginning of the third season of the Narva Venice Embassy in late June 2024 was a meeting of new team members at the former pump station at Remmelga 8. At first glance, this location offered nothing more than some abandoned buildings with broken windows, a garage with a leaky roof and a grassy area where landfill sites could be found. But among the bushes and the high grass, fruit trees grow – apples, cliffs, carpentry bushes, plums, reeds – which were clearly once part of a carefully tended orchard. In fact, the second season of the Embassy took place partly in the same area, but at that time there was not enough time or resources to fully make use of the territory.

At the first meeting, our team met a neighbor, Oleg, who generously offered us rhubarb and peonies from his garden as we shared our plans for the near future. The main tasks were to prepare the territory for the artists' residence, organize the residency, create activities and develop the territory for future seasons of the Embassy. Our dream is to create an art fair on the territory of the pump station with a built-in territory, which would be open in the summer season for resident artists and all those who wish to visit, within the current programme of events and art classes.

The preparation of the site for the artists' arrival coincided with various events: the successful purchase of beautiful tents, the development of a friendly atmosphere and plenty of grill evenings at the site. Unfortunately, a series of unexpected storms at the end of July and early August destroyed all the built structures – including the kitchen tent and cooking equipment – just the day before the first artist arrived. In parallel with the preparation of the territory, a successful competition for the Embassy's art residency was held, with applications from 50 artists.

Then next few weeks passed in a fog: three one-week-long art residences, workshops by the artists and architect Marco, organizational meetings, a series of calls and discussions with a wide range of specialists, weekly video chats with the team, and the endless consumption of apples, gooseberries and plums. The warm and sunny weather in early September made it possible for us to successfully prepare the site for the Station Narva festival, and on September 7th, the Narva Venice Embassy season closed with art tours, light installations, canoeing, music and food.

See you next season!

The Venice Annuale party took place at the beginning of September during the Station Narva festival.

Artists of the Narva Venice Embassy 2024



Photo by Yuri Vshivtsev

Jila Svicevic is an artist of Hungarian-Serbian origin, whose work emphasizes ecology and social inclusion. During her residency, she completed an installation titled "Captivated in Kulgu" consisting



Mimi Dearing is an artist and producer from the UK whose work involves play, engagement and dialogue with local communities. "We open our arms to you" is a shadow sculpture



August Honoré Rønne is a Danish artist who studies and captures how communities relate to the changing natural environment. His installation "Flag of a Time to Come" was created during public workshops. Participants had the opportunity to invent and print colorful signal flags using the linoleum cutting technique and share their personal messages. The language of maritime signaling flags was transformed into a new language under the guidance of the artist, and the participants would use it in dialogue with each other as well as as a communica of personal messages.

Neighbor Artyom: Kulgu is my second home!

What do you remember from childhood?

I was very young when the water pump station was operating. All I remember is the polite and kind uncle guard, who's always been welcoming to us, the children of the "Pribrezhnyi" cooperative. He's always been happy to talk about the pump and give tours. But again, I was very young, and I don't remember much.

Has Kulgu district changed a lot over time?

I can't say it has changed much. The change must have been influenced more by the political situation, because it's on the border. More and more young families are now joining our cooperative. And for now, more people are starting to live here all year round!

What's the future for Kulgu?

I hope, in the future Kulgu will be considered a district of the city. Sewers and water should be connected to the gardens, and there should be street lights and roads. It's been a long time since any developments were made. Once again, a lot of people move here and make it a permanent place of residence. Because our neighbor-

of two glow-in-the-dark nets.

Jila: "The art residency at Narva Venice was a timely opportunity to engage with the specific environment of Kulgu and experience the hidden gems of this place. The fishing heritage inspired me to make glowing fishnets to provide platforms for everybody to express their relationship with this unique place, because anyone who visits Kulqu will feel captivated by it. I let the nets unfold themselves: One in the territory of Narva Venice Embassy and the other on the way to it. Everybody can feel free to attach whatever they would like to the installations, because everyone has special memories, great ideas, or important messages. The old pump station area in Kulgu still has much to be discovered, and it was nice to see how cultural happenings attract both locals and people from literally all around the world."

made of rusted metal with a message cut into it. This message conveys kindness, sincerity and openness. It is up to the viewer to guess who says that, to whom and why. What does it mean here in Kulgu, near the border? In the sunshine, you can also see handengraved plant silhouettes on the sculpture.





hood is very comfortable – it's one step away from the city!

What does Kulgu mean to you?

Kulgu is my second home! I've spent my entire childhood here. My mom and grandfather live in Kulgu all year round. The kids are happy to be here in summer. I'm looking at the change of generations of children. And every kid here is happy. They always come together and play. Helping older generations together. I can't remember any bad moments about being at Kulgu.

> How do you see the plot (Remmelga 8), what was there before and what is now. What future do you think the plot has? What can be done or implemented there?

It used to be the water pump station. We used to climb over the fence. Nowadays there are art academy events going on. My personal opinion is that it's good for the area – attracting artists, professionals and creativity. In my vision, it'll help the neighborhood bloom in new colors! And creative activities will help people take a break from routine!

Become a guide on canoe tours? Yes, of course!

Tell a little about yourself - how old are you, where do you study, what are your hobbies, how are you related to NART?

F: My name is Faina, but my friends call me Faya. I am 16 years old and I am studying at the Narva Estonian Gymnasium in the 10th grade. I like art in all its manifestations, be it music, drawing, dancing, theater, films and many other things. I really love communicating with new people and getting to know their culture, that is why I came to work at NART as a guide this summer. This place is special to me and often seems like a second home.

R: My name is Rein. I am 18 years old and I study at the Jõhvi Vocational School. I work as a guide and a gnome at NART. My love for art and connection with Kreenholm brought me to NART. The therapeutic aspect of Nart for me was getting rid of social anxiety because I communicated with people, met residents, spent time with them, helped them and participated in their projects. Recently it happened that one of the projects gathered proactive youth of Narva around me, and we founded our own art community.

How did you react to the offer to conduct canoe tours? Tell about your previous experience — have you conducted tours and excursions? Where? Have you ever had to travel by canoe before?

F: Previously, I only conducted excursions at the NART gallery and had no experience in such tours. And I had never traveled by canoe in my life. But Johanna's offer seemed interesting and exciting to me. I am madly in love with events like Station Narva, and being a part of this event was simply a wonderful opportunity for me. So I agreed to it without a single thought, anticipating an unforgettable experience.

R: I was surprised, because I had only sailed a canoe a couple of times before, but for me it was more like gaining new experience in organizing an unusual excursion. Before that I had led a couple of excursions on Krenholm, and a couple of private ones for my friends who had come from far away. In my opinion, the canoe excursions were the most successful of all that I had given before, because here enough time was devoted to organization: what to talk about, when to make stops, duration, route, etc.

What does Station Narva mean to you? And participating in the program as a guide?

F: Station Narva is one of the most important events for the city of Narva for me, because at this event the entire culture of our city is united into one whole play, where every resident is a part of it, and every year it sounds new and remains in the memory for a long time. Participation as a guide gave me the opportunity to play an important role in this event and make a lot of pleasant memories.

R: I was only at Narva Venice. I didn't attend the events on the other days. But the way they decorated for the festival and what they did for the guests in Narva Venice made me very happy. It was very cozy and warm by the fire. There was delicious okroshka, pleasant music, bright fabrics hung on the wooden pavilion on the top of the garage. The atmosphere was very nice.

Please tell about the tours.

Before all the tours started, Rein and I had one trial tour, taking Eva F: (a volunteer) along as a listener. There we decided that at the first stop Rein would tell about the history of the place, and at the second stop I would tell about the artists who took part in the project. At first we had no idea what languages to speak, but in the end there were Estonian-speaking people on all the tours, so I spoke Estonian and Rein spoke English. The first tour went great, people got a good impression. However, the second tour was not so easy. When the boys from the Youth Club were pushing the boat with the guides, it capsized. Rein, another participant and I fell completely into the water. Luckily, the life jackets did their job and everyone got out safely, but we were soaked to the bone. To be honest, it didn't stop me. On the contrary, it made me laugh and put me in a good mood. I was ready to continue the tour, but Rein had a different opinion and went to dry off. This didn't bother me much. The people who came paid and it would have been irresponsible to cancel the tour, so I successfully completed this tour alone. The last tour was the most beautiful, as the sun was setting and a wonderful atmosphere was created. It was also nice to see teachers from my high school on each tour and at the end (and not only from them) to receive pleasant comments and gratitude. Will never forget their smiles and the sincere emotions that they received thanks to our tours. I am very pleased with how the tours went and with myself in general. This event gave me so many warm memories and inspired me to try new things. I feel much more confident about my abilities! I hope that I will be able to participate next year too.



- * 1,5–2 kg apples
- * 4 eggs
- * 4 stablespoons wholegrain or spelt flour
- * 2 tablespoons whole grain peas
- * 2–4 tablespoons of sugar (depending on apples)
- * Optional: add a handful of black currants, raspberries,

raisins, and sprinkle cinnamon on the apples.

Cut the apples into pieces straight into shape. Add cinnamon, berries or raisins to your liking. Whisk the eggs with the sugar. Add one spoon of flour and semolina. Pour the dough over the apples and put in the oven for about 45 minutes (180 °C). Each chef knows the peculiarity of their own oven so the cooking time can vary. You can tell by the smell if the pie is ready. Apple cake is good warm or cold, and it can be stored for several days. If you keep the cake under a lid, the crispy crust disappears. But it's still delicious!

Bon appetit!

Spontaneous (vegan) apple pie

In honor of Kulgu's hospitality Saara Mildeberg

Hot September Day at Kulgu. The sun is blazing, power lines are sizzling overhead, black-eyed Susannas shine in the yellow stars in each garden, and when someone pauses beside the door of some of the greenhouses, splashy red tomatoes always peek out of it. There is a lot of traffic on Remmelga Street by the canal today, there is a Venice Annuale at the old pump house – a big art party. People come on foot, by scooters, and taxi, and I watch the ones who need to park their car without interfering with the locals. It's a pretty drab job, but it gives me time to look at passers-by. But I'm a foreign body here too, and locals are watching me. Some even come to ask what's going on. Yevgeny, the elderly gentleman on the little foldable bike, comes to talk to me several times. I do my best, but every time I catch only a few fragments of his Russian chatter. Luckily, this last time, the talk is rather short: Yevgeny drives next to me, hands me a large plastic bag full of apples and says, *"Euub!"*; I answer, *"Cnacu6o!"* All clear! It is also clear that I cannot eat these apples alone – and that the joy shared is half as great!

This cake was completed in the basement kitchen of NART, where the measurement was carried out by the means of mugs and glasses. Also the actual capacity and thermometer of the old oven no longer cooperates, so be sure after 40 minutes to poke the pie with a match, whether the cake is ready or still needs a bit longer.

You'll need: * one warm early autumn day in Kulgu * a bag full of apples from Yevgeni (5-8 apples of Antonovka or other sweet and sour cultivar)

R: I agree with every word. However, the second tour didn't go well from the very beginning. Since I had recently recovered from an illness, after being soaked I decided to dry off by the fire. The remaining tours went great. There was a moment when one canoe floated away, and it was returned by a motorboat. It's hard to think about the next season yet.



* 3 glasses of wheat flour
* 1 glass of sugar
* 2 teaspoons of sugar
* ¹/₄ of a glass of oil
* ³/₄ of glass of water or plant-based milk
* 1 teaspoon of apple vinegar or white wine vinegar
* a handful of walnuts
* half a glass of sugar
* 1 heaped tbsp of cinnamon

Mix together flour and baking powder in one bowl. In another bowl whisk the sugar with the oil, add the vegetable milk / water and vinegar and whisk again. Mix the contents of the two bowls together to create a smooth dough. Grease a round cake mould of 26 cm in diameter with oil and pour the dough into the cake mould. Peel the apples, clean and chop them and mix the apple pieces together with the walnuts, sugar and cinnamon and pour on the dough.

Tanya's apple pie recipe and a small interview

Please share the recipe for the apple pie that you offered to the artists this summer!

You will need apples, sugar, sour cream, egg, flour and baking soda. Put the egg and 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil in a bowl and mix. Then melt the butter in a pan and fry the sliced apples with 1 spoon of sugar for 5-8 minutes until soft. While the apples are cooking, you can separately mix 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil with the sour cream. Next, add your flour and baking soda - activated with a bit of vinegar - to the sour cream. If desired, you can replace the baking soda with baking powder. Add the sour cream to the bowl containing the egg and vegetable oil. Leave the mixture for a couple of minutes to ensure there are no lumps. Then pour this mixture on top of the apples in the frying pan and cook under a closed lid. After 10 minutes, open the lid, transfer the pie to a plate, turn it over and return the raw side to the frying pan again to bake for about 5 more minutes. Then leave it to simmer in the frying pan under the lid. Pierce the finished pie with a wooden toothpick – it should come out dry, without traces of wet dough. Transfer the apple pie to a plate, cool and serve. No need to put it in the oven ... you're all set! Enjoy your meal!

And what kind of apples?

It's better to have winter ones now, of which you find a lot on the pump station territory. By the way, you can sprinkle vanilla on top of the dessert for some added flavor and decoration. You could also sprinkle the pie with yellow sugar or cinnamon ... anything you would like!



* 30 g Butter

* 30 g Sugar

* 2 g Ground

cinnamon

For the dough:

- * 150 g Sour cream
- * 30 ml Odorless vegetable oil
- * 1 Egg
- * 140 g Flour (1 full glass of 200 ml)
 - * 30 g Sugar
 - * 8-10 g Vanilla sugar
 - * 10 g Baking powder

I have a couple of questions for you as a local resident. When did you get a garage at Kulgu? As a kid?

No. We purchased the first garage after I got married twenty years ago. Then ten years later we bought a couple more garages.

And did you have different garages?

Yes. Our boat is on the first pier, where my husband and I have been fishing pike and perch for twenty years now. We bought the other garages about ten years ago, but only for recreation. There is more space there. You can plant things, such as your own cucumber, tomato or apple trees. There were several small garages, which we made two large ones out of. There we relax, spend the night, and cook. We also celebrate holidays there. For example, we had a farewell party for autumn. Haven't you been to our place? We gathered as a small group, well, literally just a few garages. We had a host, Matveyev's wife, who was in a costume. And in the summer we organized a little fishermen's day.

Kreenholm employees' memories from the Kulgu pump station





What year was the machine installed?

Around 2000. After 2000, they freed up resources, so to speak, and we bought new equip-

Oh, and everyone was in costumes, right?

Of course, we prepared a whole program. We had a poster hanging here. We gave presents and small prizes. We had a whole table full of food. The weather was good. And our granny was with us, who is already 90 years old. We had a great time. We also celebrate birthdays there. Basically, it's all good for the soul.

Has the atmosphere in Kulgu changed from what it was ten years ago?

We got to know the neighbors and it began to feel more friendly. For example, older people who are retired have more free time, so they often organize events for us. We come as guests. We began to communicate more, become friends, and we developed a family atmosphere. It's like we're one family – our grandchildren play with each other.

What future awaits Kulgu in your opinion?

It's hard to talk about what will happen in the future, let alone in Kulgu. Well, for now they are cleaning our canals, so the water is getting cleaner. Some of the youth work abroad, but they come here as if to a dacha. At the dacha, you mow the grass and plant gardens in the soil. In general, everything is not so bad. Young people are interested, and they come here to put their boats on the water and go fishing. So I still see a future for Kulgu. In addition to young people, we also have friends who work in Norway and Sweden who come here once a month. They completely relax here on Kulgu – sometimes for a week here, five days there, etc.. Kulgu has become younger. At one time it was a completely dying place. But now things are moving, the canals are being cleaned, and the water will be easier to enjoy. After all, look at how many jet ski and sailboat competitions are held on Kulgu now. This also applies to us, as they visit our garages on their kayaks. They have really enlivened us too.

Tell me, what does Kulgu mean for you personally?

For me, it's a vacation, of course, a vacation of my soul and heart. I always say that being here is like being under the palm of God. We always have sunshine. It's always calm and quiet. Water, birds, animals - we have everything there. In the morning when you go out early, the sun is shining. Around six o'clock in the morning the bells ring on the Russian side. You can stand, listening to these bells, while sipping a cup of coffee and enjoying a juicy apple from a nearby tree. Swans often swim by.

And the last question about the territory of the pump station where we host artists. How to develop it? How should this place look like in the future?

I was there only once with you, and you have already improved it there. You have cleaned everything and the place is very good already!



Electrician Nikolai

Nikolai, what years did you work at the pump station?

Look, it's hard to say because I've been at Kreenholm since 1982. Probably it's in the 90s.

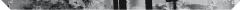
Did you do electrical work there?

Yes. Power work. Transformers. There are two transformers. We served them. We made sure the work was done on time. Here were two

mer was turned off, because it also consumed electricity and was not needed. And now they can't be turned on anymore.

How did everything look like? How many people worked there? Now it's full of bushes.

There were people on duty, I don't know, maybe two of them. They worked 12 hours. The pumping station gave Kreenholm water directly from this reservoir – that's the processed water.



Boris Snetkov

Who did you work for? What were your job responsibilities?

I worked as a manager of the heating and electricity department. I can say that I was responsible for everything.

Have you ever been to a pump station?

In the heat centers and the pumping station. The person on duty in the heat center sees how this pumping station works, and accordingly it is serviced, when only after the weekend it is necessary to turn it on and off and go there.

Later it worked without personnel, in automatic mode. A water intake point was installed there, and technical water intake was distributed through the finishing plant, through sand filters.

ment. This is a big deal because there used to be four supervisors on duty. They were there 24/7. After installing automation, everything was already possible, so to speak, it worked under lock and key.

Again about the pump room. Before automation you said there were 4 people right?

Well, four shifts, yes. One person and there were four shifts.

How long was the shift? Was there a 24/7 pump?

Well, basically yes. Around the clock. Well, one came in the morning and at 20 p.m the second one took over. He was there at night and in the morning someone else came again. One has a off day, they changed all the time. The pump room worked all the time, so to speak, around the clock. That's why people were so busy.

transformers.

Have you ever been to a pump station?

No, only in the control room. It is located inside, there is an electrical panel. But no pump, nothing, I didn't operate them. But it was in the same area as Remmelga 8. There were two transformers. There was a distribution section, where 380 volts comes and is directed to the devices. That was our job.

What year did everything fall apart there?

When Kreenholm ended. Bankruptcy occurred in 2010. Well, consider it a date then. Later, when I moved to Gate (Narva Gate), it was still there, and we kept the cables under tension, sometimes the transformer as well. And then there was an accident in the same place. They didn't restore it. And then the second transfor-

Do you remember anything unusual vou saw at the station?

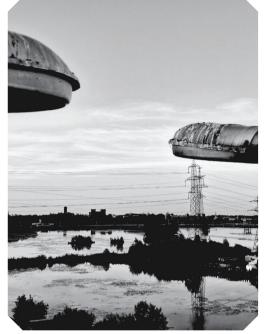
In the place where the artists' tents are now, the workers had small greenhouses, where they grew cucumbers for themselves. They worked two steps away, and the greenhouses were right by their side. They worked long 12 hour shifts, so they just started to do some gardening as well. After they were done with work, and there was nothing to do, they would go to the greenhouse or dig some new garden beds.



Three years at the Narva Venice Embassy

Johanna Rannula, head of the Narva Art Residency

In the summer of 2022, Narva Art Residency started a project, which took place for the third season in 2024. The Narva Venice Embassy is a place where international artists and local Narva residents can come together to learn from one another. It was named an Embassy because it represents intercultural exchange and the sharing of ideas. The location, in the middle of dachas and garages, further serves to facilitate creativity and allows for the passing of people.



The view towards the East from the top of the metal tower on the territory of the pump station.

Artists have lived in all kinds of conditions

In the first season, everything was new and exciting. Thanks to the management of the garage association, we were able to use one of the garages and the first floor of the utility building as housing. Both had to be renovated to accommodate international artists. The inside of the garage was painted and furniture was installed. It took several days of work to bring the first floor into a livable condition – closed windows were opened and every surface was washed several times.



In the summer of 2022, the artists also lived on the first floor of the administrative building, which had been empty for



The last artist of the season, Jila, came with her sauna car, which she used as her residence during her stay.

It is clear that the artists of the Venice Embassy have lived in very different, often unusual places during these three seasons.

Artists mostly create site-specific works

In the first season, the Embassy hosted five artists; in the second, six; and in the third, three. A total of 14 international creatives have been associated with the Embassy, each of who were selected by a jury through a competition.

The residency is a very special place to which some people adapt more easily than others. There have been artists for whom this strange place remained elusive, as well as those for whom Kulgu offered countless opportunities. For example, Irish documentary filmmaker Kevin Molloy said that he couldn't even sit down in his garage for 10 minutes before people came and offered him a guitar jam and an early morning fishing boat ride.

Some works have been short-lived, such as Mohar Kalra's animal sculptures with microphones. Others have been event-based, such as Leri Matehha's Shabbat dinners. Ukrainian artist Maksym's viking ship could be seen at the Narva reservoir, which later became the flower bed of the Kreenholm community garden. Currently, when visiting Kulgu, you can find these three works:

* *Elizabeth Guerrero* (Mexico/Norway, 2022) audio journey "A Summer's Day in Kulgu" is intended to be listened to on a quiet boat ride along water canals. But you can actually listen to it anywhere. In the audio tour, locals talk about what this special place means to them.



There are many things that will be remembered

Over the years, the project has offered countless moments of joy and discovery. However, some events remain particularly vivid in my memory.

On the first days of April 2024, we planned to offer the guests a motorboat ride on the Kulgu canals. There was one captain who was willing to take his boat out of the shed before the start of the season. On the agreed day, the weather was stormy and snow continued to fall, but even this was not enough to deter the determined guests and captain. Zimbabwean and English artists who had just arrived in Narva also went on this first ride. However, soon after the start of the trip, the captain came back alone, paddling with his oars. The artists were gone. It turned out that the back end of the boat sank and it filled with water. The foreigners barely escaped by jumping to the shore at the last moment.



American artist Mohar Kalra made animal sculptures out of wood. They also featured speakers where guests could record messages through the microphone. When I listened to the recordings later, I had a great experience. The secret thoughts of the Kulgu people wonderfully illustrated the nature of this place. Children read poems and others played music on their phones. There were those who used curse words and those who spoke on the political issues of the day. I never thought that the people of Kulgu would receive this slightly peculiar work of art so well!



Photo by Yuri Vshivtsev



Visitors at the Venice Annuale party, which took place in early September during the Station Narva festival.

Late Night Kulgu Nº 3 2024

Editorial board:

Elena Chekulaeva Anna Shkuratova Johanna Rannula Gleb Kuznetsov

Language correction assistance: Made Isak Ashley Morford

Graphic design: Ljubov Terukova

Printing: Estonian Academy of Arts

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Several accures.

In the second season, the artists' accommodation was once again under question, as new housing locations had to be found. After a long search, the very hospitable Slava offered the artists his garden house to live in. We brought a sea container on the territory of the Kreenholm pump station, which became another accommodation.



During the second summer, some of the artists lived in a sea container.

For the third season, we decided to move all the activities to the pumping station. The artists lived there in 'glamping' tents.



* *Enrique Roura* (Mexico/Holland, 2022) built a bread oven in the center of the garage cooperative, in which pizza has been baked on several occasions. In most cases, the furnace is under a cover to protect it from the weather, as the oven cannot withstand moisture and rain.

* The metal sculpture "We open our arms to you" by *Mimi Dearing* (England, 2024) will remain on the territory of the pumping station for the foreseeable future and greets guests from the roof of the garage.



One of the team members of the project, Jelena, with Mimi's artwork.

There are several well-kept and beautiful mini-gardens in Narva Venice.

Despite the fact that the organizational side of the project has been full of challenges in all three years, this place leaves visitors awestruck and offers endless inspiration to creative people. Some inexplicable force calls us back there again and again.









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