

# KAUNAS – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2022

## PROGRAMME GUIDE

Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022  
Contemporary Capital

Holder of the Title  
Kaunas

Programme  
19 January 2022 – 30 November 2022

This programme is being implemented by the Public Institution “Kaunas 2022” together with Lithuanian cultural organizations & international partners

Strategic Partners / Funders  
The Government of the Republic of Lithuania  
Kaunas City Municipality  
Kaunas District Municipality

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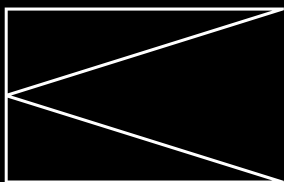
The latest detailed information about the programme and access to it is available on the mobile app “Kaunas 2022”, at [www.kultura.kaunas.lt/en](http://www.kultura.kaunas.lt/en) and on listed organizer communication channels.

Programme Guide

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January 2022

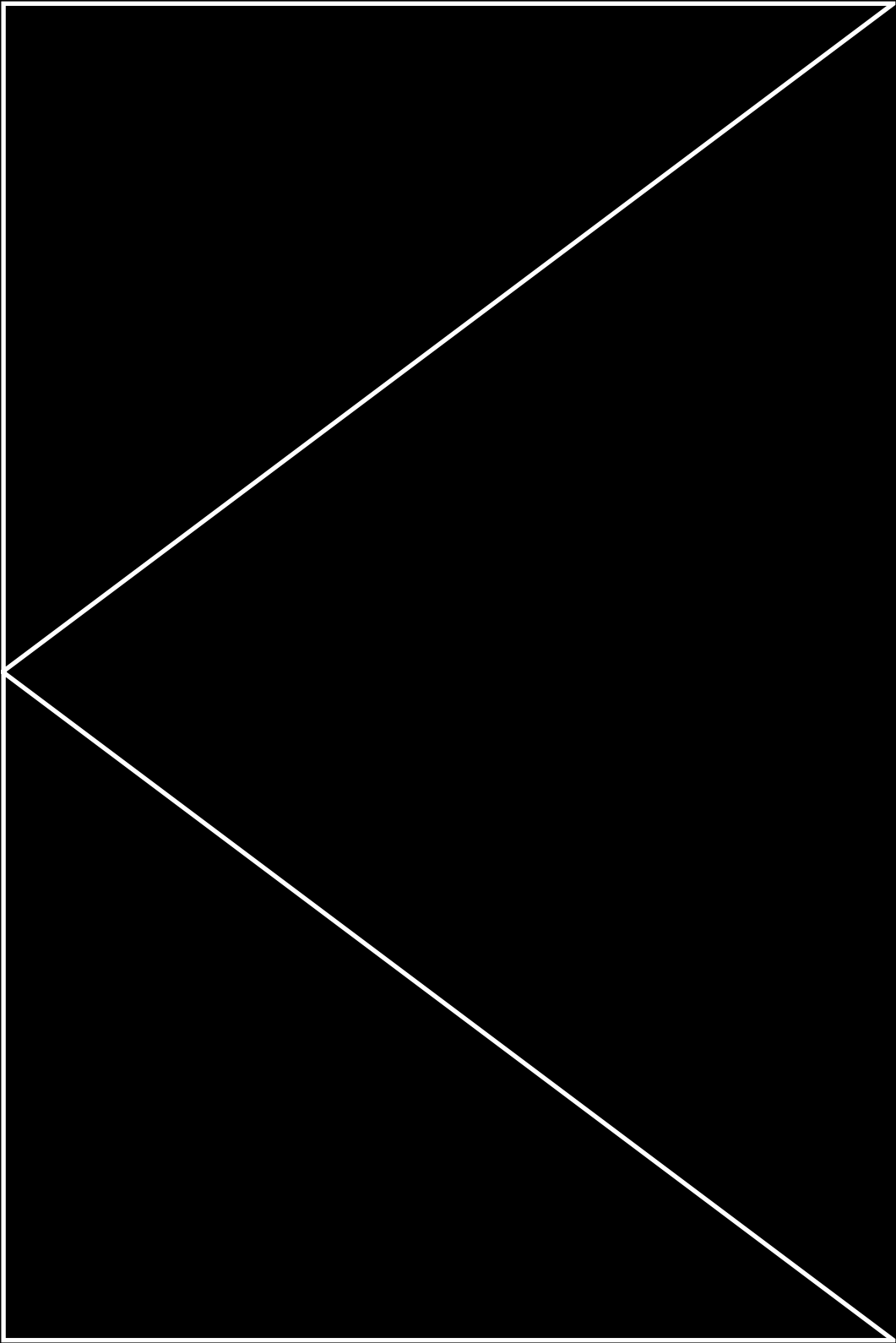
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**Kaunas 2022**  
European Capital of Culture



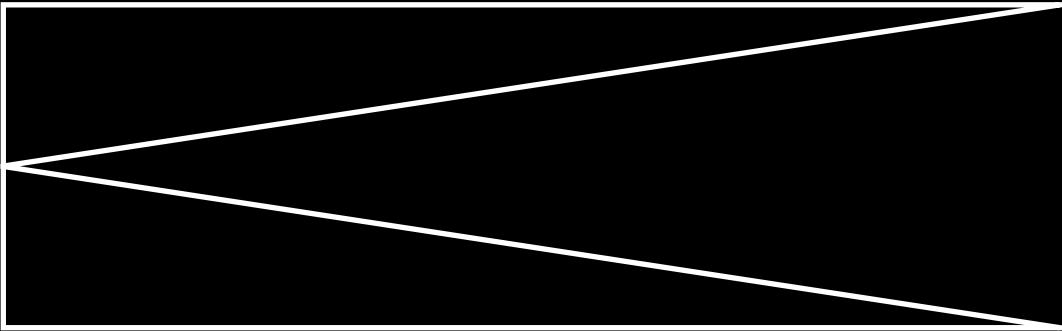




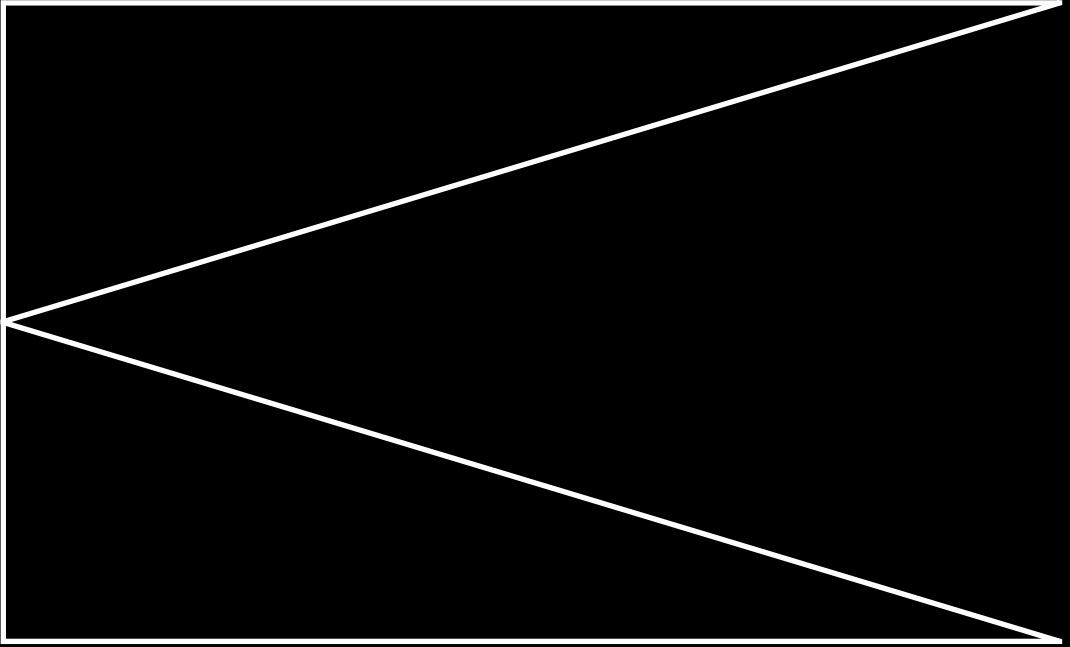


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**WELCOME!**



From temporary to contemporary – with this slogan, an invitation to join us in creating change, we began our journey in 2015, a journey to becoming a European Capital of Culture.

Over seven years, a small group of cultural enthusiasts and their dream of creating a new legend for our city and reinforcing the identity of a contemporary Kaunas through culture has been joined by hundreds of like-minded supporters from Kaunas, the surrounding Kaunas District, Lithuania, and Europe. As we present this artistic programme for the year 2022, we invite the people of Europe to a changing, younger, more welcoming, community-minded, stylish, empathetic, accessible, and sustainable city, one that is open to its own history, the history of Europe, and to the present day. Most importantly, ours is a city that no longer fears the ghosts of its past and has resolved to liberate itself from any complex of fictional or imagined insignificance. In Kaunas, joy is much more viral than the virus that has plagued our world in recent years.

As I present this extraordinary programme for Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022, I wish to express my pride in our team and my special thanks to those who entrusted this long process to us and joined in its implementation, first and foremost the Kaunas City and Kaunas District Municipalities, in which this programme will be take place, and who have assumed both the financial and administrative responsibility for a long, enduring, costly process which has not always immediately produced results. Thanks to your support, the cultural, social, and economic changes driven by this project will continue to be felt for decades to come! I am also grateful to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania and its

assistance in ensuring a smooth pre-selection and selection process and for providing co-financing and constant support and encouragement. Thanks to their team, we felt valued for every our effort along the way.

I am profoundly grateful to our extended team. In recent years, our journey of change was joined by 80 Lithuanian organizations which, together with an even greater number of European partners, have created a profound, meaningful, emotionally impactful, inclusive, and intense European Capital of Culture programme, which now includes four times more events than there are days in the year!

I am sure that every week and every weekend you spend in Kaunas, you will be drawn into a whirlwind of current European culture.

I extend my most heartfelt invitation to visitors from around Lithuania and Europe to join with the people of Kaunas and experience a personal transformation by participating in the Trilogy of the Myth of Contemporary Kaunas, from Temporary to Contemporary. Three weekend programmes – The Confusion (19-23 January 2022), The Confluence (20-22 May 2022), and The Contract (25-27 November 2022) – will feature more than one hundred separate events: premieres, exhibitions, concerts, and fire and light shows that will all be connected through the sharing of a new Kaunas myth. I invite you to become part of this unique and extraordinary story.

Exhibitions by internationally renowned artists, theatrical premieres, the Contemporary Stage Arts Festival, the European Youth Festival, the CityTelling Festival, the Fluxus Festival, and various design events are just a few hints as to what awaits you in this programme guide.

Everything has been planned with our audience in mind, so it cannot happen without you. I invite you to join us on this wonderful journey of change! And change is inspired and co-created by all of us.

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**Initiator and CEO of  
Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022  
Virginija Vitkienė**

The city of Kaunas was founded in a unique place, at the confluence of Lithuania's two largest rivers, the Nemunas and Neris. Here, in these converging waters, we can see not only the harmony of the forces of nature, so revered by Lithuanians, but also the symbolic reflection of the flow of history. Just as two rivers become one, so have two important traditions continued to shape the face of this city and our entire country.

From ancient times, the cultural life of Kaunas has been nourished by the cultural traditions of Western Europe, bringing to this city such aspects of Western culture as self-government, trade routes, social structures, peaceful coexistence, and respect for individual rights and freedoms.

But Kaunas has also always been shaped by local traditions. From the depths of our land has come a constant flow of traditions, languages, and religious and ethnic characteristics of the nations and communities of Lithuania's historic peoples and communities, all of which have transformed this city into an important crucible of a unique Lithuanian identity.

As Kaunas becomes a European Capital of Culture for 2022, these two powerful currents will enrich the cultures of the city, Lithuania, and all of Europe, bringing together in one place all of the best that we have created.

One of the most expansive cultural projects in Lithuania's history will give us an opportunity to rediscover the rich layers of cultural heritage that

have come to shape Kaunas and which have inspired creative minds famous both in Lithuania and around the world, including L. L. Zamenhof, Maironis, Emmanuel Levinas, Marija Gimbutas, and George (Jurgis) Maciunas.

Kaunas' churches, monasteries, halls, and noble houses continue to serve as witnesses to the rich heritage of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. After Kaunas was designated provisional capital of a re-born Lithuanian state in the wake of the First World War, the city became home to a unique modernist architecture that now aspires for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During a period of ambitious growth, Kaunas opened the first university in the country with instruction in the Lithuanian language and nurtured the phenomenon that became Lithuania's love for basketball. Still later, in the Soviet period, it was Kaunas that saw the emergence of a youth counterculture movement that challenged the Soviet occupation regime.

I am pleased that the European Capital of Culture programme will further the tradition of various cultural events converging in Kaunas. The city and the surrounding region will host some 900 events made possible by the collaboration of over 200 Lithuanian and foreign organizations, as well as tens of local communities. The programme will also showcase the work of international cultural icons, including William Kentridge and Marina Abramović, as well as initiatives undertaken by many Lithuanian artists, professionals, and amateur performers.

I am confident that the arrival of the European Capital of Culture programme in Kaunas will invigorate cultural life in Kaunas and throughout Lithuania. It is my sincere hope that Kaunas' aspiration to once again become a "contemporary capital" will reinforce its place on the European cultural map. May the coming year bring the fulfilment of all your dreams, and may a modern Lithuanian state continue to thrive and grow stronger as part of a free, democratic, and creative Europe!



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**President of the Republic of Lithuania  
Gitanas Nausėda**



Dear visitors,

From the start of the Kaunas 2022 project, I have had the chance to be at the very centre of the whirlwind of events that make up this programme and to see an idea become reality – a reality that continues to display ever new colours. I am convinced that the strength of this programme lies in its origins. The vision of Kaunas as European Capital of Culture emerged from the community itself – from our artists, city residents, and those who foster and care about the city's history. Community, a shared energy, the exchange of ideas, and an intense focus have carried this vision through to the momentous decision that will inscribe 2022 into the story of Kaunas as an exceptional period in our history.

I believe that Kaunas will succeed in reaching the goal contained in its slogan: "From Temporary to Contemporary!" Indeed, between the two World Wars, Kaunas experienced fundamental change and became a modern European city. May the title of European Capital of Culture become one more watershed moment in the history of Kaunas. It is at this moment that we have an extraordinary opportunity to rethink Europe and the idea of what it means to be European, as well as our own contribution to the European context. Within the kaleidoscopic puzzle of Europe, both today and in the past, we can find many similarities with other countries of the Old Continent. May these shared attributes become a unifying common denominator, and, instead of dividing or limiting us, may any differences between us nurture our sense of curiosity and our desire to discover and come to know one another better.

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**Minister of Culture of the  
Republic of Lithuania  
Simonas Kairys**

I am convinced that the ambitious Kaunas 2022 programme will receive considerable international attention and acclaim. This programme truly promises to join the ranks of past European Capital of Culture programmes which are later analysed and presented as particularly successful examples. Most importantly, however, I hope that the Kaunas 2022 programme will become a turning point for our local community and for its aspiration to perceive new meaning in its relationship with this city, raise new and challenging questions, and find answers within the constantly changing mirror of Kaunas. May this special city continue to be created and nurtured by special people – each and every one of us.



Kaunas welcomes a special moment in its history. We have grown and become the main stage of the Old Continent – a European Capital of Culture. Today, we can be truly proud that Kaunas, which is 613 years old, has once again received such prominent recognition and is deservedly taking its place in the spotlight.

Over the last century, Kaunas has come a long way. From the first steps of a free state, having liberated itself from the grip of an empire, from its status as provisional capital, a city of fearless dreamers and optimists, to a contemporary, open Kaunas that is full of culture and opportunities – a self-assured and self-confident Kaunas with a free, creative people. We are clearly visible on the map of Western Europe today.

I am confident that we will maintain this rhythm after 2022 and will continue to consistently and boldly build an ambitious, sustainable future for our city, full of positive change and outstanding achievements, one of which may soon be the inclusion of Kaunas' interwar architecture in the UNESCO

World Heritage List. May future generations one hundred years from now look back at this time as one of the most productive periods in the history of Kaunas.

On behalf of all of the people of Kaunas, I would like to sincerely thank the substantial Kaunas 2022 coordinating team, cultural organizations, communities, artists, and all those who have joined together for a common goal: to aim the brightest spotlight on Kaunas and showcase our unique city to Europe and the world.

This title has a special significance. It is a boundary which, once crossed, we will leave behind all the complexes and stereotypes of the past. We will no longer have to make excuses or prove anything. The transition has already taken place - from the temporary to a contemporary European Capital of Culture.

Welcome! Feel at home. I hope you enjoy Kaunas and experience that unforgettable Kaunastic feeling that will draw you back again and again!



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**Mayor of Kaunas**  
**Visvaldas Matijošaitis**

We offer our guests all the best treasures of our region.

In partnership with the city of Kaunas, the Kaunas District hopes to show Europe what brings warmth to the industrial face of the city, what has been hardened in the forge of history and adapted to contemporary life, and what makes us unique. This is why we offer our visitors what we ourselves consider to be our greatest treasure: our beautiful natural surroundings, unique towns, and centuries-old traditions.

First and foremost, we invite our guests to our recreational region encompassing Kulautuva, Kačerginė, and Zapyškis. These small towns are easily accessible from Kaunas by car, boat, or bicycle. Once there, you can breathe in the fresh pine air, relax by spring waters, enjoy the beauty of wooden, vintage interwar-era villas, or try any number of walking trails.

The Kaunas District includes 24 castle mounds as well as former bunkers created by partisans fighting the Soviet occupation after the war, the Jiesia landscape reserve and the Kaunas Lagoon Regional Park, the Tsarist-era fortification system around Kaunas, and the technological heritage museum in Bernatoniai.

Zapyškis is proud of St. John the Baptist's Church, known as the mother of Lithuanian churches, while Vilkija invites you to its ethnic culture museum. Kulautuva is home to a modern rehabilitation hospital which is now developing active medical tourism.

The former Raudondvaris Estate is home to the Kaunas District Museum and Arts Incubator, an area that hosts the region's largest celebrations and cultivates the professional arts.

We hope to enrich the range of the European Capital of Culture with events that attract an ever greater number of participants each year as well as foreign partners and visitors from other cities. This includes the Zapyškis Kite Festival, the Akacijų Alėja Sung Poetry Festival in Kulautuva, and the International Dog Sled Races in Jadagonys. The Footsteps at the Bottom of the Lagoon festival held in Samylai recounts the painful history of flooded villages. All of these events are a true treasure for lovers of culture.

The Šiuolaikinių seniūnijų (Contemporary Neighbourhoods) Project helped bring together communities and attract renowned European artists to the small towns along the Nemunas River, west of Kaunas. We have also increased the number of joint events organized with the city of Kaunas, including ConTempo and the CityTelling Festival. Zapyškis also now hosts a landscape design project in the form of a floating garden.

Our people are welcoming and friendly, and we will be very pleased to present our region and the traditions cherished here. You won't be disappointed!

---

**Mayor of the Kaunas District**  
**Valerijus Makūnas**



# THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE PROJECT

The European Capital of Culture initiative, launched in 1985, is one of the most successful projects in the European Union. More than 50 cities have already been awarded this honourable title. The project is an opportunity to encounter and reveal the uniqueness and diversity of European cultures, to strengthen the sense of European community, and promote urban development.

In 2022, the spotlight of Europe will be focused on Kaunas and the Kaunas District, where the culture of the entire continent will also be represented. Kaunas is becoming the European Capital of Culture. For us, however, it began in 2015, when we started our journey to becoming the European Capital of Culture.

It is a journey from a temporary capital to a contemporary one – to a confident, creative, and open European city. A place where history lives on, and at the same time, the future is being actively built. It is a journey for all of us – for all citizens of the city and the Kaunas District, regardless of age, profession, origin, or views.

Over the last six years, we have successfully implemented the greater part of our programme and we view 2022 as a year-long celebration for Kaunas and the Kaunas District. But we won't be the only ones celebrating: We'll be joined by two other 2022 European Capitals of Culture – Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg and Novi Sad in Serbia. Together, we've created several special projects that will be presented in all three capitals.

Our status as 2022 European Capital of Culture is an invitation to co-create the city of our future and its cultural life. At the same time, it is an invitation to discover and reveal the uniqueness of our place, strengthen connections with other cultures, and meet them in Kaunas.

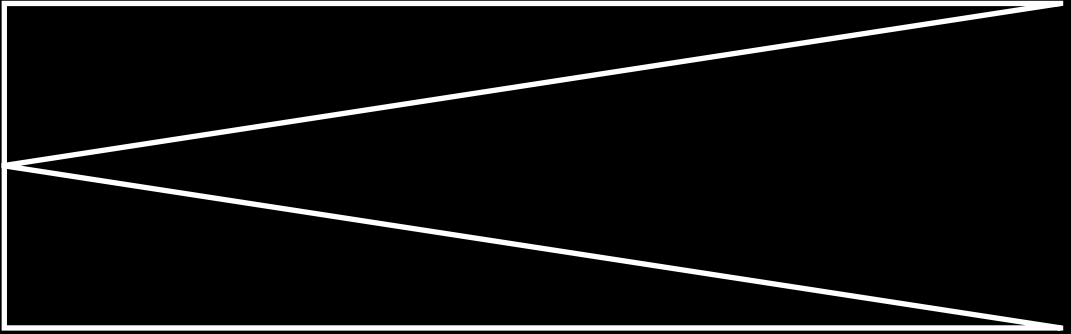
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**Kaunas 2022 Team**

# EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE



# LETTER FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



After several years of inspired discussions about what this project should bring to Kaunas, the decision to confer the title of European Capital of Culture was announced in 2017. The city's unique history, its European heritage, regional context and ambitious cultural programme had all shaped the unique, sincere, and community-based vision of a Contemporary Capital. Our Contemporary Capital is both a city and a region in which culture is not just limited to theatre on Sundays, but is a way of acting, learning, creating innovation, and building a community with respect for our own historical memory and that of others, concern for and pride in our heritage, and a community-based approach to building a shared Kaunas.

Guided by these aspirations and through the work of the project curators and hundreds of local and foreign partners, we have developed a cultural programme for Kaunas 2022 divided into 8 thematic sections. Thanks to all of these efforts, Kaunas and the Kaunas District will soon welcome exhibitions by world-renowned artists such as Marina Abramović, Yoko Ono, and William Kentridge, and visitors will be invited to participate in various festivals of unique scope and artistic range, including ConTempo,

Audra, and the Kaunas Literature Week – events that have been inspired by the title of European Capital of Culture.

As we look forward to welcoming these extraordinary events, we also wish to remember our long road of preparations. Kaunas has seen great changes since 2017, and not just in its building façades, streets, or flower gardens. So much more has been awakened. Over 1,000 new community initiatives have taken root and hundreds of participants in the Kaunas Challenge project have prepared projects for the city's youth.

The story of Kaunas' modernist heritage is now being vividly presented to international audiences. With the emergence of new activities focused on new venues and accessibility, the role of the cultural dimension has expanded. These events are the most important elements of the European Capital of Culture programme. And while our global circumstances are not yet entirely clear as of the printing of this guide, I am confident that, come 2022, we will indeed celebrate these events, our communities' creative power, and our ability to meet all challenges. Kaunas will become the cultural stage for all of Europe.

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**Kaunas 2022 Programme Director**  
**Ana Kočegarova-Maj**

# KAUNAS 2022

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

### MODERNISM FOR THE FUTURE

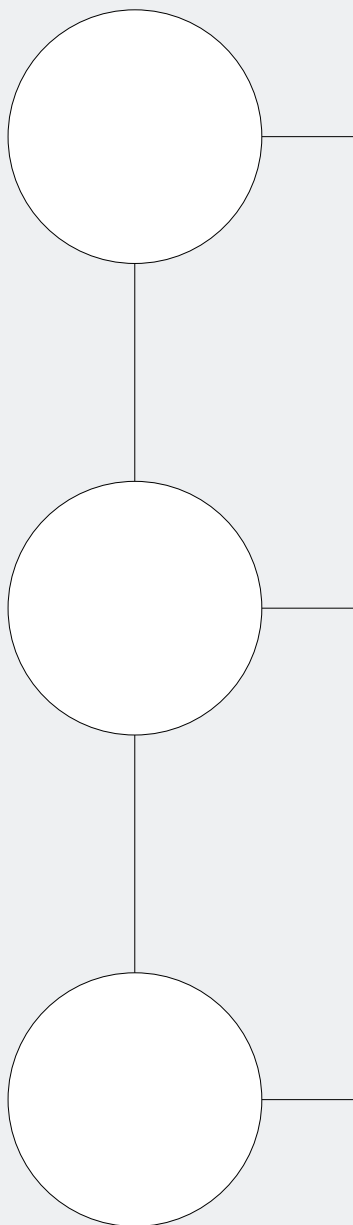
Promotes community awareness and a connection to the modernist heritage of Kaunas, develops new creative projects and strengthens the relevance of this heritage on a European scale.

### MEMORY OFFICE

Collects and promotes people's stories and seeks to revive the multi-ethnic memory of Kaunas and the Kaunas District, and to strengthen the bonds and interaction between the different communities that live here.

### DESIGNING HAPPINESS

Develops a new understanding of a comfortable city and urban living based on the recommendations of designers and environmentalists. Promotes learning how to adapt the city for everyone and educates modern urban citizens.





## EMERGING KAUNAS

This programme is designed for young people of various ages, from infants to young adults and seeks to help them build a city they want to live in.

## CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

A network of cultural organizations and creators, working together with Kaunas 2022 to develop over 100 unique artistic projects for a special 2022 programme.

## FLUXUS LABAS! / WE THE PEOPLE

Seeks to increase the community spirit of the people of Kaunas and the Kaunas District through cultural activities: Residents are encouraged to form resilient and creative communities through joint activities.

## TEMPO ACADEMY OF CULTURE

An informal training programme bringing together organizations and people involved in the project who are interested in developing new skills and innovative cultural projects.

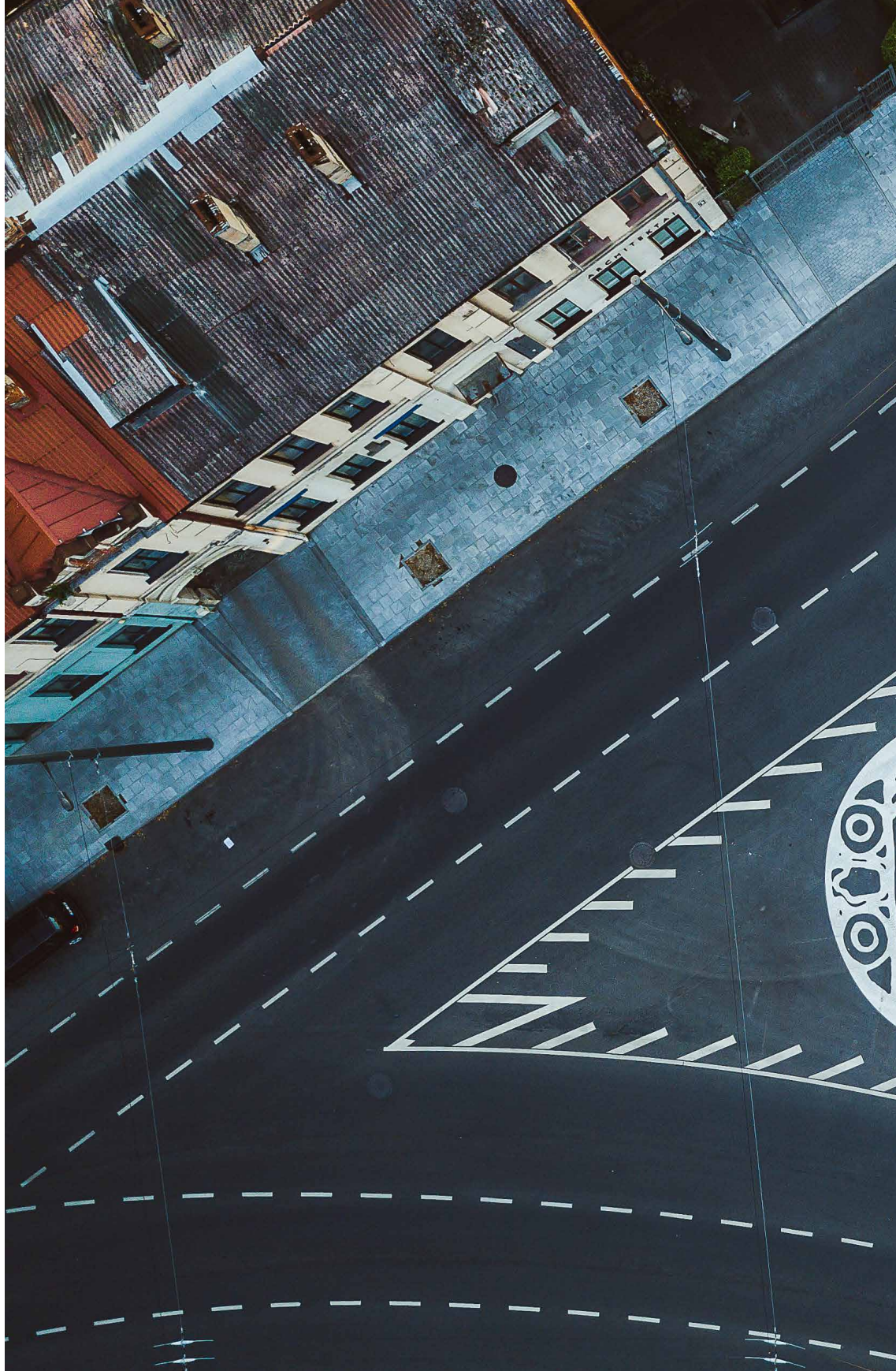
## KAUNAS DISTRICT PROGRAMME

Develops projects based on local and community identity together with the people of the Kaunas District, cultural organizations, and local and visiting artists.

## MYTHICAL BEAST OF KAUNAS

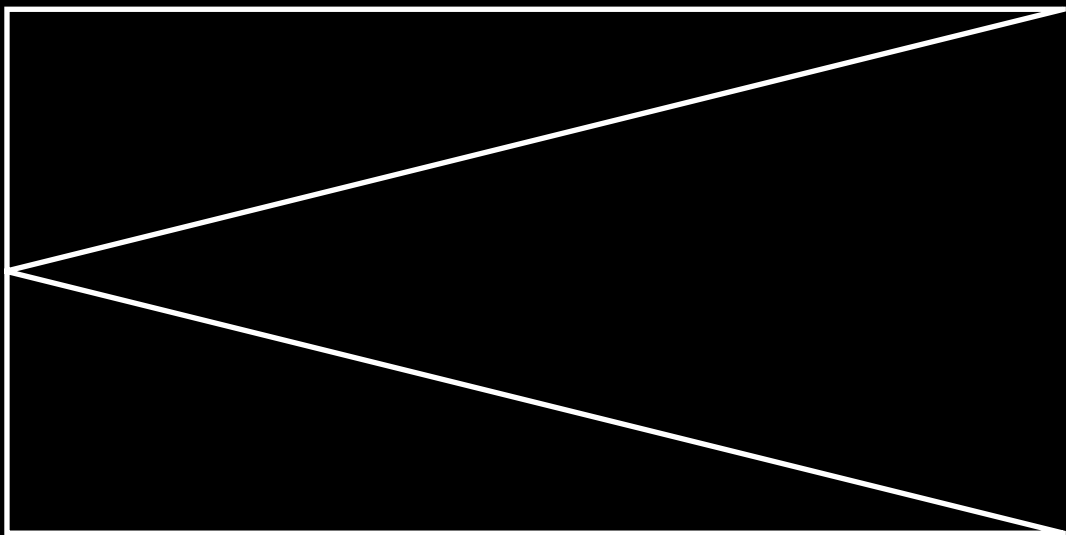
An entertaining part of the programme which has been preparing the storylines for the central events of 2022, based on existing and new stories about Kaunas. The programme is also creating a legend about the Mythical Beast of Kaunas.

Square of George (Jurgis) Maciunas









# THE CONTEMPORARY MYTH OF KAUNAS TRILOGY

It all began with a dream. A dream about a warm, interesting, familiar city. About a profound Kaunas with all of its secrets and wonderful present day life. About all of us, creating and destroying, rising and falling – the very real people of our city. Similar and different.

A city is a body. It lives as long as we exist and move around. This is what gave rise to the Beast metaphor, one which connects all of the city's different stories. That Beast is a bit noble, a bit of a ruler of the underworld, part child, part jester, part warrior, part guardian, part airplane, ship, even automobile. It, like the city, is created from living and inanimate parts. It moves, changes, breathes, and never stops, because it is eternal!

The Contemporary Myth of Kaunas Trilogy is made up of the body of this city – of the Beast and its rise, appearance, and our concord with it. It is a journey through the three main events of the European Capital of Culture – a journey much like the three stages of a person's life: coming to understand who we are, accepting who we are, and coexisting with ourselves – as we are. It is a liberating, soothing, and comforting journey, one which each of us can embark upon, whether we are natives of Kaunas, Vilnius, or New York. In truth, we're all very similar in our cities – everyone of us needs attention, warmth, and love.

And so, the Beast of Kaunas will rise in January on the Opening Day of the European Capital of Culture programme.

Then, we'll encounter him again in May.

And, finally, in November we'll make a contract with him (but actually, with ourselves) to live long and happy lives.

Our Beast will be accompanied by tens of concerts, exhibitions, performances, events, books, and stories.

Myths are culture. A city needs culture. Culture leads to a stronger economy and beneficial politics, and, quite simply – it makes life better.

Join us!

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**Creator and writer of The Contemporary  
Myth of Kaunas Trilogy**  
**Rytis Zemkauskas**





1

FROM  
TEMPORARY TO  
CONTEMPORARY.  
THE CONFUSION

At 19:30 (7:30pm) on  
22 January, all are invited  
to an historic event: the  
Opening Ceremony of the  
Kaunas European Capital  
of Culture programme!

The ceremony will be held  
near the Žalgiris Arena. The  
show programme will be kept  
a secret until the last minute  
before the opening



19–23 Jan 2022

Kaunas: Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50,  
Kaunas Centre, Šilainiai, Aleksotas &  
Palemonas Microdistricts

Kaunas District: Čekiškė, Piliuona,  
Vandžiogala, Akademija, Domeikava &  
Garliava

All we can tell you right now is that the show is being created by hundreds of performers from Kaunas, Lithuania, and abroad. A synthesis of contemporary music, gigantic video projections, and slam poetry will tell the story of a city as a living, always renewing miracle. The show calls everyone to the city's creative uprising. Kaunas will invite everyone watching the live broadcast of the opening ceremony throughout the European Union and around the world to harness culture to create a new, post-pandemic future.

Opening Night will be the main, but not the only event. Introductory events will already begin on 19 January at the edges of the Kaunas District, each evening drawing ever closer to the centre of Kaunas, bringing together local communities, one after another, for the great Opening Night event. On the eve of the show, several of the most important visual arts exhibitions of 2022 will officially open in Kaunas: A solo exhibition by William Kentridge entitled *MoFu 360/365*, dedicated to the modernist architecture of Kaunas and Europe, and exhibitions by artists from the two other European Capitals of Culture in 2022: *Esch-sur-Alzette* and *Novi Sad*.

In addition, tens of cultural organizations in Kaunas and the Kaunas District are also preparing a special programme for this extraordinary weekend, including concerts, dance performances and productions, tours, and creative workshops.

This entire opening cultural fuss will awaken the Mythical Beast of Kaunas.

And from that moment on, the excitement will begin...

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#### **Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

#### **Partners:**

Artscape, Bank of Lithuania, Brno Vaizard, z.ú. (Czech Republic), Caif Cafe, Centrinis knygynas, Cinema "Romuva", Creative Dock, Dance Theatre AURA, Embassy of Israel in Lithuania, Esch 2022 (Luxembourg), Forum Cinemas Lithuania, Galway 2020 (Ireland), Intercommunale Leiedal (Belgium), Investors of Pieno centras, Jazz academy, Jonas Basanavičius Military Medical Service Regional Subcommittee in Kaunas and Military Conscription and Acquisitio Service Kaunas Branch, Kaunas Artists' House, Kaunas Biennial, Kaunas Christ's Resurrection Basilica, Kaunas City Chamber Theatre, Kaunas Hotel, Kaunas County Public Library, Kaunas Cultural Centre, Kaunas Deaf Youth Organization, Kaunas District Prosecutor's Office, Kaunas Fortress Park, Kaunas Garrison Officers Club, Kaunas Interrogation Isolator, Kaunas Literature Week, Kaunas Municipal V. Kudirka Public Library,

Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum, Kaunas Photography Gallery, Kaunas Picture Gallery, Kaunas Regional Court, Kaunas Regional Prosecutor's Office, Kaunas Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf, Kaunas State Musical Theatre, Kaunas State Philharmonic, Kaunas State Puppet Theatre, Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Museum of Zoology, Kaunas University of Technology, Kosmos Theatre, L'Institut français de Lituanie, Le 318 Cité Radieuse (France), Liebling House – The White City Centre (Israel), Lithuanian Culture Institute, Lithuanian National Radio and Television, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Lithuanian Post, Lithuanian Sign Language Translation Center, Lvov Cultural Strategy Institute (CSI) (Ukraine), M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, Meno Parkas Gallery, Meet & Taste, MJ Group, MOXY Kaunas Center, National Kaunas Drama Theatre, Novi Sad 2022 (Serbia), OKTA Studio, PC Akropolis, Subjective Editions (Belgium), Super8 Ireland (Ireland), Spurginė, Viduramžiai LT, Vytautas Magnus University, Žalgiris Arena, 101 kėpyklėlė, 400 laipsnių



2

FROM  
TEMPORARY TO  
CONTEMPORARY.  
THE CONFLUENCE

The Confluence is the second main event in the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas Trilogy. We invite you to one of Lithuania's most impressive sites to encounter the contradictions that lie within all of us and celebrate unity together. The event will begin with a sunset performance of a mystery directed by Oskaras Koršunovas, and will conclude with a water show on a scale never before seen in Lithuania, directed by British theatre director Chris Baldwin

20–22 May 2022

Confluence of Nemunas and Neris &  
various places by the rivers in Kaunas &  
Kaunas District

The date of this event was chosen for a very specific reason. The city of Kaunas celebrates its birthday every year in late May, while at the same time the Kaunas District will hold one of its most memorable celebrations, the Between Earth and Sky international kite festival. This is why an entire weekend will be devoted to all of these events. The name “Confluence” symbolizes the community shared between the people of Kaunas and the surrounding Kaunas District and the region’s ties with other European cities. It is our hope that this weekend’s events will inspire us all to reconnect with the waters around Kaunas and fulfil the city’s dream to reunite with its rivers!

The entire weekend will feature shows by acrobats, contemporary circus performers, river excursions, and musical tours to river towns and settlements in Kaunas. If the pandemic permits, we also hope to welcome guests from the other two European Capitals of Culture and also from Alytus, which carries the title of Lithuania’s Capital of Culture in 2022.

Finally, the weekend’s events will also give everyone the chance to get a close glimpse of the Mythical Beast of Kaunas...

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**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Cie Basinga (France), EspectacleSpectacular (Spain), Inland Waterways Directorate, Kaunas State Choir, Klaipėda Puppet Theatre, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, National Kaunas Drama Theatre, OKTA Studio, Oskaro Koršunovo teatras





# 3

FROM  
TEMPORARY TO  
CONTEMPORARY.  
THE CONTRACT

The official Closing Ceremonies of the Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022 programme will be dedicated to signing a contract with ourselves and with our city – a pledge to live long and happy lives from this moment forward!



25–27 Nov 2022

Kaunas Old Town & Raudondvaris Manor,  
Kaunas District

The creators of the Great Contract event are Lithuanian artists, including composer and Lithuanian National Prize laureate Zita Bružaitė, director Gediminas Šeduikis, dramatist and Gold Stage Cross winner Daiva Čepauskaitė, and hundreds of Lithuania's best performers in the production of a contemporary opera composed especially for the occasion.

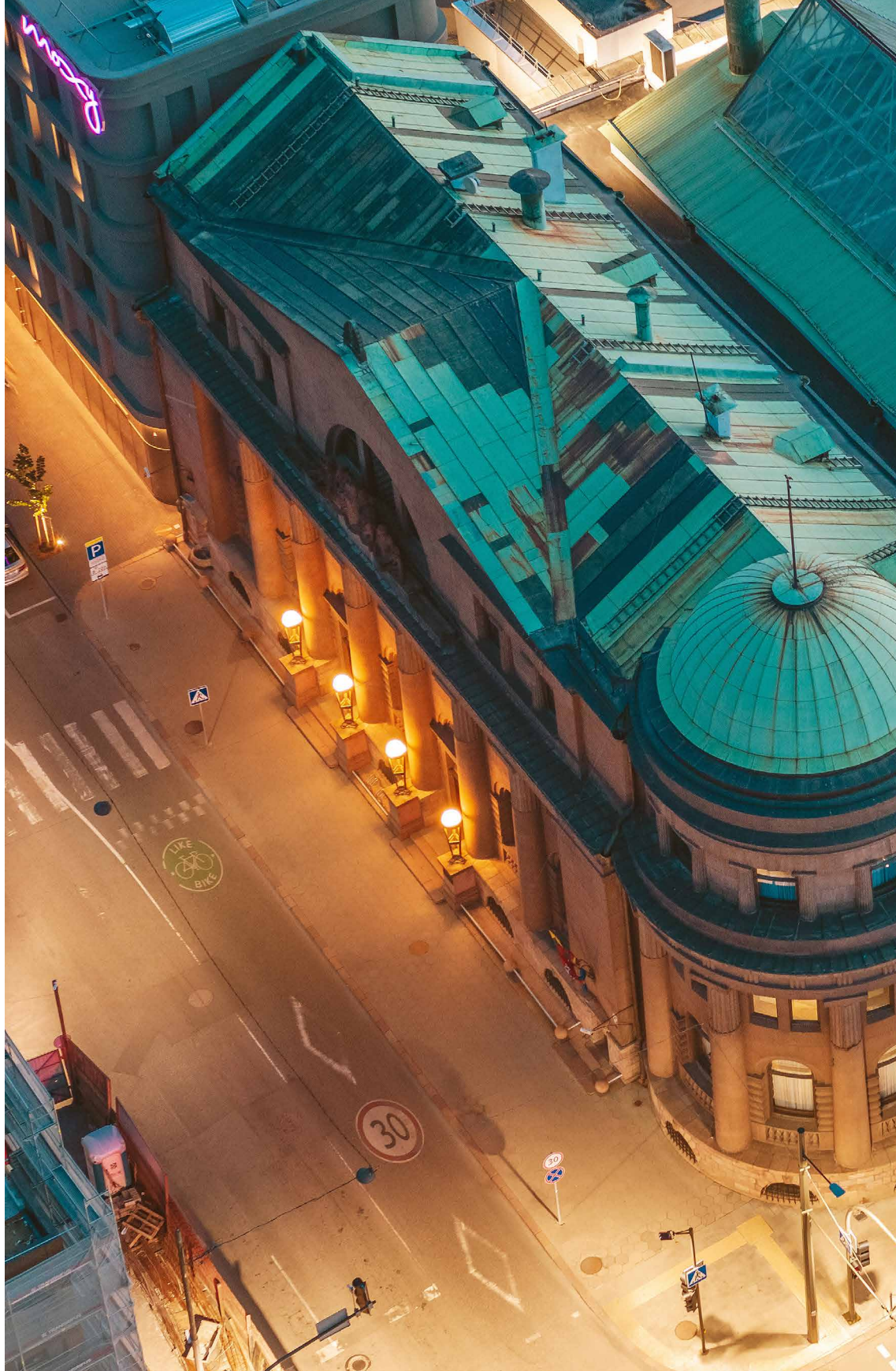
For the entire weekend of the Closing Ceremonies, various public spaces around Kaunas will be adorned with contemporary light installations brought to Kaunas from sister European cities and other European Capitals of Culture. On Sunday evening, we will bid farewell to our year as Capital of Culture with a magnificent audio-visual show staged at the Raudondvaris Estate, accompanied by an exhibition commemorating the year 2022. Although these events will officially bring to an end Kaunas' tenure as a European Capital of Culture, the city will have already become a city of contemporary culture.

The Beast of Kaunas will remain in the city and watch over the Contract concluded by all who live here...

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**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kauno santaka, Raudondvaris Manor









MODERNISM  
FOR THE FUTURE

# Creating an emotional connection with our modernist heritage

Kaunas has a hidden miracle. The time has come to reveal it.

This miracle consists of more than 6,000 buildings, designed in the modernist spirit and surviving to the present day. It is an open-air school of good taste and style. It also a museum of a beautiful life, dispersed through the streets, courtyards, and avenues of Kaunas – discovered, washed, and restored to its past glory every day. This is not just about buildings and sites, but also about those who built and cultivated them. And it is also about their fates. Having such a highly concentrated heritage, full of all sorts of individual stories and meanings, is an enormous treasure. It is a living testa-

ment to a period of flourishing and modernization that altered established daily habits and coincided with profound change in cities, settlements, and architecture in Europe and around the world.

Why was this miracle forgotten for so long? We posed this question as we prepared our competitive proposal for the title of European Capital of Culture, especially in view of the nomination of Kaunas in 2015 for the European Heritage Label, which helped restore Kaunas Modernism to a European and global context. We discussed how we could contribute to the success story of the preservation of this legacy in our city. Thus, one of the core values of the Modernism for the Future programme was rebuilding a love for our city's beauty. How could we accomplish this? By building a civically minded community of lovers and champions of

modernism, a community capable of creatively examining the modernist legacy and its history.

And by retelling this wonderful history in an unexpected, intriguing, and universally understandable language!

Starting in 2017, the phenomenon of Kaunas Modernism has been successfully cultivated through a collaboration of Lithuanian and foreign architecture and cultural heritage preservation professionals, cultural organizations, and artists, seeking to foster an intellectual and creative dialogue, resulting in more than one hundred different international events and projects presenting audiences with new experiences, including conferences, forums, summer classes, sym-

posiums, and discussions. What's more, the legacy of this period has also become an inspiration for contemporary art – the creation of interpretations of modernism and their appearance in the most unexpected urban spaces.

We hope that this is just the beginning, because our heritage has never been more alive, uniting, and interesting as it is today. We open 2022 by entering a new stage and a new relationship with modernism. Now, this modernism is even closer to us, particularly as we seek to understand our city and its identity by establishing a dialogue and searching for creativity for the future. I eagerly invite you to discover, rethink, and play. Why?

Because it's going to be fun.



# KAUNAS MODERNISM 360/365: EVERYDAY LEGACY IN ART





How do we present a city as a museum?

How can we invite others to learn more about a great treasure that was scattered and forgotten for so many years?

How do we present exhibits if they are our homes and our perspective of those homes?

How do we create an exhibition of a charming daily life?

How can we remain academic, but become attractive?

The solution? To utilize cultural tools and invite artists.

The project Kaunas Modernism 360/365: Everyday Legacy in Art is an enormous undertaking. It alone would suffice for any European Capital of Culture programme.

For this reason, the project consists of many different events: exhibitions, festivals, workshops, tours, publications, performances, concerts, and a very special film production...

Local partner organizations, curators, and artists from Lithuania and abroad devoted five years to creating the components of a new language that can encompass the unique architectural features and the testimonials of the local community that embody Kaunas Modernism as a phenomenon. Thus, a social heritage became an inspiration to create new, relevant content, while architecture helped us discover the most suitable forms for that content. Film, dance, experimental and alternative music, painting, sculpture, design projects, and maps are just a few of the means for the interpretation and creative definition of a new understanding of the significance of our heritage and the enormous potential for present and future generations contained within the “living” walls of the city’s buildings.

360 forms of modernism, 365 days in the year.

Some projects have already taken place, others continue, but the most important ones are yet to come.

We invite you to enjoy them – and read all about them on the following pages!

Vytauto pr. 58 building courtyard facade



## WEBSITE

*modernizmasateiciai.lt*

Where do we find the pearls of modernism in Kaunas?

What does a particular building look like? Who built it?

Who lived there?

What happened there?

Learn more about Kaunas Modernism without ever leaving home!

This is a virtual educational project – a map of modernist architecture and different thematic tours and an archive of artistic interpretations of modernism, dedicated to the study and creative presentation of the 20th century heritage of Kaunas and the Kaunas District. The website features a collection of visual material and testimonials by residents about different buildings and their owners, and explores various interdisciplinary projects inspired by the legacy of Kaunas Modernism. This project has been in existence since 2017, successfully bringing together the cultural heritage community.

[www.modernizmasateiciai.lt](http://www.modernizmasateiciai.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Artists and participants:**

Arūnas Periokas, Eglė Simonavičiūtė, Eigulių Microdistrict Community, Goda Verikaitė, Justinas Stonkus, Kaunas 2022 Kaunas Challenge, Dance Theatre AURA, Mantas Kuginis, Marius Paplauskas, Marius Vizbaras, Martyna Žukaitė, Milda Gineikaitė, Patris Židelevičius, Povilas Vincentas Jankūnas, Rokas Mikšiūnas, Sonja Lakic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), residents / owners of interwar modernist residential buildings in Kaunas & Kaunas District, Architektūros fondas

## CONCERT SERIES

**World Music**

Modernism is not just architecture – it's also a philosophy. And one of the features of this philosophy is openness to the world.

Throughout its history, Kaunas has been known as a multicultural and open city. To remember and celebrate this fact, the organizers of GM Gyvai will present a special programme at the opening of the European Capital of Culture in 2022. The 2022 summer season will be enriched by a World Music Concert Series held in uncommon spaces in Kaunas and the Kaunas District. Most of these events will be free of charge. This unique musical programme will give audiences the chance to hear music from such distant places as the Tuva Republic, Mexico, Mali, South Africa, Brazil, Romania, Spain, the United States, and elsewhere.

Apr – Sept 2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

[www.gmgyvai.lt](http://www.gmgyvai.lt)



Partially paid event

**Organizers:** GM Gyvai

## PROJECT

# Interpreting Modernism: Design and the Visual Arts

This project has already taken place, but we are proud to mention it here.

A three-day creative workshop was organized together with foreign and local curators and guests. The workshop was held to discuss ways to transform the modernist heritage into works of contemporary design and satisfy the public interest. Workshop participants created their own visual interpretations inspired by Kaunas modernist architecture. Design principles, the visual and applied arts, as well as interdisciplinary art practices were utilized to create modernist-inspired design and art object prototypes.

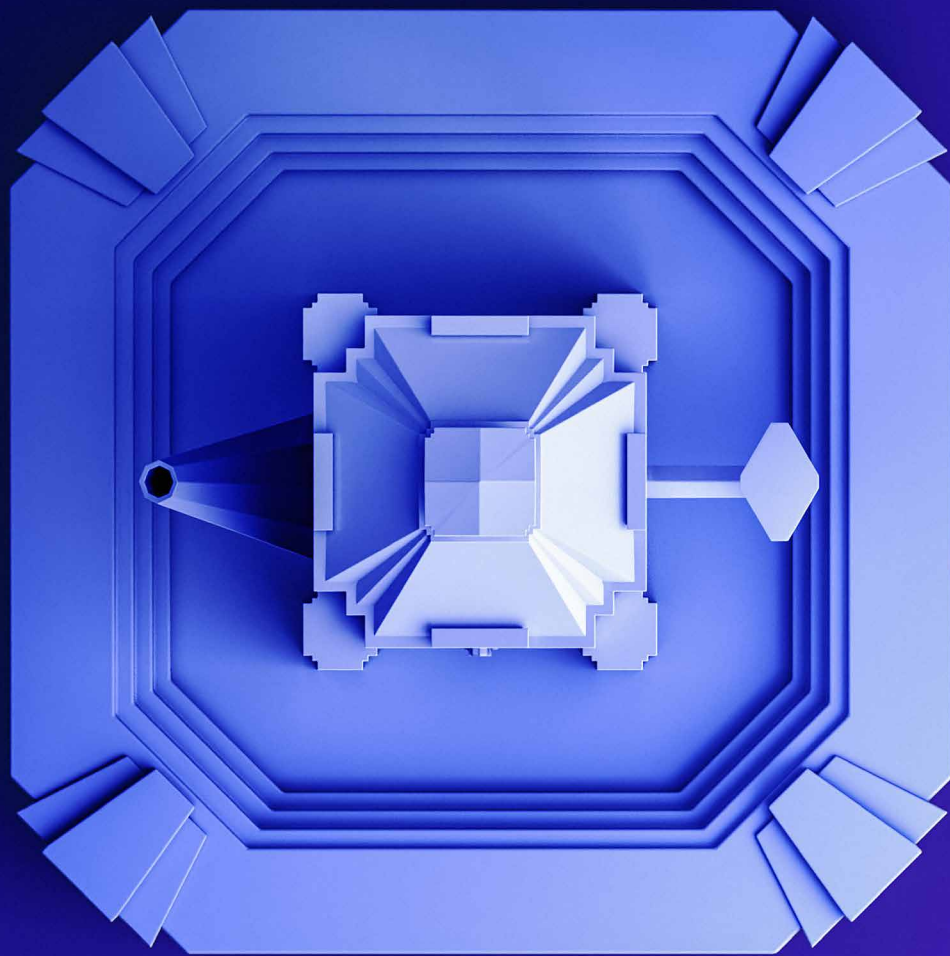
**Curators:**

Kolektiv Cité Radieuse – Laura Serra, Maxime Forest (France)

**Artists:**

Alex Bykov (Ukraine), Izabela Szroka (Poland), Jan Šrámek (Czech Republic), Zuzanna Gadomska (Poland)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022







# Subjective Atlas of Kaunas Modernism

There are cities – and then there is MY city.

There are maps of cities, and then there's a map of MY CITY, marked with the things that are important to me. On this kind of map a small corner shop would be much larger than the biggest shopping centre, and the bridge I cross on my way to work is much more important than any other. My park will only be marked for the trees familiar to me and my dog.

This is how subjective atlases work. Kaunas 2022 has published the Subjective Atlas of Garliava Eldership Neighbourhoods, which was very well received by everyone.

So, together with Hugo Herrera Tobón, the creator of this idea, we have prepared and released the Subjective Atlas of Kaunas Modernism.

This atlas charts the existence of a growing and changing city through the personal perspective of its residents. The creative process was accompanied by a series of creative workshops during which local residents were invited to use various creative means to “map out” their daily lives, social concerns, and everyday artifacts. Personal engagement became the starting point for creating a human, unique, and honest image. The series of alternative and open cartographies emerging from this creative process is an inspiring and publicly accessible tool for critically questioning what appears to be objective and taken for granted.

The atlas will be available for purchase and will be featured in a special map exhibition (for more, see p. 58–61).

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Subjective Editions

## MUSIC PROGRAMME

# Optimismo

Join us on a musical journey through modernist buildings!

This unique, innovative weekend musical programme will be performed at the phenomenally vast spaces of Kaunas' industrial modernist heritage and exclusive historical cultural objects. Much like the designers of Kaunas' modernist architecture with their political, social, economic, and cultural optimism, the creators of this music like to experiment with technology and are known for their virtuosity, the non-traditional structure of their pieces, and their unconventional creative methods. The music programme will combine different experiences, inviting audiences to participate, listen, and expand their understanding of sound and technological capabilities by 360 degrees.

03–05 June 2022

Kaunas modernist and industrial buildings

[www.optimismo.eu](http://www.optimismo.eu)



Partially paid event

**Organizers:** Skaitmeninis cunamis

**Partners:** Kaunas Cultural Centre, Kaunas Artists' House, LRT, MOXY Kaunas Centre

## EXHIBITION

# ARNO FUNKtionalism

Who designed the present-day Kaunas Municipal Building?

This exhibition is dedicated to one of the city's most renowned interwar architects, engineers, and masters of interior design, Arnas Funkas (1898–1957). Funkas introduced the principles of functionalism to residential and public architecture and designed numerous representative examples of the style in Lithuania.

Arnas Funkas left his greatest imprint on Kaunas, where several of his beautifully designed projects can still be viewed today.

This show will present Funkas' work and explore the principles of interior and building architecture prevalent in his time and which became a unique feature of Kaunas, representing the city's architectural landscape.

The start of this exhibition will coincide with the opening of the Contemporary Myth of Kaunas Trilogy. Don't miss it!

Jan – July 2022

Vydūno al. 2

[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

Facebook: [GalauniuNamai](#)



Paid event

**Team:**

urator Marija Drėmaitė, Vika Pranaitytė, Lukas Mykolaitis

**Organizers:**

M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum

**Partners:** Roquette Amilina, Kaunas County Public Library – Documentary Heritage Research and Dissemination Department, Kaunas City Museum Mikas and Kipras Petrauskas House, Kaunas Regional State Archives, Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania, Stop juosta

## EXHIBITION

# 100 Images of Kaunas

This exhibition perfectly symbolizes the idea of a city as a museum. To see it, you'll have to do a lot of walking – the best way to learn about all the treasures of Kaunas.

Kaunas and the surrounding region aren't home to just any old modernist buildings. They're legendary structures, full of intriguing stories!

The creators of this project invited Lithuanian visual artists to take part in a residency programme and reinvent the stories behind the buildings, re-telling them through different means of artistic expression. The historical and cultural research conducted by these artists over the course of two years is now presented in individual works displayed in public and private spaces throughout the city and the region. Art objects and installations specially created for the city's modernist buildings symbolically present 100 "message" images for future generations about the 20th century phenomenon that changed all of our lives.

Oct 2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

Facebook: [LDSKaunoSk](#)

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Artists' Association Kaunas Department

## PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

# The Family of Man

Kaunas will host an exhibition that once enchanted New York, Paris, Milan, London, Zurich.

Indeed, this exhibition has become a legend. It is perhaps the longest touring exhibition in the world!

This collection of images was first curated in 1955 by Edward Steichen for the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City. The collection then toured the world for eight years, breaking all exhibition attendance records. The Family of Man exhibition is an extensive presentation of humanistic photography as it existed at the time. It includes works by 273 photographers from 68 countries. Since its inception, the exhibition has been reimaged for numerous different art events and institutions. Since 1994, the exhibition has been on permanent display at Clervaux Castle in Luxembourg. In 2003, the collection of photographs included in the exhibition was inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register. A portion of the exhibition's photographs will be displayed in the autumn of 2022 at the Kaunas Photography Gallery, featuring images by Nat Farbman, Nina Leen, Carl Mydans, Vito Fiorenza, and Robert Carrington.

This will be the first time images from The Family of Man exhibition will be shown in the Baltic countries.

24 Nov – 31 Dec 2022

Kaunas Photography Gallery, Vilniaus g. 2

[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Photographers Association Kaunas Branch

**Partners:** Centre National de l'Audiovisuel (CNA) (Luxembourg), Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte (Germany)



# Tour series and contemporary dance performances in modernist buildings

Here's what we'd like you to do: Visit the Ekskursas website to find the nearest organized walk near you, book it, and enter a Kaunas you've never seen before and never knew existed.

You'll discover hidden stairwells, cellars, lobbies, and halls, living rooms and elevators. You won't believe such things actually exist in Kaunas!

This is not some ghost tour. Our guides lead tours based on carefully selected academic sources and material.

Especially for Kaunas 2022, the Ekskursas team will offer tours with an additional programme in the spring and autumn to the most popular and famous modernist buildings. In collaboration with partners during the Grande Saison SanuaK (Germany) part of the programme, participants will be invited to experience unusual types of tours and join in a provocative Dadaist adventure. By the way, did you know that interwar Kaunas was not just home to Maironis, one of Lithuania's most famous poets, but also to a group of Dadaist poets? Programme curators: Yael Sherill and Lianne Mol (Germany).

The Icons of Modernism tours offered by Ekskursas through the modernist buildings of Kaunas include several surprises, including storytelling accompanied by contemporary dance interpretations. The Pulsating Modernism of Kaunas presents lively performances by the Aura Dance Theatre, under the direction of choreographer Birutė Letukaitė.

Tour programme  
01, 08, 15 May 2022

Kaunas Centre



Paid event

Tour and dance programme  
11, 18, 25 Sept 2022

Kaunas Centre



With registration

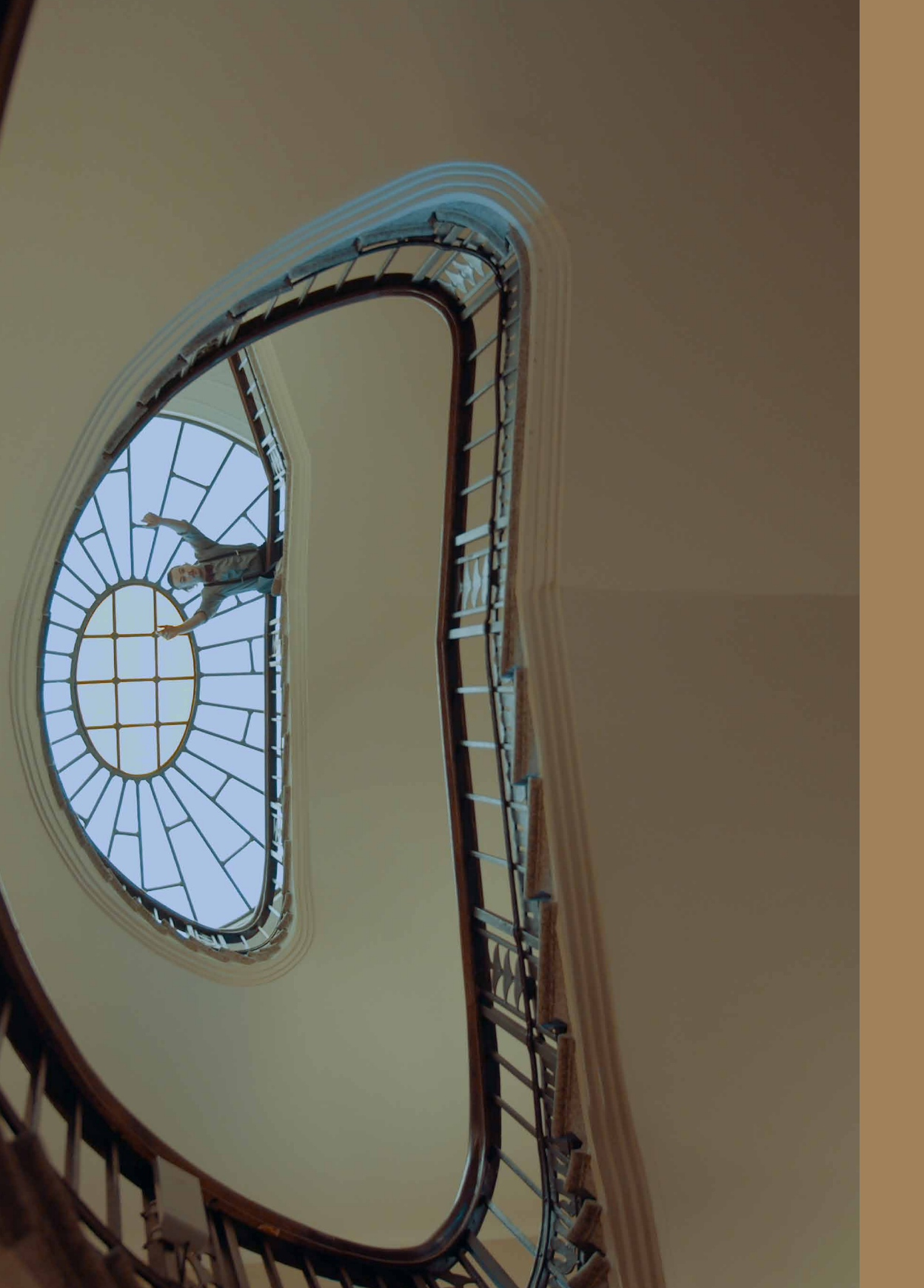
[www.ekskuras.lt](http://www.ekskuras.lt)  
Facebook: Ekskursas  
[www.aura.lt](http://www.aura.lt)  
Facebook: sokioteatrasaura  
[www.ccpart.info](http://www.ccpart.info)  
[www.b-tour.org](http://www.b-tour.org)

**Organizers:** Ekskursas, Dance Theatre AURA

**Partners:** Architecture and Urbanism Research Centre AUTC, B\_Tour & Curatorial Collective for Public Art (CCPA) (Germany)

**Guides:** Nerijus Babrauskas, Laura Baltkojytė, Julija Činčytė, Lina Jankauskaitė, Algimantas Grigas, Renardas Gruodis, Paulius Tautvydas Laurinaitis, Eglė Rudzkytė, Indrė Urbelytė, Eglė Urmanavičiūtė, Justinas Tamošaitis





## DISCUSSION AND MAGAZINE PRESENTATION

# Experiencing Humanity

This discussion will be featured in the Kaunas 2022 Closing Days series.

A magazine devoted to contemporary humanistic photography published in collaboration with the National Audiovisual Centre in Luxembourg will be presented as part of this discussion. The magazine seeks to take a new look at contemporary people and search for new definitions of humanistic photography. The magazine's creative process draws on the successful six-year run of the Kaunas Photography Gallery's publication. For more see p. 274. Participants will be invited to a discussion about contemporary people, and how we view and portray them today. The event will also include a night-time slideshow and other events focused on the new publication.

24 Nov 2022

Kaunas Photography Gallery,  
Vilniaus g. 2

*[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)*  
*Facebook: Kaunasgallery.lt*

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Photographers  
Association Kaunas Branch

**Partners:** Centre National de  
l'Audiovisuel (CNA) (Luxembourg)

## A SENSORY PAVILION

# Archi/Texture

Get ready to sense architecture in an entirely different way. Prepare yourself to feel architecture.

This project, organized by Rasa Chmieliauskaitė, takes the visually impaired community on a creative journey through architecture.

An experimental sensory pavilion under creation since 2020 will be taken in 2022 through different city spaces and invite audiences to participate in an alternative education programme for a different way of experiencing architecture.

Contemporary culture is visual and for most people sight is their dominant sense and their main tool for understanding their surroundings. But is sight alone sufficient?

The aesthetics of architecture manifest themselves not only in the image of a given creation, but also through sound, touch, and other characteristics that can affect a visitor and leave an enduring impression. News about this project will be published online.

May – June 2022

Kaunas

*[www.architextura.lt](http://www.architextura.lt)*

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Union of  
Architects Kaunas Branch

**Partners:**  
Lithuanian Union of the Blind and Visually  
Impaired, Lithuanian Library for the Blind

## EXHIBITION AND STUDY

# Architecture of Lust

For adults only!

Or perhaps not just adults?

This is a curatorial project exploring the multi-faceted expressions of lust in architecture, and is a continuation of an international partnership begun in 2019 with a study entitled the Architecture of Shame in Matera, Italy. The project seeks to direct our focus at historical and contemporary sites that evoke, in one way or another, a feeling of shame associated with lust, sensuality, and sexuality. This non-conventional exhibition space created in 2022 will present the results of the project together with a publication and a map. The exhibition will also be accompanied by a series of lectures and workshops.

May 2022

Kaunas

**Team:** curator Tautvydas Urbelis, Aistė Ambrazevičiūtė, Domantė Nalivaikaitė, Goda Aksamitauskaitė, Inside Job – Ula Lucińska ir Michał Knychaus (Poland), Lukas Mykolaitis

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Union of Architects Kaunas Branch

**Partners:** Kaunas Artists' House

## FESTIVAL

# Inconvenient Films: Moving City Visions

The Inconvenient Films Festival already has a large following. This year, the festival has prepared a special programme for Kaunas 2022!

Inconvenient Films: Moving City Visions is a programme of events meant to provide an architectural and cinematographic experience. The film festival screens will briefly come to life in six undiscovered spaces within Kaunas modernist heritage buildings. The documentary film programme will seek to find connections between the stories of the individuals who created and lived here, amidst the realities of a contemporary city and the backdrop of global social, cultural, and environmental challenges. The ideas of modernism become the starting point for the creation of future urbanist visions.

Follow the festival's website for information on film screening times and don't miss this opportunity!

06–23 Oct 2022

Kaunas modernist buildings

[www.nepatoguskinas.lt](http://www.nepatoguskinas.lt)



Paid event

**Team:** Algimantas Grigas, Daiva Gilytė, Dovilė Grigaliūnaitė, Gediminas Andriukaitis, Judita Ragauskaitė, Narius Kairys, Vladas Rožėnas

**Organizers:** Inconvenient Films

**Partners:** Ekskursas

## EXHIBITION

# Reclamation

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We invite you to a modern exhibition about modernities.

This exhibition is three years in the making.

It was created by artists, curators, and researchers from Kaunas, Nice, Novi Sad and Derry/Londonderry, who participated in the DeMo (Decoding Modernity) residency programme. The creators of the residency analysed the process and course of modernity's development in different social and cultural contexts.

The results will be presented in the Reclamation exhibition, which will be held at different sites associated with the land reclamation process in the city of Kaunas.

03 June – 23 Aug 2022

Reclaimed places in Kaunas

*www.kmn.lt*

*Facebook: KaunoMenininkuNamai*

**Organizers:** Kaunas Artists' House

**Partners:** Derry-Londonderry (Northern Ireland), Lithuanian Culture Institute

## URBAN ARCHITECTURE SYMPOSIUM

# Critical Induction

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Lithuania is seeing an increasing number of interdisciplinary studies, but this research remains mostly confined to closed academic conference halls and professional academic circles. At the same time, artists also have access to a number of unconventional studies about the life of urban residents and the urban environment, but the opportunities to publicize such formats are also often limited.

This symposium on urban architecture is being organized in response to the need to publicize diverse studies, increase their circulation, and facilitate a more open discourse about public urban spaces with the participation of a broader audience.

19–21 Aug 2022

Reclaimed places in Kaunas

*www.kmn.lt*

*Facebook: KaunoMenininkuNamai*

**Organizers:** Kaunas Artists' House

**Partners:** Derry-Londonderry (Northern Ireland), Lithuanian Culture Institute





AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

# Modernism for the Future 360/365

22 Jan – 10 Apr 2022

Kaunas Central Post Office,  
Laisvės al. 102

*[www.modernizmasateiciai.lt](http://www.modernizmasateiciai.lt)*

*Facebook: [modernismforthefuture](https://www.facebook.com/modernismforthefuture)*

*IG: [@modernismforthefuture](https://www.instagram.com/modernismforthefuture)*



Paid event

Kaunas Central Post Office



This exhibition is a very special report about the Kaunas 2022 Modernism Programme!

This event will become one of the highlights of the European Capital of Culture Opening Series



Over twenty artists and architects.

Five countries.

And a masterpiece of Lithuanian modernism – the Kaunas Central Post Office.

The exhibition *Modernism for the Future 360/365* is devoted to a discussion about the future of the modernist heritage in contemporary European cities.

It seeks to illustrate the value of modernist architecture and its appeal to contemporary audiences, urban dwellers, specialists, and lovers of architecture.

One of the exhibition's goals is to encourage current residents and owners of modernist buildings to treasure their property and motivate the city to take pride in this legacy and present it to visitors and tourists.

The exhibition seeks to reinforce the European and intercontinental modernist heritage narrative and to show that this heritage, like every work of art, transcends the borders of individual cities and countries.

Toward this end, the project partners invited professional artists to collaborate with local researchers and the local community to create 17 art projects in 5 of the city's modernist buildings, using interdisciplinary approaches to interpret their history and give substance to their value today.

This exhibition is an enormous contribution to Lithuania and Kaunas, but also to other countries in Europe and around the world.

With this exhibition, Kaunas takes the lead in the very special report and finally establishes itself as a centre of world research, promotion, and attraction of modernism in the world.

The significance of Kaunas as a centre of global modernism will be one of the most important and enduring achievements long after the European Capital of Culture project comes to a close.

This exhibition is a "must see" for every Kaunasian.

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**Curator:** Viltė Migonytė-Petruilienė

**Artists:** Arūnas Periokas, Hugo Herrera Tobon, Marius Pinigis, Martynas Timinskas, Patris Židelevičius, Rita Kundrotaitė, Rokas Mikšius, Tadas Stalyga (Lithuania); Andriy Linik, Olha Kuzyura, (Ukraine); Andrea Uváčiková, Josef Řehák, Karin Písaříková, Karolína Strnadová, Michal Trávníček, Zuzana Bartošová (Czech Republic); Erich Weiss, Inge Vaikla, Jonas Vansteenkiste, Malgorzata Olchowska (Belgium); Shay Zilberman (Israel)

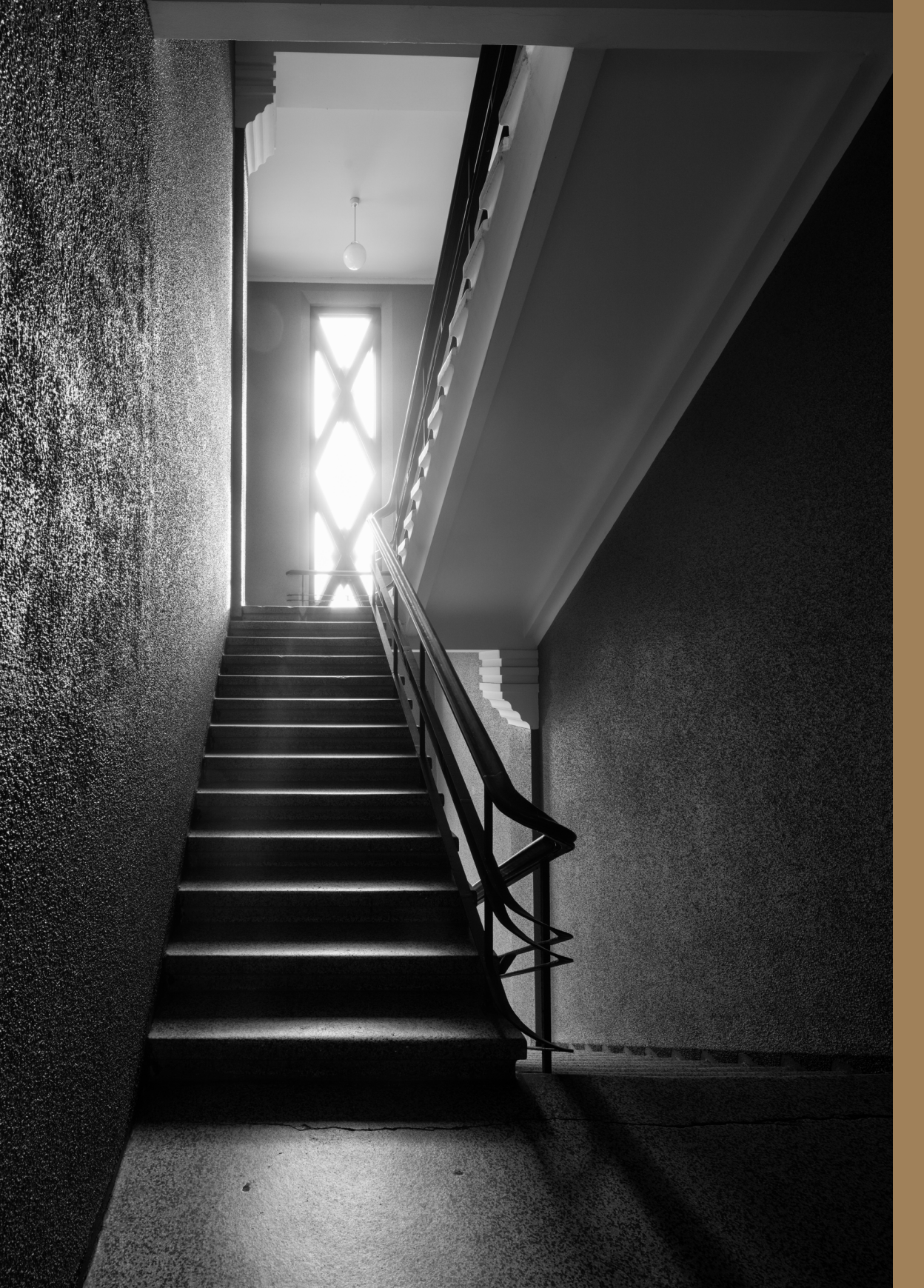
**Architects:** Office De Architectura – Andrius Ropolas, Jautra Bernotaitė, Paulius Vaitiekūnas

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Lvov Cultural Strategy Institute (CSI) (Ukraine), Intercommunale Leiedal (Belgium), Vaizard, z.ú. (Czech Republic), Liebling House – The White City Centre (Israel)

**Sponsors:** Creative Europe





## A FILM ABOUT KAUNAS MODERNISM

# Pleats / Folds

Premiere June 2022

Cinema "Romuva", Laisvės al. 54

[www.klostes.com](http://www.klostes.com)

Facebook: KlostesFilm



Paid event

**Director:** Aideen Barry (Ireland)

**DOP:** Mikas Zabulionis (Lithuania)

**Editor and colourist:** Aleks Rydzkowska (United Kingdom)





# It's quite possible this film will make Kaunas famous

Rolands Zilvinskis. The visualization of film "Pleats / Folds"



When Irish artist and filmmaker Aideen Barry first saw Kaunas, it took her breath away. "It was as if I'd found an extremely rare jewel. I'm surprised you've managed to hide this secret from the world for so long. Kaunas is full of exceptionally beautiful buildings covered in wonderful small details, unique windows, doors, and balconies that turn buildings into ships. It's impressive."

The result of Aideen's fascination with Kaunas is a 45-minute silent film entitled "Pleats / Folds", which she created together with residents of Kaunas.

The title "Pleats / Folds" is a metaphor about how time unfurls and unfolds like a piece of fabric. It is a metaphor about how certain things happen and how they repeat and come around again.

Folds are also an architectural trope, serving as recurring details in interwar modernism. Pleats also describe the film's creative process: It is folded together from thousands of photographs to create the illusion that all of the images seen on the screen are moving and not static.

The film is not just a story about Kaunas. "Pleats / Folds" is itself a special work of art that transcends traditional limitations.

The film's creative process was full of discoveries. Filming took place in some locations that were previously considered inaccessible, and special filming and sound processing techniques were used.

Because such a large group of Kaunas residents took part in the creative process, the film has also served as an enormous educational undertaking.

"The strength of this project lies in its inclusion of the community," says curator Viltė Migonytė-Petruilienė. "We created this together with Kaunasian artists, writers, com-

posers, actors, dancers, musicians, and volunteers. The creative process was also joined by hundreds of children, young people, new and experienced creative minds participating in creative writing, stop motion animation, greenscreening, and decoration production workshops that helped us set up filming locations, assisted filmmakers in production work, etc. The project sought to inspire the people of Kaunas and reinforce their interest in the city's architectural and cultural heritage. Young future filmmakers directed and edited their own animated short films and contributed to the creation of parts of the film. A wonderful group of volunteers helped organize and conduct creative activities, participated in the filming of mass scenes, assisted with makeup for actors and dancers, helped prepare filming sets, and performed other important production roles that are not always seen on film."

On 20-22 January, we'll gather to see off the film "Pleats / Folds" as it departs for such international film festivals as Debut the Film in America, New York Film Makers Co-Op Manhattan, and elsewhere.

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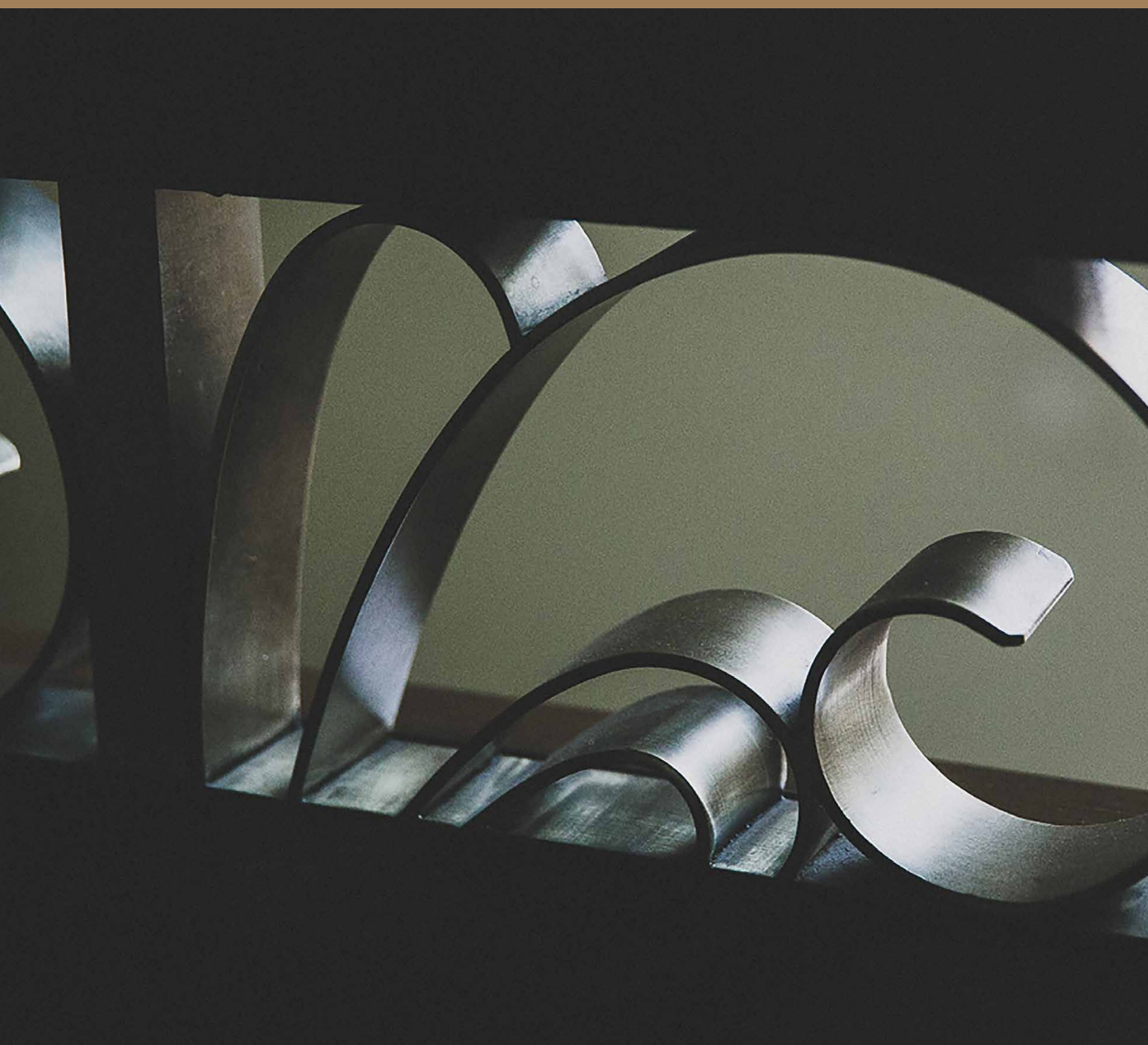
**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Blank Page, Dance Theater AURA, Kaunas Evangelical Reformed Parish, Kaunas Food Industry and Trade Training Centre Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum, Kaunas University of Technology, Kauno liftai, Kauno moksleivių techninės kūrybos centras, Kauno vandenys, Bank of Lithuania, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Lituanicon, M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, National Kaunas Drama Theater, Palemono keramikos gamykla, Sugihara House, Thomas Dammann Junior Memorial Trust, Vytautas Magnus University, Wolt





# ARCHITECTURE LEARNING PROGRAMME





## INTERNATIONAL MODERNISM SUMMER SCHOOL

# Modernism for the Future

This school programme, organized annually for the past four years, has become hugely popular.

It's very important that the Summer School programme includes university students. Kaunas is a university town and many young people from all over Lithuania and the world live and study here for at least several years. In this Summer School programme, participants have the chance to not only learn more about Kaunas' architectural treasures, but also to enjoy a unique experience of the city as part of their studies.

The Summer School will invite students specialising in different fields as well as young professionals to discuss how to find a balance between objects possessing historical value and the needs of everyday life, and will discuss the importance of community activities for the creation of distinct localities and how they shape the overall cityscape.

27 June – 01 July 2022

Studentų g. 48

[www.saf.ktu.edu](http://www.saf.ktu.edu)



Paid event

**Team:** Edward Denison (United Kingdom), Sabine Storp (United Kingdom), Laura Jankauskaitė-Jurevičienė, Vaiva Balvočienė

**Organizers:** Kaunas University of Technology Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture

**Partners:** Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL (United Kingdom)

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Modernism for the Future. Interpretations

This conference, now a tradition, will be dedicated to the symbolic closing of the programme developed over the course of five years.

Our work has demonstrated that Kaunas is a good place to discuss the legacy of the 20th century as a laboratory for cultural heritage, one in which today's interdisciplinary interpretations and stories are just as important as the authentic signs of the past.

Under the guidance of Vaidas Petrulis, the conference will promote discussion and dialogue between specialist from various fields. Speakers will share their knowledge of good practices and insights about modernism as an inspiration for creativity, and discuss examples of the artistic communication of modernist architecture and how they are important in the discussion of possible visions for the future of heritage preservation.

All conference remarks will be published in a colourful publication.

22 Sept 2022

Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre,  
Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

[www.konferencija.modernizmasateiciai.lt](http://www.konferencija.modernizmasateiciai.lt)



With registration

**Organizers:**  
Kaunas University of Technology Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture

**Partners:**  
Detmolder Schule für Architektur und Innenarchitektur (Germany), DoCoMo-Mo, Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL (United Kingdom), Sciences Po Urban School (France), University of Dubrovnik (Croatia), Arts and Restoration Department (Croatia), Vilnius University

## KAUNAS ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL

# East-East

The 2022 Kaunas Architecture Festival programme welcomes back an international architectural project aimed at professionals and the broader public, attracting leading architects from Lithuania and Japan as well as students from different architecture schools. East-East is an ongoing collaborative project to help lay the foundation for and develop previously non-existent exchanges and cooperation between Lithuanian and Japanese architecture, and includes a forum, exhibitions, lectures by professionals, and student competitions in the field of architecture between the Lithuanian and Japanese architecture communities. The festival's curator is Gintaras Balčytis.

Forum 22–23 Sept 2022

Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

Festival 22 Sept – 22 Oct 2022

Kaunas Central Post Office,  
Laisvės al. 102

[www.kafe.lt](http://www.kafe.lt)  
[www.laskaunas.lt](http://www.laskaunas.lt)



With registration

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Union of  
Architects Kaunas Branch

**Partners** The Japan Institute of  
Architects



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# European Heritage Days Events

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Have you ever joined a protest against the demolition of cultural heritage?

Sept 2022

Kaunas

[www.modernizmasateiciai.lt](http://www.modernizmasateiciai.lt)

Architecture is a unique art. It creates spaces for us and for our dreams. In our homes, we eat, sleep, and love one another, but our homes can also inspire us or weigh us down. In the same way, every building and every public or private space is also the creation of those who designed it and who live there.

Given its exceptional architecture, Kaunas has inevitably become a centre for studying that heritage.

The European Capital of Culture Modernism Programme devotes considerable attention to the promotion of academic research, an activity that helps us develop a better understanding of and greater appreciation for the city's physical body.

This is why the events associated with the European Heritage Days in 2022 will occupy such a special place in our programme. These heritage workshops and encounters with professionals, organized annually since 2017, include local preservationists to create an opportunity to see and learn more about practical cultural heritage management issues and delve deeper into specific aspects related to cultural heritage, by providing instruction and offering practical experience. Consultation sessions help provide residents with answers to their questions about research, proper management, and engagement opportunities. These types of events also serve as an alternative discussion and meeting space for cultural heritage theoreticians, practitioners, and representatives of institutions and the preservationist community.

Visit our website to learn more about events organized to mark European Heritage Days.

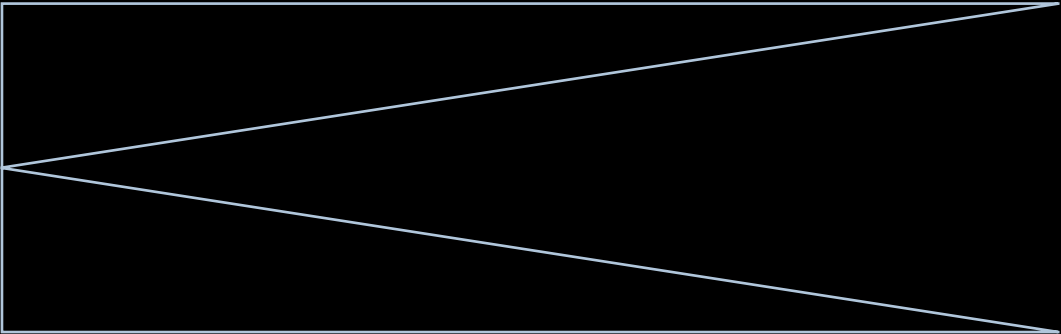
**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022  
with partners











# MEMORY OFFICE

# Preserving the fragments of a multiethnic memory

I feel that the Memory Office programme is an effort by all of us to not only learn more about our city's past and study its DNA, but also to discover more about ourselves.

This programme stems from a desire to stop living as if we'd lost our memory, avoiding telling ourselves the truth about what once existed in our city.

This programme emerged from the realization that thousands of people who had once lived in Kaunas and planned their futures here are no longer among us, much like the large communities that once lived in small towns throughout the Kaunas District. With their disappearance we also saw the permanent loss of what was once part of Zapyškis, Čekiškės, and Vandžiogala. Those who did survive scattered, along with the memories torn from these places, to the different corners of the world: the United States, Israel, South Africa, Poland...

This programme is one of many endeavours to preserve the fragments of a multiethnic memory and reconstruct vanishing "memory maps". We want to dismantle the enduring stereotype of Kaunas as "the most Lithuanian city" and rediscover the rich layers of a multiethnic past. We want to remember the fates of those who came before us. We want to restore the faces of those from whom we inherited this city and whose names have been so mercilessly erased by history.

The Memory Office team views Kaunas as a contemporary European city, which is why we, together with artists and our partners, encourage the values of dialogue, empathy, and openness toward one another. As we revisit the lessons of the past we hope to encourage an open discussion: What kind of city do we want today? What sort of future do we hope to create here?

We developed the Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022 programme together with our partners in Lithuania and abroad. We benefitted in particular from the active participation of Litvak artists who have returned to Lithuania from South Africa, Great Britain, France, and Israel. Exhibitions, performances, and concerts will speak not only about the stories of the past and study our city's identity, they will also call us to begin creating a new page in the history of this city and a new story of reconciliation and dialogue.

# The Memory Office online

Two virtual sites have been created to systematically collect the stories of the people of Kaunas, and they have become not only priceless testimonials of the past, but also an inspiration for new artistic projects of the Kaunas 2022 programme. A digital archive entitled *atmintiesvietos.lt/en*, created in 2014, receives and collects authentic stories of former and current Kaunas residents, eyewitness accounts of historical events, virtual tours, and texts written about the city. Through this website, the city's urban landscape is presented as a map of a collective memory in which the various forms of material memory – buildings, streets, courtyards, squares, monuments, museums, public spaces, etc. – reveal a hidden and forgotten past.

[www.atmintiesvietos.lt/en](http://www.atmintiesvietos.lt/en)  
[www.istorijufestivalis.eu/en](http://www.istorijufestivalis.eu/en)  
 Facebook: *Atmintiesvietos.lt*

In 2019, a new virtual urban story site was born in tandem with the CityTelling Festival.

The site, *istorijufestivalis.eu/en*, contains original literary texts that resurrect the city's memory, the extraordinary stories of the people of Kaunas that have inspired festivals and artists and which help us to better understand ourselves and find an answer to that most important question: Who are we?

Join us, follow along and, if you have valuable documents or suggestions, contact us at the addresses listed on these websites.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022,  
 Atminties vietos





## BOOK

# The Jews of Kaunas

We are proud to present this book as our programme's most important publication project!

[www.kaunas2022.eu](http://www.kaunas2022.eu)

*The Jews of Kaunas* is the first attempt to present a large collection of material about the history of the city's Jews in one publication. Like other projects organized by the Memory Office, the book is an attempt to understand the city's complicated past, rekindle its multiethnic memory, and remember the names and accomplishments of the people of Kaunas who once lived here and their contributions to its history. It is also an endeavour to include the history of the Jews of Kaunas as an inseparable part of the overall history of the city. Finally, it is our own effort to better know our history and ourselves.

This book does not claim to provide comprehensive answers to every question about the history, culture, and traditions of Jews in Kaunas. Rather, it is an attempt to present Kaunas' Jewish history beginning with its most important facts, concepts, and names. We begin our review of the history of one of Kaunas' largest ethnic groups in the 15th century and the first Jewish settlement in the city and proceed from there to recall the names of the most important citizens of Kaunas who lived and worked in the city, remembering their contributions to education, medicine, industry, business, culture, and other aspects of life and, of course, the more painful chapters of the community's history.

This book deserves a place in the home libraries of many Kaunasians, and not just those of Jewish heritage, because it tells the story about a city and that city's people, who are an integral part of Kaunas.

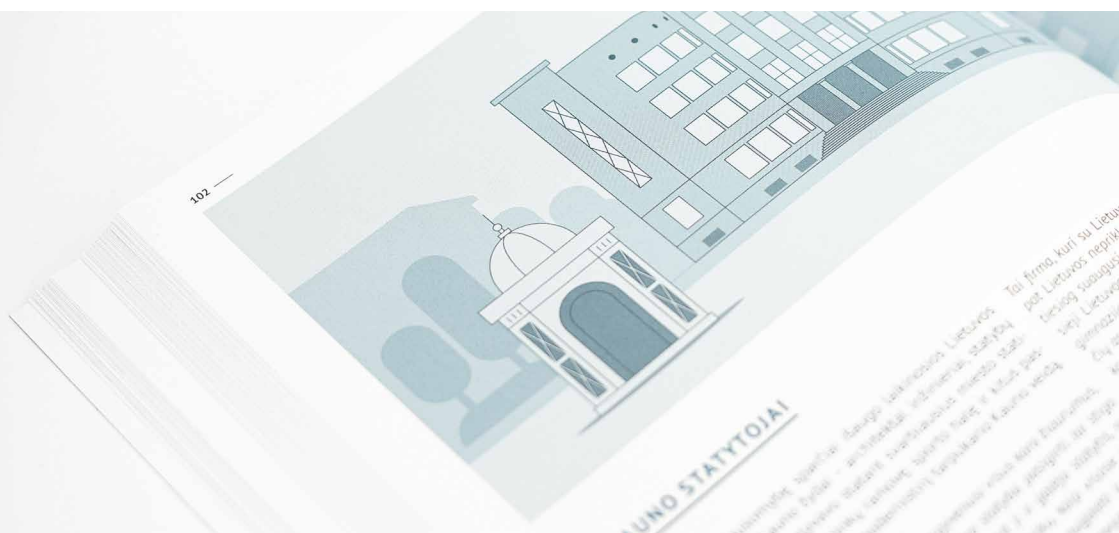
**Editors:** Daiva Citvarienė,  
Arvydas Pakštalis

**Authors:** Arvydas Pakštalis,  
Remigijus Civinskas, Goda  
Volbikaitė, Brigita Tranavičiūtė,  
Daiva Citvarienė, Justina  
Petrulionytė-Sabonienė,  
Eduardas Brusokas, Jūratė  
Norvaišienė

**Artist:** Darius Petreikis

**Translator:** Darius Sužiedėlis

**Publisher:** Kaunas 2022





Nējam galvoti, kad nāmarāts.  
Kas nāmarāts, tikrai nuplāvē?  
Kad mājās atgāja vārds, kas vēl ir pelni.  
Ar vēl jām - gāja, rūsīti tikrovi.  
Kad rēķināts, kas kļūstienojis būsimu dienu.

ISTORIJU  
FESTIVĀLIS

Brāsis Oservicius, 1964 m.



## BOOK

# The History of Kaunas

This book is an ambitious project of the Kaunas City Museum.

[www.kaunomuziejus.lt](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt)

*Kauno istorija (The History of Kaunas)* is a publication prepared by the Kaunas City Museum that seeks to present an appealing, interesting, and original account of the city's history from its earliest days to 2022. The book explores different subjects relevant to Kaunas' history – from politics, commerce, and art to clothing styles and even crime. Stories are enriched by illustrations that vividly portray the settings of each event and provide detailed descriptions of historic characters and locations.

**Authors:** Inga Puidokienė,  
Giedrė Milerytė-Japertienė,  
Laima Bucevičiūtė,  
Sigita Žemaitytė-Strazdė,  
Simonas Jazavita,  
Gediminas Kasparavičius,  
Rokas Sinkevičius,  
Lina Mikalkėnaitė

**Organizers:**  
Kaunas City Museum

## Wall Stories

Walls can talk.

[bit.ly/SienosPasakoja](http://bit.ly/SienosPasakoja)

Kaunas has come to be known in Europe as a city of street art. Indeed, Kaunas has always had a thriving culture of legal and illegal wall drawings. The graffiti created on the alleys, underground passageways, and fire walls of Kaunas are constantly finding their way into international street art catalogues.

Public spaces in Kaunas & Kaunas District

To commemorate the people and events that are special for our city we've invited street artists to help with their visual expression.

This effort gave birth to several works of art in different spaces around the city and the Kaunas District, commemorating local history, recalling the faces of those who lived here, telling their stories, and presenting their culture. With this project, Kaunas and the Kaunas District have seen the return of the poet Lea Goldberg, the charismatic Russian and her mother Gerta, and other Kaunasians of different ethnicities.

The number of these important street drawings continues to grow, so as you wander through Kaunas remember to look up and stop a moment and read the texts accompanying the images.

History awaits you!

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

## EXHIBITION

# That Which We Do Not Remember

## by William Kentridge

For the first time in Eastern Europe.

This will be a hugely significant event for both Kaunas and the artist himself, as William Kentridge will be visiting the city of his ancestors!

Kentridge grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, a city marked by the contrasts of both wonderful natural beauty and an industrial landscape. He began creating art during the apartheid regime, so his works are infused with a sensitive sense of place and difficult subjects: human rights, racial and economic inequality, revolution, the confounding confrontation between noble ideals and the shameful aspects of everyday life that undermine human dignity. Political, civic, and social themes are the distinguishing features of Kentridge's work. In addition, the artist ingeniously combines acute content and powerful aesthetics, challenging the preconceptions and stereotypical beliefs of his audiences.

The exhibition *That Which We Do Not Remember* will compel you to forget stereotypes.

In this exhibition, Kentridge addresses humanity's selective memory. The rejection of facts, history, and memories as a means of self-preservation or a tool of propaganda is just as common a characteristic among people in Johannesburg and Rome as it is in Kaunas, says Kentridge. We all choose what we wish to remember and what to expel from our memories. Kentridge hopes to fill these gaps in our memory and speak with us about what we deliberately, or unconsciously, no longer remember.

He calls us to a dialogue with ourselves.

This is an exhibition that seeks to assemble the scattered shards of historic events into meaningful mosaics that can serve as a mirror, reflecting back those who look at them.

This promises to be the most significant exhibition of the Kaunas 2022 programme.

This exhibition alone is worthy of a trip to Kaunas and will put the city on the European cultural map for years to come.

21 Jan – 30 Nov 2022

M. K. Čiurlionis National  
Museum of Art,  
V. Putvinskio g. 55

[www.ciurlionis.lt/en](http://www.ciurlionis.lt/en)

Facebook:

*Ciurlionio Dailes Muziejus*



Paid event

**Curator:** Virginija Vitkienė

**Architect and scenographer:**  
Sabine Theunissen (Belgium)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:**

M. K. Čiurlionis National  
Museum of Art



One of the world's most influential contemporary artists.

An honest and painfully candid humanist, whose exhibitions are coveted by the best galleries in the world

William Kretzschmar. The Refusal of Time. Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark, 2018





# Programme devoted to “Kaunas Spring” events

After the onset of the Soviet occupation, Kaunas, once the provisional capital of a free country, was thrown into a paradoxical existence. From the first days of the occupation, the Soviets deliberately chose to impoverish and humiliate the city, disbanding humanitarian studies, suppressing modern cultural forms, promoting the city’s “technocratization”, and building and supporting a myth of Kaunas as a provincial city lacking in culture and beholden to mercantile interests. The people of Kaunas locked themselves up in their kitchens, drew the curtains closed, and withdrew to their cellars. But they didn’t forget freedom. An underground life flourished in Kaunas, including clandestine monasteries, a secret printing house in the Kaunas District, and defiant cultural activists – theatre artists, musicians, painters, etc. – helping to support a free spirit.

But perhaps the most significant pivotal moment in the city’s history occurred in 1972. The self-immolation of 19-year-old Romas Kalanta on 14 May of that year and the events that followed his protest gave rise to the so-called “Kaunas Spring”, with thousands of people joining anti-Soviet protests, mostly held on Laisvės Alėja. These events left a traumatic mark not only on the city’s subsequent development and cultural life, but also on the futures of many young people of Kaunas. These historic events will be remembered in the Kaunas 2022 programme through performances, exhibitions, concerts, discussions, gatherings, etc.

14 May is commemorated in Lithuania as the Day of Civil Resistance.

FOTO LENTELĖ Nr. 1

Viešosios tvarkos pažeidėjų grupė,ėjusi 1972 m. gegužės 18 d. Kauno laisvės alėja link Skulptūros ir vitražo muziejaus. Jos pirmojoje gretroje matyti aktyviausi dalyviai (išskyrus kelis).



Ypat. sv. bylų  
tardytojas ( Vilutis )

*J. Hilnelys*

## EXHIBITION

# 1972: Breaking through the Wall

We are sure that this exhibition will touch a nerve.

Through this exhibition, our city will engage in a candid conversation with itself like never before.

It will transport audiences to the 1960s and 1970s and the communities of disobedient people who resisted the system: illegal rock music bands, Kaunas actors and pantomime performers, rebellious hippies, and modern artists from Kaunas and Vilnius.

Paintings, photographs, and films, documentary testimonials of the city's musical life, youth fashion from the period, and other artifacts will tell the story of an alternative culture and a non-Soviet lifestyle led in Soviet Lithuania.

This exhibition is extremely visual, revealing a diversity of mindsets and creative endeavours against the backdrop of an all-levelling Soviet existence. It explores how aesthetic tastes and ethical attitudes in the Soviet period shaped other models of daily life and an atmosphere of disobedience toward the government.

"This exhibition emphasizes the problem of personal liberty, intrinsically linked to resisting coercion and oppression. For the first time, it will explore how society and art were influenced by the pressure imposed by official institutions and what reciprocal results this pressure produced in culture," says the exhibition's curator Rasa Žukienė. "What began in Europe after the events of 1968 is a story of protests, revolts, and coming together. The parallels between the images of freedom and the creative ideas and forms shaped by societies in the East (in the Socialist Bloc) and West are obvious. To date, however, these parallels are still insufficiently emphasized and perhaps even forgotten. This exhibition is a wonderful demonstration of the ideas of European freedom and cultural affinity that endured even in the captive societies of Lithuania and neighbouring countries."

12 May – 31 August 2022

Kaunas Central Post Office,  
Laisvės al. 102

[www.kaunas2022.eu/en](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en)



Paid event

**Team:** curator Rasa Žukienė, Arūnas Streikus, Aušra Lisauskienė, Edgaras Klivis, Egidijus Aleksandravičius, Elena Balsiukaitė-Brazdžiūnienė, Gediminas Jankauskas, Genovaitė Vertelkaitė-Bartulienė, Kotryna Džilavjan, Kristina Budrytė-Genevičė, Milda Rutkauskaitė, Raminta Jurėnaitė, Rimantė Tamoliūnienė, Vytautė Šapokaitė-Samulėnienė, Zita Bružaitė

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Alexandre Vassiliev Foundation, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Vilnius, Kaunas County Public Library, Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum, Kaunas City Museum, Lithuanian National Museum of Art, MO Museum, M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, The Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum, Vytautas Magnus University





## CONCERT

# Made in Kaunas

This is a concert for those who grew up with Radio Luxembourg.

12 May 2022

The musical programme of Made in Kaunas is dedicated to the memory of Kaunas of the 1960s and 1970s and the city's musicians. This was a time of the hippy movement, of secretly listening to Radio Luxembourg (which introduced Lithuania to the music of Jimmy Hendrix, The Doors, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, and The Beatles), and a time of band rehearsals in basements and garages, and the birth of Lithuanian rock music and such bands as Gėlių vaikai (Flower Children), Aitvarai (The Kites), Gintarėliai (Little Ambers), Eglutės (The Pines), and others.

Laisvės al.

The big beat songs performed at this concert by Gėlių vaikai and Pievų oras (Field Air) and others will recall the lives and stories of several generations of Kaunasians and the wholesome content of these songs. Some 20 of the most popular song arrangements will be performed.

"The endless desire to live freely, listen to the latest music streaming in from outside the Iron Curtain, and to create music ourselves – this aura of a past time reaches out to us from our younger days and the memories of our parents," says composer Zita Bružaitė, the project's director.

**Organizers:**  
Kauno santaka

**Partners:**  
Vilnius State Choir,  
Vytautas Magnus University

Mark down the concert date on your calendars, because this chance may never come around again.

## DISCUSSION EVENING

# Jonas Jurašas. Barbora Radvilaitė in 1972

This event will commemorate the staging at the Kaunas Drama Theatre of Juozas Grušas' Barbora Radvilaitė, directed by Jonas Jurašas, exactly 50 years ago, on 20 April 1972, a performance that was met with disapproval from government authorities. This historic event and the legendary director who refused to bow to Soviet censorship will be remembered by eye witnesses, including the creators of the performance, actors, critics, and others. Attendees will also have the chance to view an exhibition entitled Jonas Jurašas: The Price of Existence.

Discussion 20 Apr 2022  
Exhibition Nov 2021 – June 2022

Laisvės al. 71

[www.ltmkm.lt/en](http://www.ltmkm.lt/en)  
Facebook: [LTMKmuziejus](#)  
[www.dramosteatras.lt](http://www.dramosteatras.lt)  
Facebook: [DramosTeatras](#)

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Theatre,  
Music and Cinema Museum  
**Partners:** National Kaunas Drama  
Theatre



## THEATRE PLAY

# Kalanta

A production by the National Kaunas Drama Theatre intertwines documentary material and a contemporary view of the events in Kaunas in 1972. Director Jonas Tertelis asks how the act of 19-year-old Romas Kalanta resonates in today's society. The moods, expectations, and tensions of the time are analyzed and become a surreal fragment of collective memory in the big picture of the liberation movements in Europe and the world. Are these events just the past, or is history repeating itself, and what trap are you in?

The opening of this production promises to be an extraordinary event in theatre, for which Kaunas has always been well famous.

13–15 May 2022

Laisvės al. 71

*[www.dramosteatras.lt/en](http://www.dramosteatras.lt/en)*  
*Facebook: DramosTeatras*



Paid event

**Organizers:**

National Kaunas Drama Theatre

## ROCK OPERA FOR

# Romas Kalanta

Premiering at the Kaunas State Musical Theatre!

A rock opera is the best way to remember Romas Kalanta.

On 14 May 1972, in a park just outside this theatre, 19-year-old Romas Kalanta doused himself in gasoline and, setting himself on fire, cried out “Freedom for Lithuania!” As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of this historic protest, the Kaunas State Musical Theatre will present a rock opera directed by Kęstutis J. Jakštas about the events of the Kaunas Spring that dramatically altered the lives of so many people in the city.

Don't miss the premiere of this special production!

14 May 2022

Laisvės al. 91

*[www.muzikiniteatras.lt](http://www.muzikiniteatras.lt)*  
*Facebook: Muzikinis.teatras*



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas State Musical Theatre

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Forgiving or Forgetting – Dealing with the Painful Past

This academic discussion will analyse an acute dilemma facing contemporary society: How do we deal with the painful history of the 20th century? Do we conveniently forget about it and allow different interpretations of the past to flourish, or do we delve deeper into these events in search of forgiveness and consensus?

This conference aims to discuss the prevailing historical narrative about the Second World War that has taken root in society, and at the same time introduce the smaller, personal stories of memory. It seeks to explore not only the stories considered important to the people of Kaunas, but also the traumatic experiences of other nations. It is hoped that the combination of global and local perspectives in the analysis of complex historical periods will help us better understand the problematic choices of those who participated in that history and encourage a process of reconciliation with a painful past. Some portions of the conference will be devoted to commemorating the anniversary of Romas Kalanta's death, the academic discussions being organized on that occasion, and associated special art events.

13–14 May 2022

Vytautas Magnus University

[www.sakharovcenter-vdu.eu](http://www.sakharovcenter-vdu.eu)

**Team:** Robert van Voren,  
Dainius Genys

**Organizers:** Andrei Sakharov  
Research Centre for  
Democratic Development

## FIFTH INTERNATIONAL LEONIDAS DONSKIS ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

# Is Historical Revisionism Becoming Mainstream?

Leonidas Donskis was part of the Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022 team and contributed greatly to the awarding of this title to the city and to the Kaunas 2022 programme.

He was also one of Kaunas' most prominent citizens, whose creative, professional, and civic endeavours and embrace of openness and tolerance had a profound impact far beyond the academic world. This conference is held annually in memory of this eminent thinker, philosopher, and beloved member of the Vytautas Magnus University community, and is traditionally accompanied by a memorial charity concert.

Participants in this year's conference will share their practical experience and insights gained in various countries about how to avoid the manipulation of history. Can history endure as an impartial science studying the past, or is it destined to become an instrument of power? Is history still in danger of becoming dependent on the political will of governments in democratic and undemocratic countries alike?

21 Sept 2022

VMU Small Hall,  
S. Daukanto g. 28[www.sakharovcenter-vdu.eu](http://www.sakharovcenter-vdu.eu)

**Team:** Robert van Voren,  
Dainius Genys

**Organizers:** Andrei Sakharov  
Research Centre for  
Democratic Development



# THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE

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EXHIBITION

## Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains

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Kaunas and Vilnius, Vilnius and Kaunas. The two largest cities in Lithuania. Competing, often disagreeing, but vital for each other.

The pride and prejudice enveloping the life of Vilnius and Kaunas hold a hidden truth – these cities need each other, otherwise, they are doomed to a “caricature of existence”. This was written a hundred years ago by Mykolas Rōmeris. This is what this exhibition by MO museum and Kaunas city museum – exhibited at the same time in Vilnius and Kaunas – talks about. It opens up the foundational interdependence between these two cities, how they formed each other and how present-day Lithuania emerged from the tension between them.

“Mountains” help us to understand the artistic, cultural, and political interaction between these two cities – as a key metaphor of centrality, an obstacle, a challenge, autonomy, and protection. With the use of four key mountains, emerging in the narrative of the exhibition, - Gediminas Mountain, Žaliakalnis, Boufal Mountain, and Owl Mountain – new forms of interaction between Kaunas and Vilnius emerge. The story told here highlights how these two centers– two acropolises – formed, and how they morphed from the idea of the center of Lithuania into a sense of inadequacy as capitals. One of the questions raised in the exhibition is what does it mean to be a resident of one of the two poles – a Kaunas of Vilnius inhabitant; and how their identity as city dwellers is constructed – its certainty, exclusivity, autonomy, stereotypes, and myths.

Cities are also considered as necropolises, where we physically and symbolically bury, say goodbye and memorialize. In these rituals of memory, we show how the cities comprehend themselves, what they strive to keep and what – to throw away, and what differences emerge between the two. In the exhibition, we examine the connections and exchanges between Kaunas and Vilnius – from natural to symbolic, from the vision of a dipole to a doubling identity, from cultural donations to vampirism in the workforce.

The mountains and motifs of the exhibition repeat themselves in the exhibition halls of both museums, but they tell different stories. In this way the concept and architecture of the exhibition in itself embodies the rōmeresque necessity for Vilnius and Kaunas to be together: if you want to see the entirety of the exhibition, you have to visit both cities.

Apr – Aug 2022

Temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery,  
A. Mackevičiaus g. 27

MO Museum in Vilnius, Pylimo g. 17

[www.kaunomuziejus.lt/en](http://www.kaunomuziejus.lt/en)  
Facebook: *KaunoMiestoMuziejus*  
[www.mo.lt/en](http://www.mo.lt/en)  
Facebook: *momuziejus*



Paid event

**Team:** Ernestas Parulskis, Inga Navickaitė-Drašutė, Julijonas Urbonas, Justina Juodišiūtė, Kęstutis Lingys, Kotryna Lingienė, Miglė Survilaitė, Rasa Žukienė, Tomas Vaiseta

**Organizers:** Kaunas City Museum, MO Museum





## EXHIBITION

# Stories of the House

The historical palace commonly known as the residence of the Presidents of Lithuania (1919–1940) has reshaped itself. Time portals will take you to seven epochs: the Governor's Palace, the Ober Ost Commander's residence, the Presidential Palace, the house of the Supreme Council Presidium, Nazi Headquarters, the Teachers' House and the revived historical palace. The motley list of its residents and visitors includes Tsars, Kaisers, military commanders, artists and even a Pope! The palace is as if a crossroads of the history of Kaunas and entire Europe.

The new exhibition will surprise city residents and its guests: here, history can be seen, heard, touched, smelled...

Exhibition "Stories of the House" is accessible to a variety of audiences: a remotely operating guide compatible with tablets has been prepared in Lithuanian, English, Russian and German, in Lithuanian Sign Language and as a Lithuanian version for the blind. Visitors will be able to touch copies of the most interesting exhibits specially adapted for the blind and hear audio recordings. In 2022, accessibility will be expanded further: tactile schemes and an informative marking system will be installed, and comics will be designed for the young.

Visitors of broadest variety of interests are welcome.

Up to 2026

Vilniaus g. 33

[www.rumuistorijos.lt](http://www.rumuistorijos.lt)

Facebook: *IstorinePrezidentura*



Paid event

**Organizers:** M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, Historical Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania in Kaunas

**Partners:** Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations, Lithuanian Library for the Blind

**Sponsors:** Lithuanian Council for Culture

## EVENT SERIES

# The Industrial Past in Kaunas and Esch-sur-Alzette

The Luxembourg city of Esch-sur-Alzette will also share the title of European Capital of Culture in 2022. Esch may be far from Kaunas, but both cities inherited industrial ruins – both physical and spiritual – from their not so distant past.

Kaunas and Esch-sur-Alzette have joined forces to bring the history of industry back from oblivion and invite you to a series of events: the exhibitions WCH and The Great Industry, and the stage production Darbas/Aarbeicht (Labour).

This series is an attempt to speak about our histories without omissions: an open discussion about topical issues.

[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

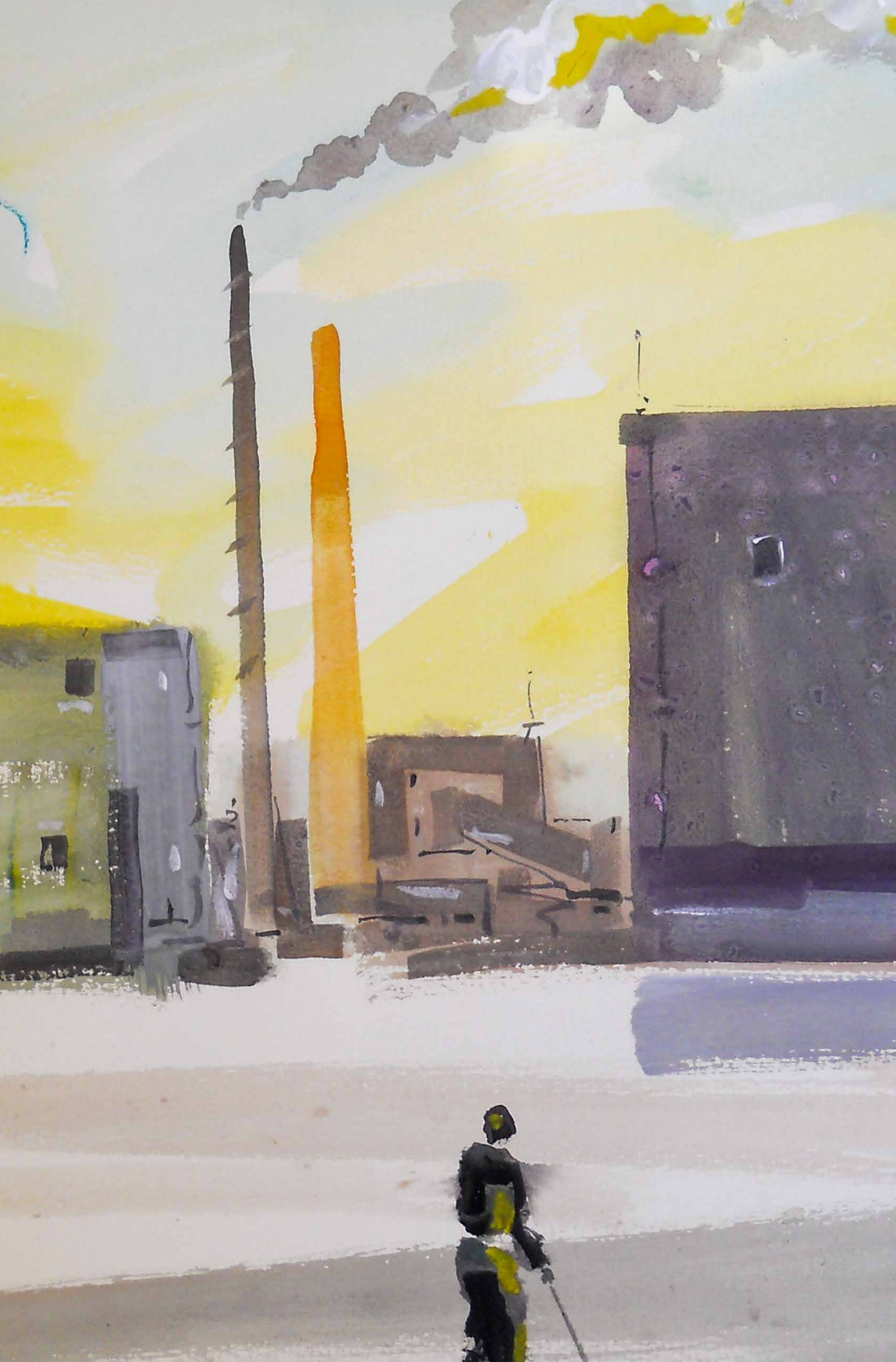
[www.muar.lu](http://www.muar.lu)

Facebook: [mazosios.istorijos](https://www.facebook.com/mazosios.istorijos)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Back Up Stories, M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, MUAR (Luxembourg)



## EXHIBITION

# Working Class Heroes

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The Kaunas Picture Gallery presents an exhibition by MUAR/Museum of Labour History entitled Working Class Heroes. The show explores three working class heroes of the early 20th century: Jean Pierre Bausch, Léon Weirich, and Jean Schortgen.

27 Oct 2022 – 23 Feb 2023

Kaunas Picture Gallery,  
K. Donelaičio g. 16

This interactive exhibition reveals the daily life and labours of the industrial southern region of Luxembourg – its hopes and dreams and the tense struggle for workers' rights. The exhibition poses questions: Who built this country and who represents your rights? How far have we come in labour law?

MUAR/Museum of Labour History was established in Tétange, in a factory that once made shoes for coal miners. The museum seeks to focus attention on subjects relevant to the world of work. The museum's abbreviation, MUAR, means tomorrow. Thus, the ideas explored there are not limited to the industrial past, but are also firmly connected to the present and the future.

This is a very unique topic within the contemporary Lithuanian context. It's worth a visit!

## EXHIBITION

# The Great Industry

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Kaunas is taking its own exhibition to Luxembourg.

07 Oct 2022 – 31 Jan 2023

Since 2017, the community platform "Backup Stories" (curated by Auksė Petruilienė) located in the Kaunas Picture Gallery has organized exhibitions together with former employees of factories in Kaunas. The most interesting exhibition ideas, exhibits, and works of contemporary art of this series entitled The Great Industry will form a select exhibition to be shown at MUAR.

MUAR, Luxembourg

The exhibitions of The Great Industry series give a voice to the long-silent factory workers community - people whose destinies have been crushed twice: first swallowed up by the Soviet planned economy, then by the wild privatization that followed independence. Based on the stories of those who endured this experience, the exhibition delves into eternal contradictions and tensions: between true knowledge and illusion, history and fiction, machine and man, formal and private, painful and funny.

If you're in Luxembourg during this time, don't forget to visit!



## PERFORMANCE

# Darbas/Aarbeicht (Labour)

This production follows in the footsteps of Lithuanians and Luxembourgishers.

The Psilikon Theatre Company invites audiences from both countries to a premiere.

The production's storyline resulted from a coincidence. When MUAR/Museum of Labour History was being established in an old coalmining shoes factory in 2020, the attention of the "Back-Up Stories" programme in Kaunas was focused on the Inkaras rubber shoe factory. This explains why the production incorporates the metaphor of shoes, feet, and stepping – encouraging us to find a basic rhythm which can, by firmly planting our feet, help us retain our humanity despite the dramatic economic and social changes around us. The production's actors are miniature, flexible silicone figurines that embody many characters, including Kairys (Left) and Dešinys (Right) Coal Miner's Shoes, Defective Pair of Inkaras Sports Shoes, Lost Mittens, etc.

This is a co-production of the Museum of Labour History and the Psilikon Theatre Company.

Performances will be staged live in both cities.

Follow the production's calendar and remember to come and watch!

Oct 2022

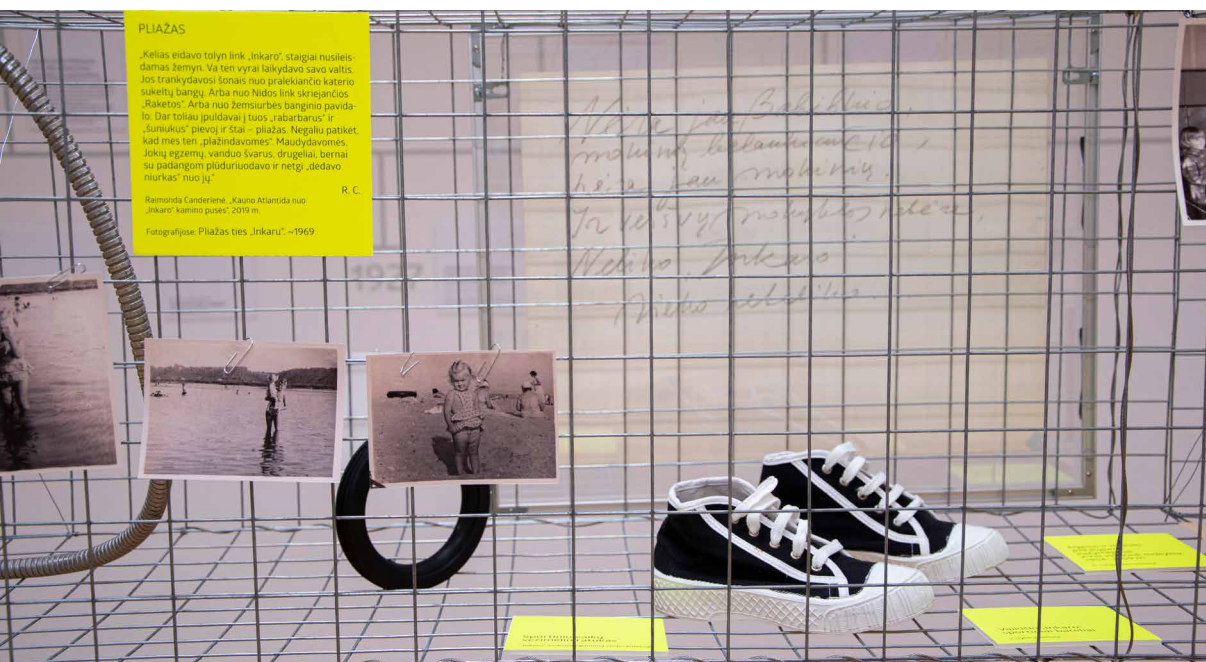
Kaunas Picture Gallery,  
K. Donelaičio g. 16

MUAR, Luxembourg

[www.ciurlionis.lt](http://www.ciurlionis.lt)

[www.muar.lu](http://www.muar.lu)

Facebook: mazosios.istorijos



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# Francophonie Month

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Vytautas Magnus University presents a series of journeys through the French-speaking world.

This programme will feature the culture of Canada, Switzerland, and France from different perspectives: innovations in literature, photography and art exhibitions, new film screenings, and an international conference to discuss the links between politics, diplomacy, and culture.

March 2022

Vytautas Magnus University

[www.francophonie.vdu.lt](http://www.francophonie.vdu.lt)

**Organizers:** Le Centre des Pays Francophones

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## FESTIVAL

# T4E Festival of European Culture

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This festival invites you to learn more about the cultures of Germany, Spain, Estonia, Poland, and Bulgaria. It will feature a new look at the cultural diversity of European countries that bridges the fields of literature, music, and other arts.

May 2022

Vytautas Magnus University

[www.vdu.lt](http://www.vdu.lt)

**Organizers:** Vytautas Magnus University, Transform4Europe

**Partners:** Kaunas City Municipality, Cinema "Romuva", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

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## FESTIVAL OF LITHUANIA'S ETHNIC MINORITIES

# Kultūrų sodas 2022

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Join Kultūrų sodas (Garden of Cultures), one of the country's largest events featuring the cultures of Lithuania's ethnic minorities. This festival programme will include the songs, dances, crafts, and culinary heritage of various nations as well as creative workshop tours and other activities.

Sept 2022

The garden of the Historical Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania in Kaunas, Vilniaus g. 33

[www.154kulturos.lt](http://www.154kulturos.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations

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OPEN AIR EXHIBITION

# Sugihara House

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This exhibition is for everyone wishing to learn more about the individuals who became shining examples of dignity.

It will present the now world-renowned story of Japanese Vice Consul Chiune Sugihara and Dutch Honorary Consul Jan Zwartendijk. In the summer of 1940, both men issued visas that helped save the lives of thousands of Polish Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust and Soviet repression.

Vaižganto g. 30

*[www.sugiharahouse.com](http://www.sugiharahouse.com)*

*Facebook: [sugiharahouse](#)*

**Organizers:** Sugihara Diplomats for Life Foundation

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TOUR

# Circle of Memory

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This tour is for everyone who enjoys seeing a city differently.

This is a new tour joining Vaižganto Street and Perkūno Alėja. The tour will explore the stories that unfolded behind the walls of this historically rich district. It will also reveal the emerging landscape of the neighbourhood and interior details of its homes and buildings. The histories of the homes in this Žaliakalnis neighbourhood recount details from the life of interwar Lithuania's elite and the fates these people faced during the Second World War.

This new tour will be accompanied by a mobile app that will delve deeper into these local stories, presenting authentic images, sound recordings, and the eyewitness accounts of those who once lived here.

Vaižganto g. 30

*[www.sugiharahouse.com](http://www.sugiharahouse.com)*

*Facebook: [sugiharahouse](#)*

## MUSEUM

# Atomic Bunker

Many in Lithuania are already familiar with this museum, but it has also become popular with foreign tourists.

The unique Atomic Bunker Museum features a collection of thousands of treasures recounting the history of interwar Lithuania, the Cold War era, both World Wars, and KGB activities in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. Indeed, the Atomic Bunker includes artifacts you won't see anywhere else, including the largest collection of gas masks and closed-circuit respirators in the Baltic countries. The museum is located 6 meters underground, in a Soviet-era fallout shelter built to protect civilians during war and natural disasters.

On the occasion of the year of Kaunas as European Capital of Culture, the museum invites visitors to an expanded exhibition. This newest show is devoted to commemorating the Jewish contribution to Lithuanian commerce and features an authentic recreation of two interwar-era shops.

Raudondvario pl. 164A

[www.atominisbunkeris.lt/en](http://www.atominisbunkeris.lt/en)



Paid event

# Italian Art Picnic

A one-day event for all those who enjoy Italian culture and ceramics and the traditions of the craft. Ceramists from Lithuania and Italy will present an outdoor photography exhibition "Ceramics of Southern Italy", a lecture on "Traditions of the Ceramic Craft in Italy and Lithuania", and an educational-creative ceramic workshop. Participants will have the opportunity to get acquainted with Italian gastronomy and listen to Italian music. This is a great opportunity to be in Italy without leaving Kaunas!

04 Sept 2022

Žaliakalnis

**Organizers:** Kaunas City Municipality, Lithuanian Artists' Association Kaunas Branch Ceramics Section, the City of Cava de'Tirreni with the Association of Women Ceramists "Pandora"

## MOBILE APPS FOR EXPLORING THE CITY

# Kosmos App

Download this app, pick up your phone, and go out into the city to experience history!

We're excited to present a digital audio and performance platform showcasing three stories.

To hear these stories, make your way to the following spots:

**Ramybės Park:** Crossroads of Four Religions, an audio collage.

When activated in Ramybės Park (Kaunas Old Cemetery), the old city cemetery of Kaunas, this app will present stories collected from authentic documentary recordings and voice-overs read by professional actors, exploring things such as the events of All Souls' Day in 1956, the traditions of four different religions, and Lithuania's War of Independence. These accounts are accompanied by music and a special sound design.

**Ninth Fort:** Reconciliation, an audio composition. This is a musical memory track, connecting the Ninth Fort Museum, the Kaunas fortress complex, and the Ninth Fort Monument. The echoes of past upheaval call us to walk through this site and experience an emotional transformation, to feel the cultural trauma caused by the dramatic political changes of the 20th century. At the same time, this composition will encourage listeners to consider contemporary society's relationship with history and lead them toward a greater understanding of and reconciliation with historical trauma.

**Aleksotas (Vytautas the Great) Bridge.** Absolute World, an audio composition. Recounted in the neighbourhood of Aleksotas and the Kaunas Old Town, this story will immerse listeners into the intellectual world of internationally-renowned scientists Oskar Minkowski (1858–1931) and his brother Hermann Minkowski (1864–1909), who spent their childhood in Kaunas, and will explore the ties linking historic Kaunas and the discoveries uncovered by these two men. The journey taken every morning by these two brothers across Vytautas the Great Bridge to a secondary school in the Kaunas Governorate becomes the starting point for this programme. In their day, however, this bridge not only joined two river banks, it spanned two different eras.

Ramybės Park, Kaunas Ninth Fort,  
Aleksotas bridge

[www.kosmostheatre.com/kosmosapp](http://www.kosmostheatre.com/kosmosapp)  
Facebook: kosmostheatre

**Organizers:** Kosmos Theatre



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EVENT SERIES

# CityTelling Festival

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Launched in 2019, this initiative gathers together artists, museum and theatre professionals, librarians, amateur history enthusiasts, and professional tellers of history. Together, we seek to resurrect forgotten stories, strengthen the dialogue between different communities, and encourage pride in the place where we live.

The 2022 CityTelling Festival has grown into an expansive programme unfolding over several months, combining projects of different genres, forms, and themes: exhibitions, productions, concerts, public art creations, tours, and professional storytelling performance programmes, etc.

The programme devotes considerable attention to the city's Jewish memory. The highlight of this programme will be the World Litvak Forum and the programme's main events – exhibitions, staged productions, and concerts – devoted to fostering a greater understanding of the city's Litvak roots and, at the same time, to healing the wounds of historical memory.

We invite everyone to participate in the festival's events, follow its programme, and support our initiative by continuing this festival after the European Capital of Culture programme has come to a close.

Read more below about all of the festival events!

July – Nov 2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

[www.istorijufestivalis.eu/en](http://www.istorijufestivalis.eu/en)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022 with partners

Unique in its format, this is one of the Memory Office programme's largest events



# World Litvak Forum

In 2022, the Kaunas European Capital of Culture will invite Litvaks scattered throughout the world to return, even if only briefly, to their ancestral land and gather together at the World Litvak Forum.

Over several days, this event will feature a rich cultural programme and discussions with renowned artists, academics, and representatives of the cultural world. We'll discuss the Litvak identity, memory, and cultural role in the creation of possible visions of a future dialogue.

We'll ask such questions as:

What does it mean to be a Litvak and what does Lithuania mean to different generations of Litvaks today?

How can art and culture help us understand history and encourage openness and dialogue?

What role do Litvaks play in Lithuania's historical and collective memory?

The development of the forum's programme benefited from the contributions of a respected advisory council of Litvaks and Lithuanians and renowned professionals from various fields:

Antony Polonsky, author, Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University (South Africa, United Kingdom).

Peter Salovey, President and Chris Argyris Professor of Psychology, Yale University, Honorary Doctor of Vytautas Magnus University (United States).

James E. Young, author and distinguished University Professor Emeritus, Founding Director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, University of Massachusetts Amherst (United States).

Tsvia Walden, psycholinguist, Professor at Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Israel).

Zev Krengel, Vice President of South African Jewish Board of Deputies (South Africa).

Šarūnas Liekis, Dean and Professor of the School of Political Science and Diplomacy at Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania).

Darius Degutis, diplomat, former Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Poland, Israel, and Republic of South Africa (Lithuania).

Misha Jakobas, founding Director of Vilnius Sholom Aleichem ORT Gymnasium, mentor at Vytautas Magnus University lyceum "Sokratus" (Lithuania).

Gercas Žakas, Chairman of the Kaunas Jewish Community (Lithuania).

29–30 Sept 2022

VMU Great Hall, Daukanto g. 28

[www.kaunas2022.eu/litvakforum](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/litvakforum)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:**  
Vytautas Magnus University









# Kaunas Kantata

Audiences are invited to an unforgettable event at the Kaunas Žalgiris Arena.

The world premiere of a cantata specially composed for Kaunas by Philip Miller (South Africa)!

This composition, created over several years, is the result of a collaboration with artist Jenny Kagan (Great Britain), director Chris Baldwin (Great Britain) and local musicians. The work is an inclusive musical experience, calling listeners to immerse themselves in a multiethnic city's past and Kaunas' complicated history.

It is also a moving juncture of images and sound encouraging us to examine our own consciences.

The work was inspired by personal testimonials, memories, and a rich and multifaceted world of sound. Its creators ask: What does it mean to look into the face of "the other" and confront ourselves, and to look directly into the face of our own humanity? The music and songs featured in this project are a way to help us find commonality, discover shared bonds among painful stories, and build a new relationship with a controversial history.

"In Kaunas Kantata we hear a multitude of voices. We listen to songs in different tongues and in different spaces. And yet there are encounters, there are juxtapositions, there are moments of harmony and moments of discord, moments of cacophony and moments of silence, and moments when the sound becomes one," says the composer.

This musical journey has been joined by over one hundred local musicians and singers, choirs, and representatives of different genres and generations.

30 Sept – 01 Oct 2022

Žalgiris Arena,  
Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50



Paid event

**Performers:** soloist Rafailas Karpis, Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra, Kaunas Wind Orchestra Ažuolynas, Borderland Klezmer Ensemble (Poland), Kaunas State Choir, Vytautas Magnus University Choir, Gintaras Choir, Cantate Domino Choir, Ratilėlis Folklore Ensemble and many others.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

## EXHIBITION

# Out of Darkness

This exhibition was first held in Great Britain.

Aug – Oct 2022

Now, it's being remounted especially for Kaunas.

Gimnazijos g. 2/4

Why? Because that's where its story unfolded.

Artist Jenny Kagan (Great Britain) has revived her parents' stories about their experiences in Kaunas during the Holocaust. The setting of this exhibition, created through images, music, projections, and other elements, draws viewers into a very personal and at the same time universal story, inviting them to explore their emotions and experiences in the presence of memory, light, and darkness.



Paid event

"They met in the ghetto in 1943. She was only 18 years old. It is a story of oppression and persecution, of unimaginable loss and terror, and yet ultimately it is also a story of love and a story of survival," says Kagan. "While those around them perished, they escaped the ghetto and survived the war in hiding, with the help of their Lithuanian saviours. You are invited to navigate your own journey through an atmosphere laden landscape, where faces float in the darkness, suitcases open to reveal magical interiors, hidden corners invite you in and stories unfold."

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



## MUSICAL PLAY

# The Dybbuk

A mystical premiere!

Once upon a time, in the early 20th century, Simon Ansky wrote a play full of magic, mysticism, and symbolic meaning called The Dybbuk. It was beloved not only by Jews, but also by audiences of other European nations. In the 1930s, The Dybbuk was performed by two of the best known Jewish theatre companies, the Vilna Troupe (Vilner Trupe) and Habima.

A film based on The Dybbuk was made in Poland in 1937.

Eventually, in the present day, the Sala-Manca Collective (Israel) mounted a sound production combining music and actors' voices with images from the film to create an extraordinary experience.

This silent film will be accompanied by music and sounds performed by the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra and a group of Israeli actors who will rekindle the mystical mood of the stage production based on ghost stories.

This performance is highly recommended for all lovers of mysteries and secrets!

14 Oct 2022

Cinema "Romuva", Laisvės al. 54

15 Oct 2022

Raudondvaris Manor Art Incubator,  
Pilies tak. 1, Raudondvaris



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



# The Path of Reconciliation, a procession and Nabucco, an opera by Giuseppe Verdi

A historic procession and a premiere.

All people of Kaunas, regardless of their ethnic background or beliefs, are invited to join a procession marking the anniversary of the liquidation of the Kaunas ghetto, commemorated in Lithuania on 14 July.

Because, first and foremost, we are citizens of Kaunas and everything that happens or has occurred in this city is the responsibility of all of us.

A procession of the living will retrace the path tread by the inhabitants of the Kaunas ghetto during the Great Action, from Vilijampolė to the Ninth Fort. The Path of Reconciliation will be accompanied by art installations highlighting the event's historic and emotional aspects. A performance of Giuseppe Verdi's opera Nabucco, directed by Kęstutis S. Jakštas, will take place at the end of this symbolic path. The project space, the Ninth Fort, is the perfect place to shed light on conflicts of values, the subject of oppression and suffering, and the hope of liberation.

Follow news about this event and join the procession.

16 July 2022

Procession from Kaunas Ghetto Memorial in Vilijampolė

Opera next to Kaunas Ninth Fort

[www.muzikinisteatras.lt](http://www.muzikinisteatras.lt)

Facebook: [Muzikinis.teatras](https://www.facebook.com/Muzikinis.teatras)



Partially paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas State Musical Theatre

**Partners:** Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY

## Simon Karczmar

Visit an exhibition of paintings by Simon Karczmar, a Litvak from Dieveniškės. Works of the painter open a window into the forgotten world of the Jewish shtetl.

June – Sept 2022

V. Putvinskio g. 64

**Organizers:** A. Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum / Devil's Museum





## PROJECT

# Ecce homo: Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left

A special project at the Ninth Fort in Kaunas and the National Museum of Resistance in Luxembourg includes the collaboration of artist Bruce Clarke (France) and choreographer Tebby W. T. Ramasike (Netherlands).

A joint interdisciplinary project between two European Capitals of Culture will shed light on tragic memory themes from the Second World War and will imbue them with new relevance in the context of the present.

One of the links of the project is the historical fact about the 73rd convoy, which arrived at the Ninth Fort carrying people from France in 1944.

Bruce Clarke, the author of visual installation says: "The project will be created at a site impregnated with memories, the Ninth Fort. And although the echoes of my family's story, and those who survived, is but a small reason behind the work of art and my coming to Kaunas, it is an artistic attempt to draw attention to the weight of History, so that we might better understand our present."

The installation will be complemented by a dance performance "The Wreckage Of My Flesh" by Tebby W. T. Ramasike, created especially for the European Capital of Culture project.

The choreographer says: "My interest in the Holocaust is to look at the images of these people being taken to the gas chambers, thinking of the transformation of their bodies in the sense of deformation, finally disintegrating into nothingness – to ashes in the earth. The latter state leads me to think of connectivity with nature – where nothingness exists in the form of non-existence."

In the autumn 2022 the project will be also presented in Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg) and Thil (France).

Presentation and dance performance  
23–24 Sept 2022

Installation open up to 01 Sept 2023

Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum, Žemaičių  
pl. 73

[www.9fortomuziejus.lt](http://www.9fortomuziejus.lt)  
Facebook: 9fortomuziejus  
[www.musee-resistance.lu](http://www.musee-resistance.lu)



Partially paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum,  
Musée national de la Résistance (Luxembourg)

# Litvak music programme

The creator of this Litvak music programme, Arkady Gotesman, invites you to a concert series dedicated to the presentation of Jewish musical culture.

The programme will feature a concert of Jewish songs by singer Marija Krupoves that will recall the experiences of the Holocaust. A concert series by the Joint Lithuanian Klezmer Orchestra will perform Jewish folklore recorded on expeditions through lands that were once part of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

The symbols of Jewish heritage and its rich legacy will be combined in composer Anatoly Shenderov's work *After Chagall*, and the connections between painting and music will be highlighted in *A Jewish Suite*, presented by performer Vyacheslav Ganelin.

Aug – Sept 2022

Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50 & elsewhere in Kaunas

**Organizers:** Meninių projektų ciklai, Kaunas 2022





## CONCERT STORY

# The Music Shell

Audiences attending this non-traditional concert story will hear original music inspired by the motifs of Jewish folk songs, ritual music, and traditional works..

Sept 2022

Kaunas

This musical creation will be accompanied by visually conveyed stories.

The international artists' group Chromatikon seeks to draw attention to the rich and diverse cultures of the city's ethnic communities. Music becomes a means to find shared points of dialogue that can help us better understand one another. At the same time, listeners have the chance to learn about the vanished legacy of Jewish music in Kaunas, which just a few decades ago had such a profound influence on the development of Lithuania's culture.

**Team:** Aimee Birnbaum, Daryl Giuliano, Jelena Makarova, Ozlem Celik, Rūta Vitkauskaitė

**Organizers:** Chromatikon (Lithuania, Great Britain)

**Partners:** Natanas Bairakas, Borisas Kirzneris

## PERFORMANCES IN PUBLIC SPACES

# The Youth Talk about War

On 23 September, when Lithuania commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day, the young generation of Kaunas participating in this project will ask audiences: What would you do if war knocked on your door?

23 Sept 2022

Kaunas public spaces

Unfortunately, war is a subject that continues to remain relevant to today's generations.

The youth of Kaunas will invite audiences to listen to the forgotten stories of the Second World War and consider the challenges posed by contemporary history. After listening to stories recounted by a prior generation of Kaunas residents, the eyewitnesses to war, the project's participants worked with professional theatre directors from Holland and Lithuania to create a theatrical retelling to be presented in one of the city's public spaces.

The idea for this project was conceived at the Theatre Na de Dam in Amsterdam. For several years, its creators have been involving young people in meaningful conversations about the memory of the Second World War and what the war means to us today.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Theater Na de Dam Netherlands

## DOCUMENTARY THEATRE PLAY

# A Half

Everything in this premiere production will be real. All of the dialogue and all of the stories – actually happened.

This is a story about Lithuanians in Poland and Poles in Lithuania. The grandparents of the production's director, Jakub Tabisz, arrived in Poland from Vilnius. But it is a contemporary story that poses questions about us and our imagined ideal of a homeland. In a time of newly rising nationalism and when painful history is being rewritten or erased, the creators of this production hope to capture a living moment as it is experienced today between two different nations who live side by side.

In one of Kaunas' neighbourhoods, there are buildings that were only half-completed. Half of a building symbolizes the history of many Lithuanians and Poles, a story of two nations sharing a common history and common enmity. But we also have the same streets, the same Adam Mickiewicz, and the same sense of humour.

This documentary theatre production will feature actors playing living characters.

All the words, stories, and characters in this production – are all real.

Aug 2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:**  
Grotowski Institute (Poland),  
Strefa Kultury Wrocław (Poland),

## THEATRE PLAY

# The Face

A premiere from two European theatres.

This production is dedicated to the memory of the renowned Kaunas-born French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas and his humanistic work.

The project has been created by theatres in two European Capitals of Culture, Kaunas and Esch-sur-Alzette. The production explores Levinas' philosophical ideas about the Other and responsibility. According to Levinas, encountering the Other is an essential, transformative event in a person's existence. The existence of the Other, by his very face, questions us and invites us to accept responsibility. Only the Other is capable of forcing us out of our innate, "natural" preoccupation with our own existence, and forcing us out of our egoism.

17-19 Nov 2022

Laisvės al. 71

[www.dramosteatras.lt/en](http://www.dramosteatras.lt/en)  
Facebook: Dramos Teatras



Paid event

**Organizers:**  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre,  
Théâtre d'Esch (Luxembourg)



## EXHIBITION

# The Journey

The Journey, an exhibition by French artist Marilia Destot, invites audiences to enter an intimate world of personal experiences.

The exhibition presents projects created in recent years using different techniques, in which Destot explores her family's historic roots in Lithuania and recreates the memory of the imagination.

Marilia Destot began taking interest in her Lithuanian roots and Jewish heritage in 2001, during her first visit to Lithuania. Since 2019, she has been developing The Journey, a project she began at the Kaunas Photography Gallery, in which she combines archival material with the memories and stories of her family members.

14 July – 28 Aug 2022

Kaunas

*[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)  
Facebook: [Kaunasgallery.lt](https://www.facebook.com/Kaunasgallery.lt)*



Paid event

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Photographers Association Kaunas Branch

## PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

# The Last Litvaks

Litvak Michael Shubitz was born in Israel, in a family of Kaunas Jews who survived the Holocaust. The only object his father kept to remind him of Lithuania was his family's portrait taken at a photo studio in Vilka- viškis in 1920.

Shubitz will be returning to Kaunas with 12 large format photographs capturing the last Litvaks of Kaunas. The old photograph of his father's family inspired him to create portraits of former Kaunas residents with the same photographic techniques.

Many of the people captured in these photographs endured the hell of the Holocaust. Others managed to leave Kaunas for Palestine before the start of World War II. "I want to return them to Kaunas, which they left so many years ago," says Shubitz.

Sept – Dec 2022

Kaunas

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

## EXHIBITION

# Window to Jewish Life in Kaunas before the Holocaust

The CityTelling Festival invites you to an exhibition of authentic artifacts.

This exhibition and its accompanying catalogue will display various unique, authentic documents: photographs, medals, letters, envelopes, receipts, business cards, invitations, etc. The exhibition, based on a collection of Lithuanian Judaica assembled by Michailas Duškesas, opens a window into the thriving life of the Kaunas Jewish community that was destroyed by the Holocaust. It peers behind the curtain of the Jewish religious world, introducing viewers to various political and social movements, economic and educational activities, and tells the story of the important Jewish contribution to Lithuania's economy, culture, and education.

25 Sept – 15 Dec 2022

Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations, Šv. Gertrūdos g. 58

[www.154kulturos.lt/en](http://www.154kulturos.lt/en)

**Organizers:** Michailas Duškesas

## PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

# Threshold

During this project, residents and businesses in the city centre will be invited to “welcome” mezuzahs, Jewish traditional decorative cases mounted on doorposts, created by artist Jyll Bradley (Great Britain). Her work is also a metaphor for the idea of individual, personal light, to which everyone who agrees to display a mezuzah can contribute.

Mezuzahs are small boxes containing scrolls of parchment that are traditionally nailed diagonally across the right side of a doorframe or courtyard entranceway. It is believed that mezuzahs protect the home from misfortune.

Bradley has created a stylized object made from organic glass and wood containing a visual mezuzah “identity” in place of the traditional scroll. With her work, Bradley hopes to return the mezuzah symbol to the streets of Kaunas, which was once home to so many Jews.

From July 2022

Kaunas public spaces

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kaunas Jewish Community

## EXHIBITION

# Spaces / Overcome Distances

The creators of the exhibition Vytenė Muschick, Gintarė Valevičiūtė-Brazauskienė and Jurga Graf invite audiences to view a creative interpretation of the life of physician and writer Dalia Grinkevičiūtė. Through moving images, virtual reality, animation, and the experience of sounds and smells, this interactive multimedia installation will immerse visitors into the unusual spaces and almost insurmountable distances described in Grinkevičiūtė's memoir, "Lithuanians by the Laptev Sea", about her Siberian exile. The exhibition is based on the different stages in the author's life: her childhood in interwar Kaunas, her experience of exile in the Far North, and her mother's funeral in postwar Kaunas. The story will be presented in an olfactory art group creation, interpreting Grinkevičiūtė's life journey through scents.

27 May – 27 Sept 2022  
Rotušės a. 13

[www.mairioniomuziejus.lt/en](http://www.mairioniomuziejus.lt/en)  
Facebook:  
[maironio.lietuviu.literaturos.muziejus](https://www.facebook.com/maironio.lietuviu.literaturos.muziejus)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum

## CONCERT

# Sugihara Symphony

Don't miss the world premiere of the symphony!

The work commemorates the extraordinary heroism of Japanese Vice-Consul Chiyune Sugihara. During The Second World War, he issued life visas to thousands of Jews in Kaunas.

The symphony will feature a solo performance by cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper (US), Constantine Orbelian (US) will conduct for the Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra and Kaunas State Choir. Composer and librettist Lera Auerbach (US), project leader Algimantas Treikauskas (Lithuania).

05 Nov 2022

Kaunas State Philharmonic,  
E. Ožėškienės g. 12

[www.sugiharasympphony.com](http://www.sugiharasympphony.com)  
[www.kaunosimfoninis.lt](http://www.kaunosimfoninis.lt)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra

**Partners:** Kaunas 2022

## STORYTELLING PROGRAMME

# Where Can I Find You?

Our CityTelling Festival couldn't exist without us telling the stories ourselves!!

Oct 2022

Kaunas public spaces

This programme includes storytelling evenings in different courtyards, storytellers from different cultures and countries appearing in the city streets, story tours through Kaunas, an evening celebrating the stories and legends of different nations, and cosy storytelling evenings in Kaunas cafés – activities for everyone in Kaunas to discover, listen to, and get to know one another.

The programme's curators, Daiva Ivanauskaitė and Milda Varnauskaitė, are professional storytellers who've been actively promoting the art of storytelling in Lithuania for several years. They will be joined by storytellers from abroad, including: Shona Cowie (Great Britain), who will create storytelling performances assembled from stories collected in Kaunas; Katrice Horsley (Great Britain), who'll invite us to think about the future of Kaunas; and Gauri Raje (Great Britain and India), who will introduce listeners to India's rich culture of storytelling.

This series of events seeks to help the people of Kaunas, who so often fly past one another on the street and never seem to find each other, to meet and listen to the stories of other people. We'll invite you to ask each other: Where can I find you?, and then come together in the city's courtyards, streets, and cafés.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022









## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

# The Idea of Europe

This symposium seeks to convene a council of wise men and women from around Europe.

Sounds ambitious?

It's actually an old tradition in Europe, as a civilization of reflection, reaching back to ancient Greece.

Who else, if not those engaged in the cultural world, can answer such fundamental questions as: What is Europe? Can one become a European? Is this a cultural concept? Can Europe be conceived of as a project? Who speaks, and has the right to speak, for Europe?

These and other questions relevant to the challenges faced by Europe today will be explored by an international symposium curated by Viktoras Bachmetjevas. This two-day event will convene intellectuals, academics, artists, and politicians from around Europe and the world.

Lithuania, and especially Kaunas, is the perfect place to discuss Europe's passions, hopes, crimes, and victories. Kaunas was always a place with its own opinion, and Europe was and is a civilization of alternatives.

The ancient Greeks imagined Europe as a princess abducted by Zeus, and in one sense the history of Europe is the story of a constant search for Europe. This symposium is one more step in this search.

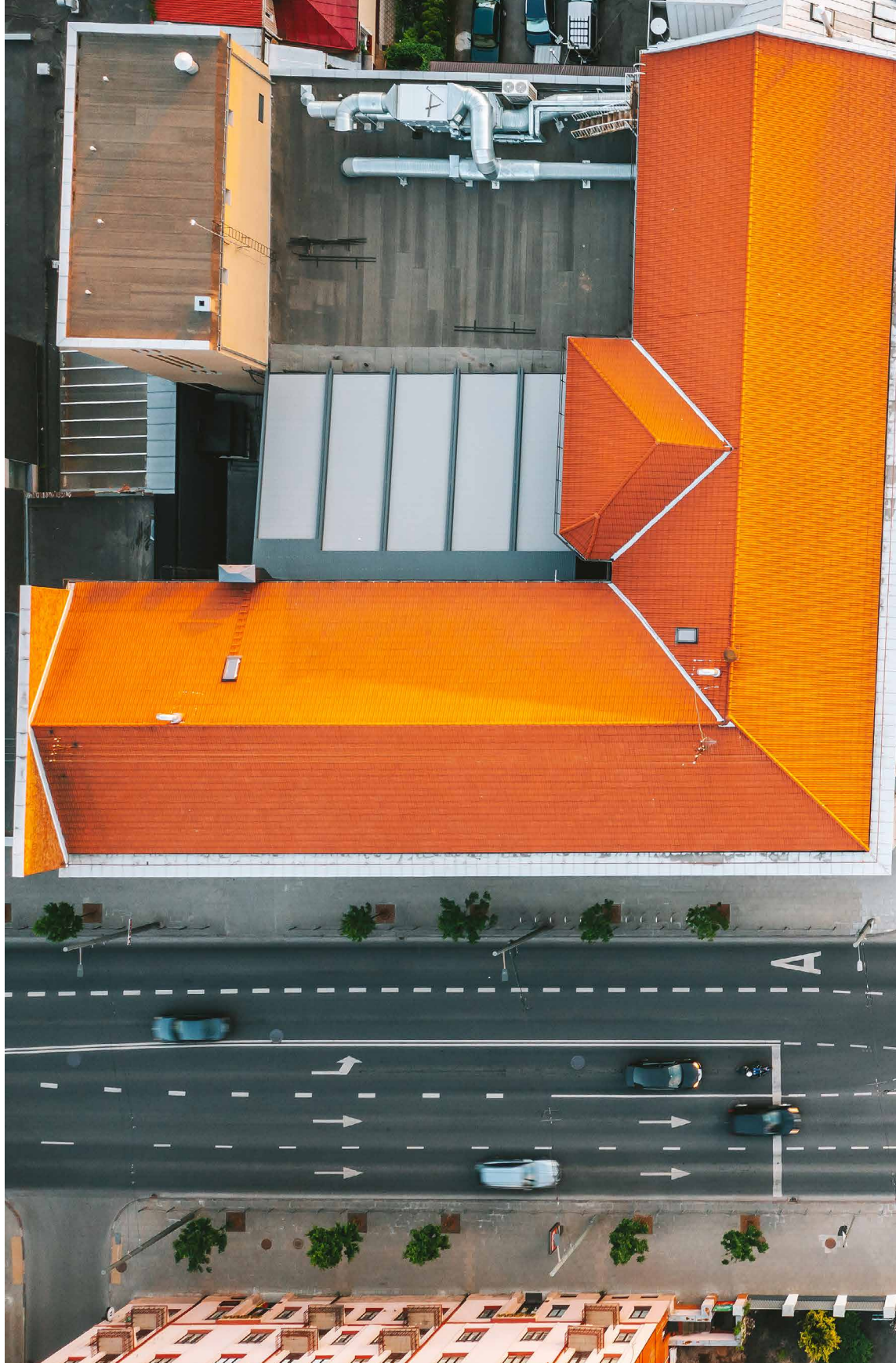
24–25 Nov 2022

Vytautas Magnus University

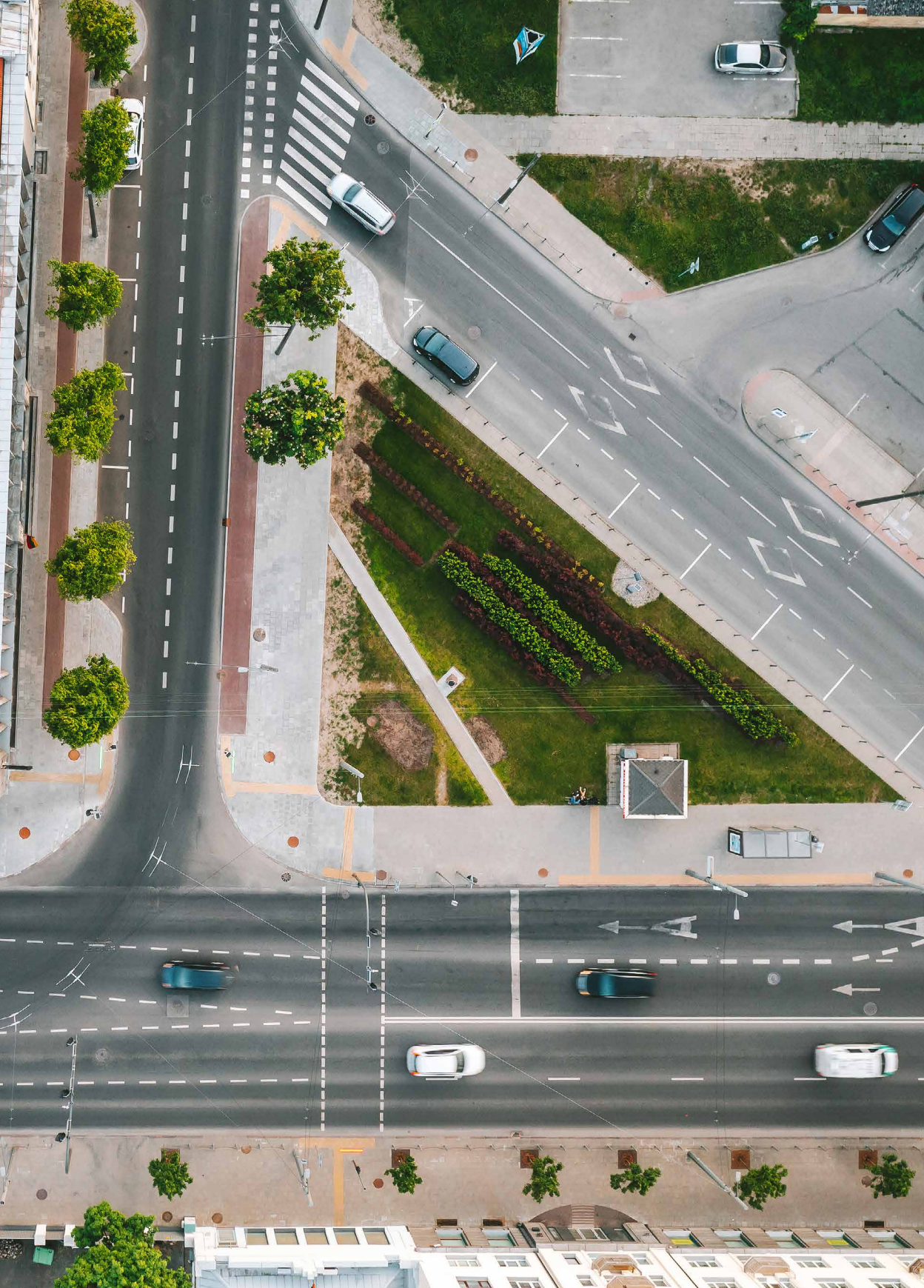
[www.vdu.lt/en](http://www.vdu.lt/en)

**Organizers:** Vytautas Magnus University

The intersection of Vytauto g. & Kęstučio g.











# DESIGNING HAPPINESS

# What does designing happiness mean?

“Designing Happiness” was the most surprising programme of the Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022 project. “What does designing happiness mean?” some asked. Others were annoyed: “What do you mean, happiness?” Still others suggested it would be better to go out and fix potholes in the streets...

It took a lot of long, patient work to prepare the Days of Happiness and show some examples of how seemingly insignificant things can profoundly affect how we feel. Such as attention to detail...

Someone's sense of happiness living in a city doesn't just depend on how things are at home, at work, or on good health or the money they earn. It also depends on blossoming lilacs, a tasteful sculpture placed in just the right place, a sidewalk adapted for wheelchairs, a comfortable bench to sit on... And on quiet evenings, well-maintained river banks, smiles on the faces of strangers on the street, and a “thank you” to cars stopping at a crosswalk to let everyone walk past...

The goal of the Kaunas 2022 Designing Happiness programme is to create a sense of joy in the city through design, as a relationship that can strengthen the bonds between people and their environment. And we understand happiness to include prosperity, sustainability, functionality, aesthetics, and accessibility. We promote the idea of design for all – a concept that unites the design community throughout the world. It is respect for diversity. It is the aspiration that a city should be convenient and comfortable for all, regardless of their abilities, needs, or age, and that everyone should be able to experience culture in their city freely and without limitations.

The events being organized with our partners in 2022 will present Kaunas as a city of design – as the traditions born here and the innovations being created here today. We'll invite you to art and design object installations scattered throughout the city's public spaces and to green interventions cultivated in unexpected urban structures.

For 2022, global design organizations have chosen Kaunas, as a European Capital of Culture, as the site to organize their most important annual events. This will be a unique opportunity to present Kaunas on the international stage and for us to feel that a city is about co-creating.

Creating relationships between a city and its people – while paying attention to the small details.

# International Day of Happiness

The Day of Happiness is one of the great success stories of the Kaunas 2022 project.

This day became an enormous educational project that taught the people of our city the benefit of attentiveness to others, attention to nuance, and sensitivity to detail – things that our happiness is very often made of.

This festival will remain in Kaunas even after the conclusion of the European Capital of Culture programme.

First held in Kaunas three years ago, this celebration has expanded beyond the Kaunas 2022 office to encompass all of Kaunas and Lithuania, drawing in thousands of people in various companies, cultural organizations, housing associations, and school and kindergarten communities. The Day of Happiness will explore a new theme every year: We'll look at the happiness around us, we'll think about those for whom happiness is harder to reach, and we'll talk about sustainability, since conscious approach also bring happiness. During the recent quarantine, we derived happiness from our cultural heritage, and in 2022 we'll celebrate the happiness of being part of a community.

20 March 2022

Kaunas, Kaunas District & Lithuania

[www.laimesdiena.lt](http://www.laimesdiena.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022 with partners



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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

# On Happiness. Presuppositions 2022. Communities

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How do we think about happiness from an academic perspective? We'll ask Vaiva Grainytė and Gediminas and Nomeda Urbonas.

17–20 March 2022

Vytautas Magnus University

[www.vdu.lt/en](http://www.vdu.lt/en)

The economics and philosophy of happiness have become legitimate concepts in academic research.

In the same way, people in the art world are increasingly called upon as equally important researchers in this field. With the help of science and art, this congress will seek to examine and test the presuppositions of happiness. What does the concept of happiness mean in the social, economic, artistic, and philosophical contexts and how is it interrelated with communities – of both people and nature?

Congress events will transpire over three days, each of which will consist of three parts: a morning of academic presentations and discussions, an afternoon of creative workshops, and an evening devoted to art.

The afternoon workshops will apply the creative principle to develop a Glossary of Happiness, a literary work that will eventually be completed by writer Vaiva Grainytė, a recipient of the Lithuanian National Prize for the Arts and Culture. The third part of each day, evenings devoted to art, are meant to include all conference participants, both the passive and the more active among them. "Happiness is not a given – and certainly not something absolute. It is a presupposition, the confirmation of which merits a search for proof," says congress initiator Jūratė Tutlytė.

**Organizers:** Vytautas Magnus University



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EVENT SERIES

# Kaunas Design Festival

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The international Kaunas Festival of Design is a series of interdisciplinary events – exhibitions, workshops, meetings, conferences, and installations in the city's public spaces – that will invite the city's residents and visitors to learn more about the roots of Kaunas' authentic design, the creators of contemporary Lithuanian design, design innovations, and progressive practices used by designers abroad. We'll ask participants to raise questions about the convenience and accessibility of this city for everyone and invite them to join in creating a gallery of art in public urban spaces throughout the city and the surrounding region.

Visit and follow our website for more information. See you at the festival!

Oct 2022

Kaunas

*[www.dizainaskaune.lt/en](http://www.dizainaskaune.lt/en)  
Facebook: [dizainaslaimej](#)*

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022 with partners

In the autumn of 2022,  
Kaunas plans to celebrate  
design

Kaunas is the first city in Central and Eastern Europe to receive the status of UNESCO City of Design. And status brings certain obligations!



## EXHIBITION

# Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary

In shop windows along Laisvės Alėja and adjoining streets.

The people of Kaunas and all visiting guests are invited to an exhibition and storytelling event about the Artifacts of Design, showcasing the evolution of Lithuanian design. This exhibition, curated by Sonata Šulcė, will explore the different fields of design and representative design items: furniture, graphic design, light fixtures, and textiles. We'll also introduce you to the most important designers.

The evolution of Lithuanian design is divided into several key historical periods: the interwar era, the Soviet period, and the present day, all of which will be explored in this exhibition.

Don't miss this creative opportunity to do a bit of window shopping!

22 Jan – 20 Oct 2022

Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Lithuanian Design Forum



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DESIGN WEEK LITHUANIA

# Good Design awards ceremony and winners' showcase

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A city of design is bound to showcase design awards!

07–15 Oct 2022

The Design Celebration, held in six Lithuanian cities, will help prepare for the awards ceremony.

BLC – Business Leaders Center

The week's most important event will be the awarding of the Lithuanian national Good Design prize.

[www.dizainoprizas.lt/en](http://www.dizainoprizas.lt/en)  
[www.dizainosavaite.lt/en](http://www.dizainosavaite.lt/en)  
[www.gerasdizainas.lt/en](http://www.gerasdizainas.lt/en)  
Facebook: [gerasdizainas](https://www.facebook.com/gerasdizainas)

During this festive ceremony, awards will be given to the best designs in 12 categories for the year 2022 and presented to the general public in the Good Design 2022 showcase.

Winners are chosen every year by an independent foreign jury.

After the awards, guests will be invited to a public exhibition of all winning designs.

Information about the awards and the showcase will be available online.

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Design Forum

**Partners:** Kaunas City Municipality





## 5X5<sup>®</sup> Design Programme

Attention Kaunas business community!

For the first time, Kaunas will host the unique design innovation programme 5X5<sup>®</sup>, created by Designregio Kortrijk vzw of Flanders, Belgium. This will be a special opportunity for Kaunas-based companies doing business in different sectors to collaborate for one year with designers based on a patented 12-step programme in the development of new projects and the refining of already existing endeavours, services, or processes. An exhibition held during the Kaunas Design Festival will present the results of a joint Flemish and Lithuanian 5X5<sup>®</sup> design innovation programme.

This project is an example of a cultural collaboration between Kortrijk and Kaunas, both members of the UNESCO Cities of Design Network.

The people of Kaunas will be invited to view the programme's results at a public exhibition.

05–15 Oct 2022

Surroundings of Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre

[www.laskaunas.lt/en](http://www.laskaunas.lt/en)

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Union of Architects Kaunas Branch

**Partners:** Designregio Kortrijk (Belgium)

## Assembly of International Design Networks

Kaunas is assuming its place among the world's most important cities of design.

This assembly is a unique opportunity to present Kaunas as a city of design on the international stage, giving designers a place to meet and establish ties among design communities from different countries.

The forum will be attended by such global design networks as the UNESCO Cities of Design Network, ico-D (International Council of Design), BEDA (Bureau of European Design Associations, and EIDD (Design for All Europe). The assembly programme will feature various meetings, seminars, and conferences.

Several days before the forum opens, international and local design networks with their enduring traditions will hold their most important annual meetings in Kaunas, attended by design policymakers, practitioners from various design fields, and design educators from around the world.

14 Oct 2022

Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50 & elsewhere in Kaunas

[www.dizainaskaune.lt](http://www.dizainaskaune.lt)  
Facebook: [dizainaslaime](#)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Lithuanian Design Forum, Lithuanian Design Association

# K-Totem, a spatial sculpture

Kaunas is getting gifts for its letter K!

It's not just any letter. It's also a multifunctional, spatial sculpture.

K-TOTEM will become a space for self-expression by local graphic designers and illustrators.

This idea came about during the cultural collaboration between two K's – Kortrijk (Belgium) and Kaunas – both members of the UNESCO Cities of Design network.

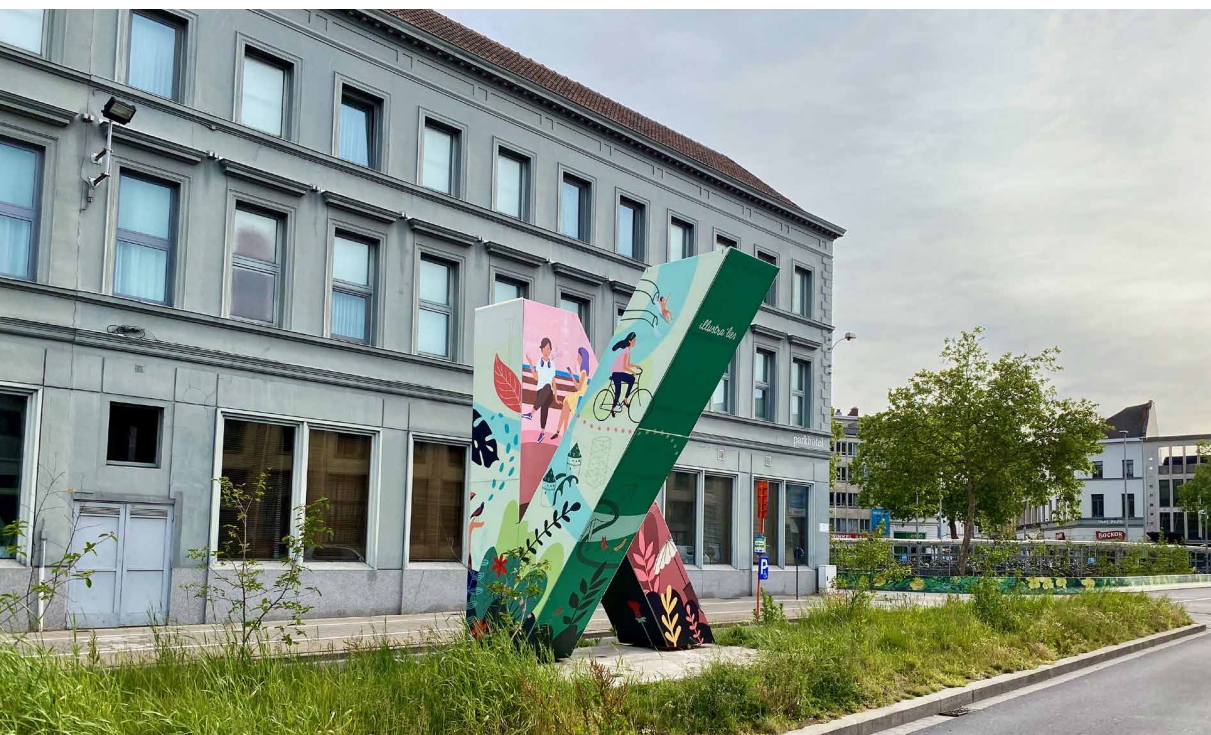
Kortrijk, an aspirant for designation as European Capital of Culture in 2030, has presented a gift to the city of Kaunas – a three-dimensional letter K sculpture which will be decorated with constantly changing visual designs in Kaunas and provide an opportunity to showcase the work of as many local designers as possible.

All year 2022

Steigiamojo Seimo Square,  
Šv. Gertrūdos g. 19

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Designregio Kortrijk (Belgium)



## INTERNATIONAL BONE CHINA SYMPOSIUM

# Porcelain City

The legend of Jiesia continues!

For many of its older residents, Kaunas is closely associated with Jiesia porcelain, thus this bone china exhibition and international symposium seeks to highlight the traditions and innovations of Kaunas porcelain art and design. The gathering will feature surviving individual and serial ceramic pieces and original designs assembled from the Jiesia ceramics factory.

Symposium organizers hope to develop a creative experiential porcelain works platform for artists, utilizing contemporary and traditional forms of ceramic expression. An exhibition held during the symposium will invite guests to explore the porcelain production process, meet artists and designers, and appreciate the fragility of porcelain by experiencing a personal connection with these works of art.

We welcome everyone with an appreciation for this elegant bone china.

Oct 2022

Kaunas Central Post Office, Laisvės al.

[www.porcelianosimpoziumas.lt/en](http://www.porcelianosimpoziumas.lt/en)  
Facebook: [porcelianosimpoziumas](https://www.facebook.com/porcelianosimpoziumas)

**Project Leader:** Remigijus Sederevičius

**Exhibition Curator:** Rokas Dovydėnas

**Organizers:** Vilnius Art Academy

**Partners:** Kaunas Antanas Martinaitis Art School, M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art





## INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

# Kaunas Asorti: Graphic Design (Hi)Stories and Their Actualisation

Curated by Karolina Jakaitė, this exhibition will present the history of Lithuanian graphic design in the latter half of the 20th century. Posters, sketches, containers, and brand designs not only tell the story of design history processes and the designers and their works, but also speak, in their own unique way, about a particular time, identity, and sustainability, echoing issues relevant to the present day. In 1984, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Tara Office, an applied graphic art show was held at the Kaunas Exhibition Hall, drawing nearly 100 designers. We will feature a reconstruction of the first Tara Office applied graphic arts exhibition, which revisits the importance of over a half a century of Lithuanian graphic design traditions.

Oct 2022

Kaunas Picture Gallery,  
K. Donelaičio g. 16

[www.dizainofondas.lt/en](http://www.dizainofondas.lt/en)



Paid event

**Curator:** Karolina Jakaitė

**Organizers:** The Design Foundation

**Partners:** Lithuanian Design Association,  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of  
Art, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Design  
Foundation, Deimante Jasiuleviciute  
Studio





# Magenta Landscape Design Festival

Magenta is a unique festival in Lithuania.

This extremely successful project of the Kaunas 2022 programme has been exploring the subject of urban nature for three years.

Audiences will be able to view installations, objects, and other works of art created by international teams of artists, architects, and landscape designers from Lithuania, Poland, Chile, Spain, Germany, Serbia, Mexico, the Netherlands, and other countries.

These are all works especially created for an urban context.

With its expansive green spaces and many bodies of water, Kaunas is perfectly suited for the creation of examples of urban and natural harmony.

The festival's events will span a broad spectrum, including education programmes for city residents; public discussions about business, city government, industry, and society; tours; interdisciplinary projects; events; tactical urbanism; and the creation of public spaces and landscape design sites.

Is it a city within nature, or nature within a city? Let's find the answer together.

09–25 Sept 2022

Kaunas

[www.magentafestival.lt](http://www.magentafestival.lt)

Facebook:

[Magentalandsaftodizainofestivalis](https://www.facebook.com/Magentalandsaftodizainofestivalis)

**Organizers:** Šeimos laikas

**Partners:** Better Cities Film Festival (United States), Kaunas Architecture Festival KAFé, Kaunas Forestry and Environmental Engineering University of Applied Sciences, M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, UNESCO Design Cities Network, VMU Botanical Garden





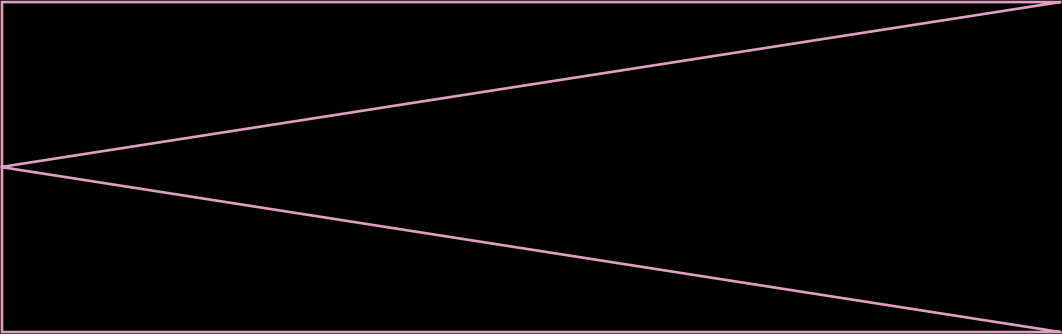
Kaunas Ninth Fort Memorial Complex













EMERGING  
KAUNAS

# A programme for young people by young people

Emerging Kaunas is a programme for youth.

More importantly, however, it's a programme for young people by young people. The main European Capital of Culture office even allocated a separate TEMPO space for us, where we could feel free and be ourselves, and talk about what concerns us in a language we understand best.

Another important thing is that we can experiment and make mistakes. After all, we're creating something that's never existed in Kaunas before, and we hope that the result of our work will help as many young people as possible to stay in both Kaunas and the Kaunas District, with which we're also working quite a bit.

From the start, we knew that we could achieve a breakthrough in young people's participation in culture only by putting the initiative into the hands of young creatives themselves. This is why the Emerging Kaunas programme includes several platforms to allow us to create superior cultural content ourselves: the Kaunas Challenge, this programme's Alumni Club, and the More Tempo initiative.

This is why we like that strange word "co-creation".

And this is why we're crafting this programme's culminating event, the Audra International Festival 2022, on the basis of co-creation with young people. So, get ready for bold content with contemporary aesthetics that will force you out of your comfort zone! The festival's musical programme is being created by the Freimas association together with a team from the Lizdas night club that everyone knows so well, which means that fans of excellent electronic music can rest assured and expect an invitation to a unique city festival programme.

I am sincerely grateful for the trust demonstrated by the official programme partners and their determination to develop and appreciate co-creation: the Kaunas Chamber Theatre, the Pažaislis Music Festival, and Gamers Dance Studio.

We thank the students of Kaunas and the Kaunas District and our programme partners who are creating and implementing educational projects: the National Kaunas Drama Theatre, the Romuva Cinema Centre in Kaunas, the Science and Innovation for Society organization, Terra Publica, and the Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum.

And peace and love from our unique Tempo space!

## EVENT SERIES

# Audra Contemporary City Festival

A storm is coming. The most important festival of our programme.

Over just a few days, you'll see the entire future of Kaunas!

Contemporary art installations and performances by all sorts of artists. Electronic, experimental, and acoustic music at the Kaunas Philharmonic, the Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery, the Kaunas Taxi Park, the grounds of the former Pergalė Factory, and Santaka Park, at the confluence of the Neris and Nemunas Rivers. This event will be an important and thunderous cultural revival for the entire region.

The Audra Youth and Contemporary Music Festival is an event that reflects the lifestyle, culture, and values of young people, building an inquisitive community through experiences, content, and bold discussions.

The youth programme's participants are the guides, influencers, and implementors of this festival. And the Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022 team are their partners.

We're happy to announce that this initiative has been joined by the Freimas International Art Makers Association which, together with the team from the Lizdas night club, are developing the musical portion of this programme. We're going to create the storm that is Audra – together!

This will be a citywide festival that will invite audiences to discover the identity of Kaunas, its youth communities, and each of us individually. The festival programme is interdisciplinary, contemporary, and bold. The active participation in this programme by our audiences is an important piece of this project.

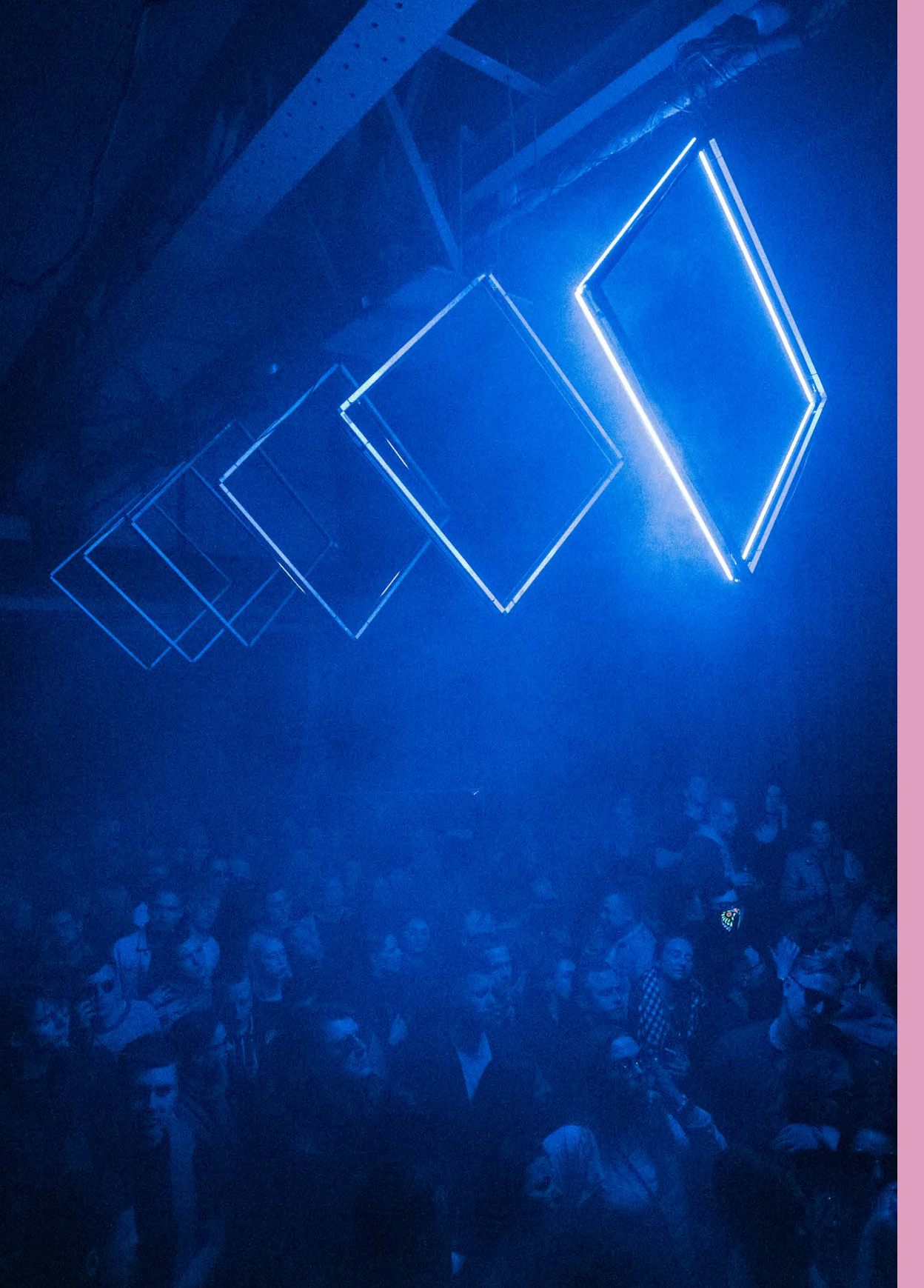
Which means no passive bystanders at this festival!

29 June – 03 July 2022

Kaunas Centre

[www.audrafestival.lt](http://www.audrafestival.lt)

**Organizers:** Freimas, Kylantis Kaunas





## STREET DANCE EVENT

# Gamers City Battle 2022

Find out more on the internet and join in!

The AllStyles dance battle will bring together participants from different street dance subcultures and ethnic groups from all over Europe. An entire day of hundreds of colourful and imaginative dance costumes, an entire day of DJ'ed music tracks, an entire day of street dance choreography.

See you there!

29 June – 03 July 2022

Kaunas

*Facebook: studijagamers*

**Organizers:** Gamers Dance Studio

## THEATRE PLAY

# Eye-Net 2.0

A socio-political theatrical premiere.

You're invited to watch a socio-political youth production conceived during an international collaborative project, exploring the experiences of local young people.

This project seeks to involve youth in creative activities and also hone their critical thinking and political and social action. The Kaunas company's production will be presented in all partner countries, so young people will have the chance to expand their horizons and establish contact with their peers in other countries.

This premiere features members of the Mr. Stagey theatre company and is directed by Rokas Lažaunykas.

Follow our websites for more information.

29 June – 03 July 2022

Kaunas

*[www.pazaislis.lt/en](http://www.pazaislis.lt/en)  
[www.mrstagey.lt](http://www.mrstagey.lt)*

**Organizers:** Pažaislis Music Festival

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCERS

# Prodiusai CoLab

You're invited to two educational programme premieres. First, more about the programme itself.

Kęstučio g. 74A

[www.kamerinisteatras.lt](http://www.kamerinisteatras.lt)

Eight producers selected by a committee are currently learning the fundamentals of their profession from leading Lithuanian and foreign producers, culture managers, and finance experts.

After they complete their theory course, these young women will complete field work at their mentoring organization.

The programme mentors are: producers Darius Vizbaras (Kosmos Theatre), Goda Giedraitytė (Žuvies akis), Rusnė Kregždaitė (Meno ir mokslo laboratorija), Ana Ablamonova (Operomanija), Jurga Knyvienė (Kaunas Chamber Theatre), and Gintarė Masėkaitė (ConTempo, Naujasis Baltijos šokis).

Another one of our programmes is the DANCING ID project, devoted to empowering young people with fewer opportunities. Young participants will collaborate with professional artists during creative activities to find ways to reveal their identities through different means of artistic expression, above all through movement. Liberating bodies and movement is the starting point from which project participants will begin their journey toward their creative identity.

**Organizers:** Kaunas City Chamber Theatre

## First premiere. Joan's Decision, a theatre play

Oct 2021

The original script of the production was based on archival material from the trial of Joan of Arc.

The premiere performance will be staged as a work of Devising Theatre (collaborative theatre).

The mentor for this creative process is Ian Morgen and the creator of the idea, Gintarė Šmigelskytė, also directs and acts in the production, accompanied by her team of Anna Walden, Inga Šepetkaitė, and Dainius Urbonis.

## Second premiere. A Dance That Isn't There, a theatre play

Jan 2022

This production, based around contact improvisations with audiences, pair dancing, crowd scenes, synchronization, and shifting rhythms will change established opinions about dance.

Featuring choreographer and dancer Mantas Stabačinskas, dancer Vasara Visockaitė, and director Karolina Žernytė.

# The unique Tempo space at 34 M. Daukšos Street

The Kaunas – European  
Capital of Culture 2022  
programme created an  
entirely separate space  
for young people



# Kaunas 2022 **TEMPO** erdvė

The Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022 programme created an entirely separate space for young people – far from our main office, official speeches, and supervisors. :)

The goal: more freedom to be among your own. Trust us – there's plenty of room there!

What's happening at the Tempo space?

- Kaunas Challenge, an educational programme for youth
- Kaunas Challenge Alumni Club activities
- And the More Tempo initiatives

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# What is Kaunas Challenge?

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This is a half-year-long skills training programme – but put more simply, it's a safe place to experiment and make mistakes. It's about working with professionals from different fields. What can you learn there? More about the city's cultural sector, but from the inside. And also how to generate and develop your creative projects from ideas to results, learning about team work and communication.

**Begins:** every year in Oct

[www.kaunas2022.eu/kaunoissukis](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/kaunoissukis)

Facebook: [kaunaschallenge](#)  
[@kaunoissukis](#)

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# What is the Kaunas Challenge Alumni Club?

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People who work independently have the chance to consult with Kaunas 2022 mentors, offering young people engaging content as they address cultural accessibility issues encountered by younger people. Programme alumni seek to take over the implementation of the skills training programme and grow the value-added projects emerging from it.

The club welcomes all participants who complete the Kaunas Challenge programme.

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# What is the More Tempo initiative?

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It's a chance to use our spaces to present your creative work.

M. Daukšos g. 34

Facebook: [TEMPO2022](#)

We welcome your shows, performances, installations, concerts, presentations, and other activities.

A connection between science and art is particularly encouraged.

How can you take part? Follow us for more information!

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



# Projects developed by Alumni Club members:

MASS magazine – a local magazine for cultural youth – about young creatives by young creatives.

PUOTA – an audio-visual project integrating verse created by Kaunas poets into public spaces. Sound installations in public transportation, poetry readings in non-traditional spaces, open poetry contests, and verse interpretations together with illustrators displayed in public spaces. The most important element of this project is the coming together of a large and open community of poetry lovers.

KOMODA – a project that portrays and tells the story of Kaunas cultural life through fashion. This project hopes to provide a platform for young fashion designers to present their work in Kaunas, organizing fashion shows in open urban spaces.

RANDAI (Scars) – Using photographs and personal texts to allow us to connect with emotional experiences and encourage healing through sharing. Conveying stories through artistic means such as photography and sound recordings, organizing shows, and holding discussions.

Žaidžiam Kauną (Let's Play Kaunas) – This project encourages people to step away from their virtual games and discover a community of board gamers. The project developed a game about Kaunas, incorporating popular city cultural symbols and their stories into a game narrative.

Atspindžiai (Reflections) – a platform for talking about stereotypes.

eNDė – a learning support platform.

Serija-F – a financial literacy channel.

MindfaQ vakarai – a series of evening detective games.

Pusės dainos festivalis (PDF) (Half-Song Festival) – a Rap/Trap cultural event for young audiences.

*Instagram: @mass.magazine; Facebook: MASS.MAGAZINE*

*Instagram: @\_randai; Facebook: Randai*  
*Instagram: @\_komoda; Facebook: @kOmOda*

*Instagram: @pdf.fest Facebook: PDFest*  
*Instagram: @Puota2022; Facebook: Puota*

*Instagram: @zaidziam.kauna; Facebook: Zaidziam.kauna*  
*Youtube: Serija-F*

# CAPITAL OF CULTURE CLASSES

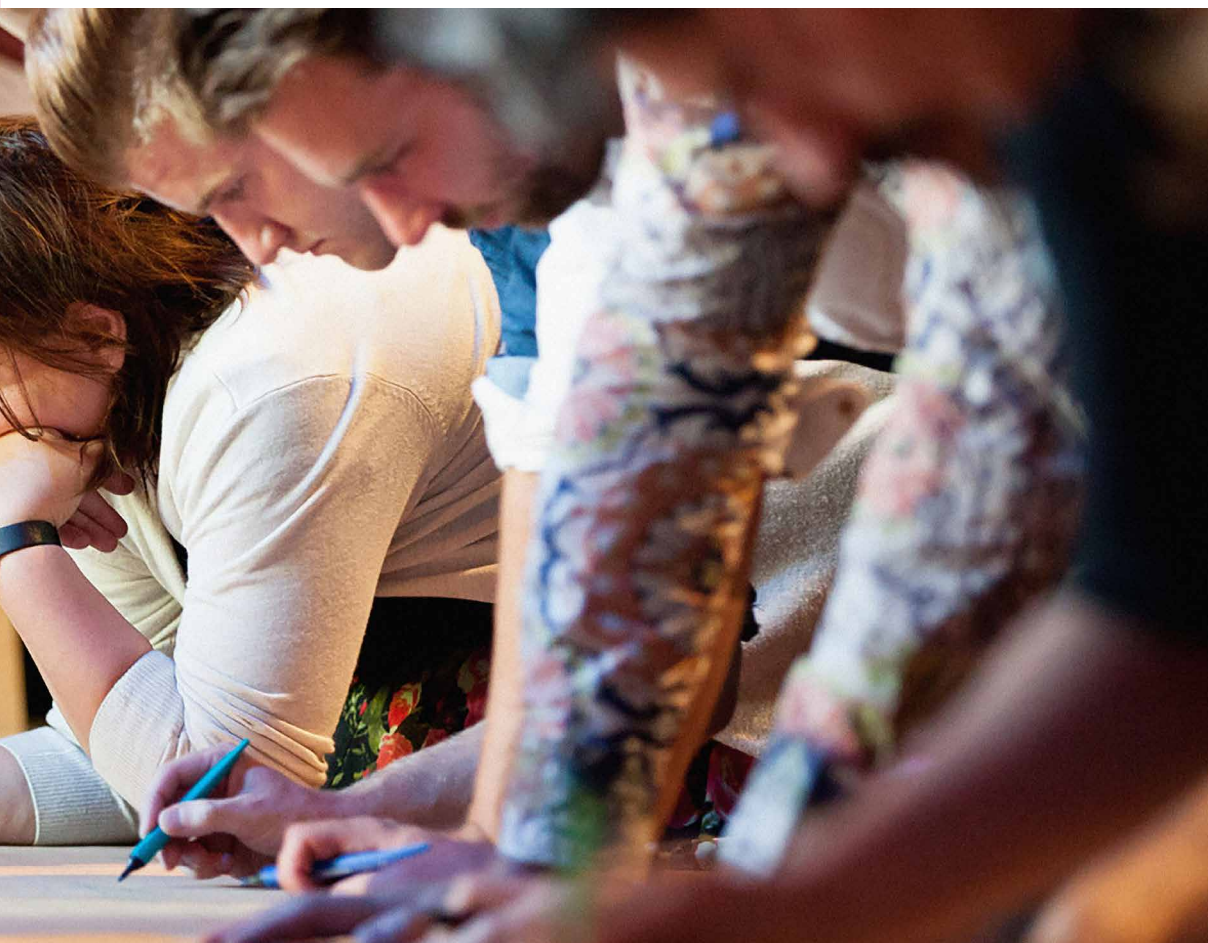


# Attention schools!

We have some interesting classes for you. Contact the Kaunas 2022 Emerging Kaunas programme and learn how to partner with us.

This programme is devoted to cultural education and creativity building for school-age children.

Check out some examples of our programme classes.



# The Vladislovas Starevičius Animation Laboratory and Weekend

Cinema “Romuva” will host an animation laboratory where students and young researchers can learn more about the history and practice of animation.

There will also be an Animation Weekend held in 2022, a programme featuring the latest and most current animated works for children and adults.

In the first half of the 20th century, Kaunas was home to one of the most renowned pioneers of animation, Vladislovas Starevičius, who left a profound imprint on the history of animation and cinema. This programme is dedicated to his memory.

Animation Weekend 21–22 May 2022,  
lab all year 2022

Laisvės al. 54

[www.kcromuva.lt/repertuaras](http://www.kcromuva.lt/repertuaras)  
Facebook: [kinasromuva](#)



Partially paid event

**Organizers:** Cinema “Romuva”

**Partners:** BLON.LT, Vilniaus primavera

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

# Point of Change

An educational programme for students about ecology, Point of Change will invite school-age students to learn, encourage activism, and will create a space for new experiences and the development of environmental awareness. This project will be joined by students from schools around Kaunas, including the Saulė, Jesuit, VDU Rasos, Varpas, and Vyturys secondary schools and the Kazys Grinius progymnasium. Students from schools in the Kaunas District will also take part, including secondary schools in Babtai, Domeikava, Vandžiogala, Neveronys, and Raudondvaris.

2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District educational institutions

**Organizers:** Mokslas ir inovacijos visuomenei

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# Educational Theatre Club

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This is a method-based tool for school-age children to help them learn more about the dramatic arts and explore and develop their creativity. The purpose of this educational project is to take a creative look at the learning process. This method encourages using the opportunities provided by the dramatic arts in the teaching of regular school subjects.

2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District educational institutions



With registration

**Organizers:** National Kaunas Drama Theatre

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Dive into the Theatre

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Theatre is opening its doors to young audiences and invites them to stop by!

Holding props, peering backstage, talking with actors, walking through the mazes behind the Kaunas Drama Theatre, and maybe even the chance to meet a real theatre ghost – you'll find all of this and more at this interactive festival.

01–04 June 2022

Kaunas

[www.nerkas.lt](http://www.nerkas.lt)  
[www.dramosteatras.lt](http://www.dramosteatras.lt)



Paid event

**Organizers:** National Kaunas Drama Theatre

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BOOK

## Fairy Tales of Kaunas Nations

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This book will be published in 2022 in various languages. The fairy tales will be complemented by colorful illustrations and QR codes, allowing you to hear the unique stories of Kaunas nations.

[www.terrapublica.lt](http://www.terrapublica.lt)

**Publisher:** Terra Publica



## YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

# The Starting Point

Interested in politics? Climate change? Human and animal rights?

This festival is for you.

This thematic and issue-focused festival seeks to provide emerging performing artists with a platform to present their social ideas together with their view of the theatre as a socially active and important form of communication for young people.

Sept 2022

Kaunas

*[www.kamerinisteatras.lt](http://www.kamerinisteatras.lt)*

*Facebook: iseitiestaskas*



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas City Chamber Theatre

## CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

# Live Letters

Books can change us and make us grow! At this children's book festival called Live Letters (Gyvos raidės), everyone will grow a bit. This may happen after they meet writers and book characters, encounter repaired broken toys, learn how not to be afraid of scary tales, discover a Kaunas hidden in stories, talk with sculptures of writers, and meet the Mythical Beast of Kaunas.

This children's book project is part of the Kaunas Literature Festival organized by Vytautas Magnus University and devoted to the youngest readers. For more see p. 270.

29 Apr – 01 May 2022

Kaunas

**Organizers:** Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum

## INTERACTIVE THEATRE PLAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

# The Tower of Babel

Members of an international, interactive theatre network from Norway, Iceland, Hungary, and Lithuania have joined together for a common goal: to stage the Tower of Babel, an interactive production for youth. Director Hilde Brinchmann (Norway) will combine her own knowledge of interactive theatre with the experience of each of her partners. On this theatrical journey, history will become the epic story of faith and opportunities, inviting audience members to become active tellers of this story.

Premiere 19, 20, 23 Aug 2022

National Kaunas Drama Theatre,  
Laisvės al. 71 & Čekiškė,  
Kaunas District

[www.dramosteatras.lt](http://www.dramosteatras.lt)



Paid event

**Organizers:** National Kaunas Drama Theatre

**Partners:** Bird and Bat (Israel), Kava Kulturalis Muhely Egyesület (Hungary), Kompani13 (Norway), PIYL (Participate in Your Life)

## CHILDREN'S OPERA

# Kirana

This is going to be very interesting.

And by “this”, we mean: Three professional performers from Malta coming to Lithuania to conduct a 5-day creative workshop for local children.

The children will create part of a performance.

The story of the Kirana opera is inspired by different myths from China and India, from Babylon and Mesopotamia. Wherever this opera is staged, it is enriched by the work of local talented artists.

The staging of this production will include works created by the students of Kaunas Antanas Martinaitis Art School.

Children will help create a soundtrack, improvise on instruments, and learn stagecraft.

Children's groups from the Raudondvaris Culture Centre will participate in the performance of the opera.

More information about this event is available on the Pažaislis Festival website.

12 June 2022

Raudondvaris Manor Art Incubator,  
Pilies tak. 1, Kaunas District

[www.pazaislis.lt/en](http://www.pazaislis.lt/en)  
Facebook: [pazaislis](https://www.facebook.com/pazaislis)

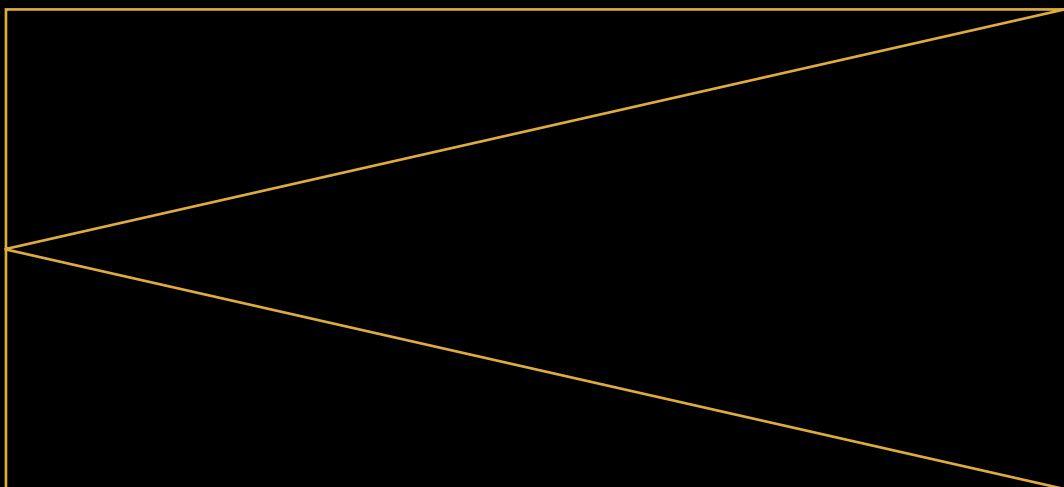
**Artists:** Ruben Zahra (Malta), Andrius Kurienius, Renata Mišeikienė, Tricia Dawn Williams (Malta)

**Organizers:** Pažaislis Music Festival











FLUXUS  
LABAS!  
WE THE PEOPLE

# An experimental spirit, a sense of adventure, and playfulness

We are the Communities Programme. We are one of the broadest Kaunas 2022 programmes, and over five incredibly intensive years of day-to-day activities, we've had an impact on the majority of communities in Kaunas, promoting the idea that residents themselves are capable of addressing challenges and making change.

The official name of our programme is We the People, but amongst ourselves we usually say: Fluxus Labas! Which makes perfect sense, of course, since the creators of the Fluxus movement didn't much care for formalities...

So, we thought it best to just get to work and published the Fluxus Labas! methodology book that helps us learn how to be more

community-minded.

The basis for our programme's success rests on shared human and European values: openness of people and communities toward one another, and to diversity, innovation, and creative solutions; inclusion of different people and organizations; building and maintaining interpersonal relationships; and promoting dialogue and co-creation.

Other unique features of the Communities Programme are its experimental spirit, sense of adventure, and playfulness. By embracing these principles, we symbolically follow in the footsteps of George (Jurgis) Maciunas – the founder of the Fluxus movement and a Kaunas native – and his ability to see the world and its challenges differently –

more playfully and more simply, from a more human perspective...

So many diverse projects have been created – I can't single out any one of them, because each of them is unique, beautiful, meaningful, and significant in its own way. As you visit our events or the things we've created, remember that you won't always see the actual result of the programme, but just the means to achieve that result. The true result of our effort is out there – in apartment courtyards, neighbourhood streets, and in parks – in a changed perspective, in the courage to act, and in the faith that, with the help of a community, we can achieve so much.

But I do hope that, when you're there, you'll feel the result.

Many thanks to all the communities who joined us on this adventure and experiment that began as a journey into the unknown. We've accomplished so much more than we could have hoped.

And this isn't the end.

# FLUXUS LABORATORIES

168

The Fluxus Laboratories are a special branch of the Fluxus Labas! project.

Since 2018 we've been training people whom we call community facilitators.

These people have now spread out through the city. Their goal is to bring together formal and informal communities, city residents, and organizations in different sectors and encourage them to become involved in community cultural and artistic activities and promote such activities themselves in specific neighbourhoods.

In 2022, the Fluxus Laboratories are going to “explode” and present unique community cultural and artistic projects in many different neighbourhoods throughout Kaunas.

Come support our neighbourhoods!

*[www.fluxuslabas.eu](http://www.fluxuslabas.eu)*

*Facebook: FluxusLabas*

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1. Šilainiai Urban Eco Festival
  2. An interactive cultural and local creative game
  3. Resounding Walls, a musical tour
  4. Dainava in Action. Midsummer Spells, a mystery play
  5. Šančiai Festival



**6. Just Come, a poetry festival**

**7. Forest of the Senses, a festival**

**8. Courtyard Stories, a festival**

**9. Step by Step, a tour and dance production**

**10. Kaunas Lagoon Celebration**

**11. Under the Carpet, an installation**

**12. Culturethon, a festival of sport and art**

**13. The City Composing in Kaunas, a concert**

**14. Mnemosyne, an interactive installation**

**15. The Šančiai Cultural Courtyard Festival**

**16. Flying Through Time, an interdisciplinary festival**



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# Šilainiai Urban Eco Festival

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You're invited to Šilainai!

23 Apr 2022

The Šilainai Urban Eco Festival is the only one of its kind in Lithuania. The main driving force behind it is local communities, residents, and various organizations. The festival promises to impress you with Šilainai natural and landscape design installations, lectures, and educational programmes.

Baltų pr.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

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## An interactive cultural and local creative game

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Come to Draugystės (Friendship) Street in industrial Kaunas!

10–12 June 2022

Join in an interactive cultural and local creative game called The Art of Friendship. Visitors will be invited to enter sites that have been previously off-limits, learn more about welcoming local residents and workers and their co-creations, and participate in playful and artistic activities. Reaching the end of the game will bring you to a celebration with music, an activities fair, an open-air cinema, and wonderful food tastings and locally crafted gifts.

Draugystės g. 8E

**Organizers:** Saugi pradžia

## MUSICAL TOUR

# Resounding Walls

Join us in Eiguliai!

You'll have the chance to walk through Eiguliai in a way you've never had before. Collaborating with different street artists, the community has created drawings that reflect its identity and now invites you to explore them on this colourful and musical walking tour.

11 June 2022

Eiguliai Microdistrict

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

## MYSTERY PLAY

# Dainava in Action. Midsummer Spells

Dainava awaits!

As midsummer approaches and the longest day nears, when the sun sets just one hour before midnight, the Dainava neighbourhood community, in collaboration with professional performers, artistic groups, and volunteers will invite you to a midsummer mystery. Here the routine of contemporary urban life will intertwine with symbols, traditions, and rituals of the past and their promise of renewal. The daytime part of this event is being created by the visiting team of The Open Programme of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards (Italy), who will work for three weeks with local communities and local professional performers to create a participatory event – a Promenade through Dainava. The Promenade's theme revolves around the ancient Lithuanian song tradition of "sutartinės", or polyphonic singing, and traditional songs and dances (and their contemporary interpretations) from countries on other continents. The Open Programme's performers will also bring a special gift to the city, the premiere staging of the play "The Thirsty Ones".

18 June 2022

Draugystės park

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partneris:** The Open Programme of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards (Italy)

# Šančiai Festival

Experience the impressive Šančiai Festival!

A performance, opera, stories, and tours. Initiatives promoted in Šančiai over the past four years will all come together at this three-day Šančiai Festival.

Open every day of the festival, Parakas (Lithuanian for gunpowder) will invite audiences to celebrate what we call Joninės (St. John's Day, or Midsummer) and immerse themselves in a surprising opera of imagery and watch a performance of ice and fire. On the festival's second day, No Name Studio and CREATurE.live. art will revive the old Šančiai barracks from their deep sleep. For one evening, the barracks will transform into an open-air Gyvas Namas (Living House) of thriving art. On the third day, the Šančiai Cultural Courtyard will present a project developed over several years about local elders. Visitors will be able to attend creative workshops, musical performances, and tours held at different locations throughout Šančiai.

24–26 June 2022

Prancūzų g. 2, A. Juozapavičiaus g. 31G,  
Servitutų g. 30 & elsewhere in Kaunas

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Parakas,  
No Name Studio, Scenos ir estetikos  
mokykla



## POETRY FESTIVAL

# Just Come

Come visit Kovo 11-osios (March 11th) Park!

23 July 2022

Experience poetry, ceramics, and music. Lithuanian writer Balys Sruoga, who lived in Gričiupis, left behind his love of poetry along the park paths of this neighbourhood and in the hearts of the people who live here. The Just Come Poetry Festival will feature a ceramics collection of more than 700 works of art crafted by members of the Gričiupis community as they listened to poetry. The event will also include singer-songwriters, ceramics workshops, and performances by the Puota youth platform.

Kovo 11-osios Park

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Balys and Vanda Sruogos House-Museum, Gričiupis community, Keramikos akademija, Kaunas 2022 Kaunas Challenge alumni project "Puota"



## FESTIVAL

# Forest of the Senses

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Come to Panemunė!

This festival invites you to meet professional artists, naturalists, and herbalists and help them create land art and sound installations. Festival participants will have the chance to experience a forest through their five senses, rediscovering the forest's beauty. Festival organizers will also encourage participants to become more aware of contemporary environmental issues and humanity's impact on the planet.

09 July 2022

Panemunė Forest, Gailutės g. 4

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Už švarią Lietuvą, Alternatyviai

## FESTIVAL

# Courtyard Stories

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Courtyard Gallery (Kiemo galerija) is a new legend of old Kaunas. It's an extraordinary example of community-building and co-creation in Kaunas, inviting you to experience colourful creations as well as the retelling of local stories displayed high above your head. In collaboration with the gallery's artists, this idea will encompass even more of central Kaunas and its Old Town courtyards in 2022. The stories and memories of those who live in these courtyards will appear in the most unexpected places – beneath balconies, on walls, and maybe even in the sky.

16 July 2022

Kaunas Centre

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Kiemo galerija



## TOUR AND DANCE PRODUCTION

## Step by Step

We'll meet you by the Kaukas Stairs!

The community of Žaliakalnis and the Ulna Dance Company invite you to a dance production – a tour we call Step by Step (Pakopa po pakopos). This performance event will directly involve professional artists, local residents, and visitors to Kaunas, calling them to learn more about the living memory and history of the Žaliakalnis community, and its local mythical creature – Kaukas.

06 Aug 2022

Kaukas Stairs (Kauko al. 5), the Kaukas Stairs pool, Kauno vandenys, adjacent streets in Žaliakalnis Microdistrict

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Ulna dance troupe

## Kaunas Lagoon Celebration

See you in Petrašiūnai on the shores of the Kaunas Lagoon!

August will be a perfect time to meet by the lagoon. The community of Petrašiūnai will host the Kaunas Lagoon Celebration to emphasize the important role the lagoon plays as part of the face of Kaunas and reveal the whole range of activities that take place around this body of water.

14 Aug 2022

R. Kalantos g. 124

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



## INSTALLATION

# Under the Carpet

See you in Vilijampolė!

20 Aug 2022

A performance by the artists' collective God's Entertainment (Austria) will open the Under the Carpet installation. One of the show's elements will be the weaving of a carpet by the people of Kaunas themselves.

Vilijampolė Microdistrict

The carpet's threads, cross-stitching, and the complex structure of its material symbolizes social unions. During the weaving of the carpet, artists will explore what is being "swept" under the carpet in Lithuania and in Vilijampolė, specifically. The Under the Carpet performance and art installation will shed light on facts about Kaunas and the European political, cultural, social, and media contexts, as well as facts that society should be concerned about but that are being "swept" under the carpet.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** God's Entertainment (Austria)

## FESTIVAL OF SPORT AND ART

# Culturethon

Vilijampolė calling again!

20 Aug 2022

The residents of Vilijampolė invite you to Culturethon. The day will start with cyclists, runners, skaters, footballers, and other residents and guests moving from Lampėdis Lake to the park on the Neris River embankment. A cultural programme of exhibitions, performances, and music as well as different athletic competitions will take place at different spots along the way. We'll end the day by the Neris River and unveil spectacular "fire sculptures" – 2 to 3-meter-high ceramic sculptures made from chamotte clay which will be fired and become artistic centrepieces for Vilijampolė's public spaces.

Lake Lampėdis, Neris Quay Park

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022,  
SkirtBike, Kita Neris pusė

## CONCERT

# The City Composing in Kaunas

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Meet us at the Ninth Fort.

10 Sept 2022

Jazz Academy and composer Hara Alonso will present the results of an experimental composition project entitled The City Composing in Kaunas, a work of music created together with the people of Kaunas.

Ninth Fort, Žemaičių pl. 73

**Organizers:** Jazz Academy

## INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION

# Mnemosyne

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See you in Aleksotas!

10 Sept 2022

Audiences will be invited to view an installation assembled from residents' stories. The arts group Effetto Larsen (Italy) will create an emotional map of the area based on the memories of those who live here and the experiences of specific places in the neighbourhood. The final result will be an installation modelled as an emotional, interactive journey through the Aleksotas neighbourhood. This will be a powerful tool for sharing and storytelling.

Aleksotas Microdistrict

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Effetto Larsen (Italy)

## FESTIVAL

# Šančiai Cultural Courtyard

Meet us in the courtyard of a traditional wooden home in Šančiai.

14–15 Sept 2022

Servitutų g. 30

Scenos ir estetikos mokykla (Stage and Aesthetics School) invites you once more to the Šančiai Cultural Courtyard and the festival that has been held here annually for the past 5 years. In 2022, the festival will combine two initiatives: Elder Stories, a premiere showing of a documentary art film, and the Music Festival, featuring popular performers appearing in the unusual surroundings of a Šančiai wooden home courtyard.

**Organizers:** Scenos ir estetikos mokykla

## INTERDISCIPLINARY FESTIVAL

# Flying through Time

Located on the left bank of the Nemunas River, Aleksotas has a deep and rich history, an active and modern community, and places that leave a lasting impression, such as the Botanical Gardens, the Aviation Museum, the Marvele Valley, and the funicular railway. These and other places will invite to an interdisciplinary festival - "Flying through Time". Participants of the festival will be able to get to know the history of the municipality through theatre, music, and other genres of performances. The highlights of the event will be the stylized sculptures created by Arūnas Matulis, the founder of the art factory "Potiomkinas", and the Aleksotas community, which symbolize the real and imaginary stories of Aleksotas.

18 Sept 2022

Aleksotas Microdistrict

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Artscape



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**FLUXUS LABAS!**

# The Courtyard Project

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This project has become the pride of Kaunas 2022.

*www.fluxuslabas.eu*  
*Facebook: FluxusLabas*

The is one of the most successful pandemic-era projects created in the European Union, copied by many and presented at international awards ceremonies.

Since 2019, Fluxus Labas! has been encouraging residents to engage with their neighbours to change their surroundings, take responsibility for them, and find creative solutions to the challenges they face. Fourteen projects have been implemented prior to 2022 in various areas around the city of Kaunas and the Kaunas District: courtyard shows, artistic courtyard symbols, and unique examples of small architecture – with everything created with the hands and eager participation of local residents.

During Lithuania's first quarantine in 2020, Fluxus Labas! Kiemas adapted to the changing situation and launched the Culture to the Courtyards (Kultūra į kiemus) project, during which different performers gave shows to residents in surrounding apartment buildings, allowing audiences to enjoy culture in their own yards safely, from their windows and balconies. This initiative is being continued in 2022 after noticing its long-term impact: This was a chance for people who are unable to participate in culture, for various reasons, to see it live in their own courtyards. It was a wonderful example of decentralized culture that has inspired residents to organize their own events in their courtyards, gather together, and strengthen their communities.

In 2022, we'll invite one and all to as many as 80 courtyards throughout Kaunas to enjoy the gift of shows by theatre, dance, contemporary circus, music, and other performers.

Culture to the Courtyards will spend 3 days in each of 11 elderships in the city of Kaunas, performing from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, followed by weekend Fluxus Laboratories events.

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



1. Šilainiai / 19–21 Apr 2022

2. Eiguliai / 07–09 June 2022

3. Dainava / 14–16 June 2022

4. Šančiai / 24–26 June 2022

5. Panemunė / 05–07 July 2022

6. Centre / 13–14, 16 July 2022

7. Gričiupis / 19–21 July 2022

8. Žaliakalnis / 02–04 Aug 2022

9. Petrašiūnai / 09–11 Aug 2022

10. Vilijampolė / 16–18 Aug 2022

11. Aleksotas / 13–15 Aug 2022

# KAUNAS – A CITY OF WATERS



One of the most important goals of the Kaunas European Capital of Culture programme is to encourage citizens to rediscover the city's rivers, restoring Kaunas' title as the central river port in Lithuania.

Initiatives launched by different communities since 2018 have been encouraging residents to explore the city's rivers from their banks, telling stories, organizing open air art sessions, picnics, sports competitions – even creating a game about the rivers.

In 2022, communities will devote even more attention to the rivers and the largest artificial body of water in Lithuania, the Kaunas Lagoon.

For more about these projects devoted to the rivers of Kaunas and the Kaunas District, see p. 174, 177, 179.



## INITIATIVE

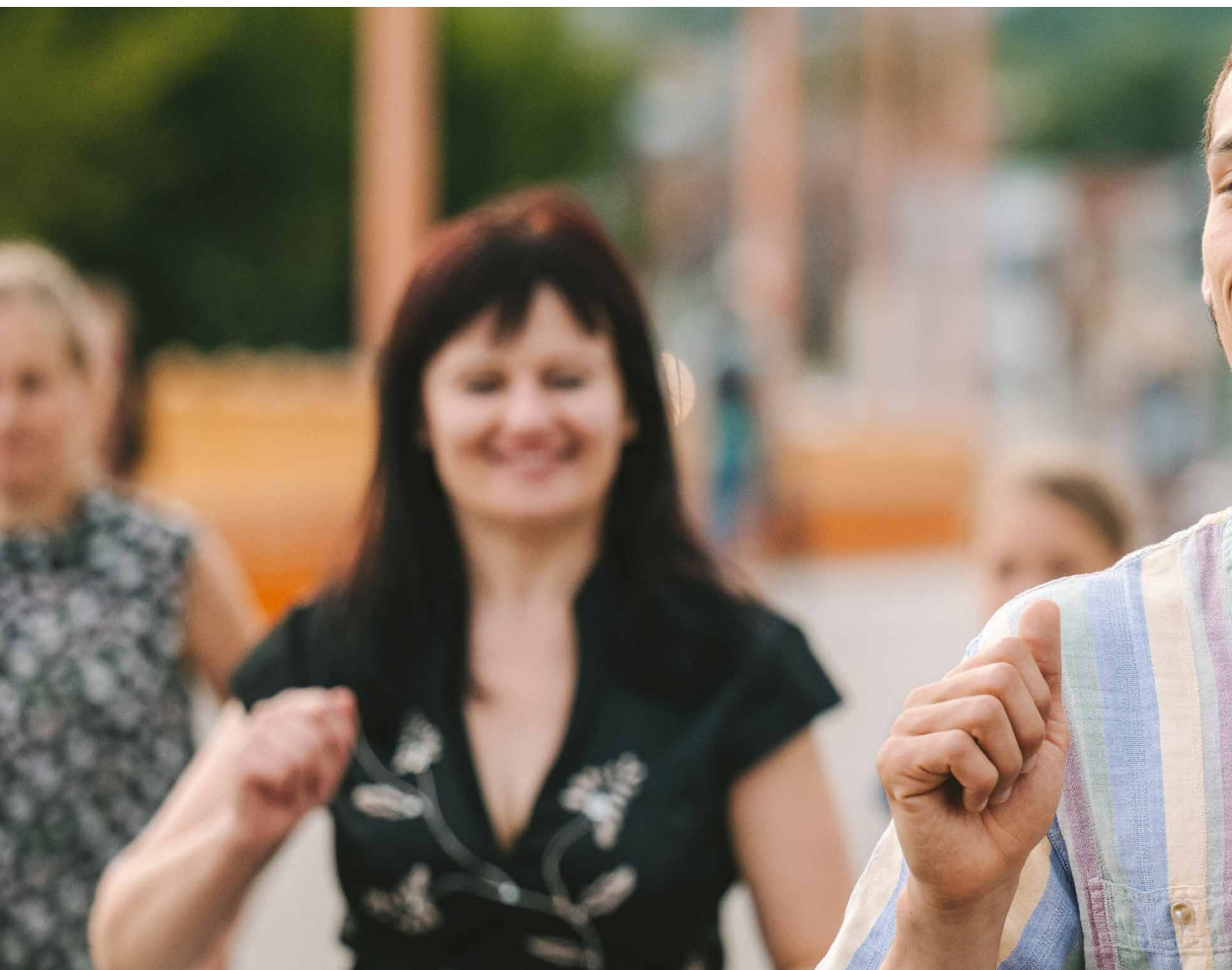
# Celebrate the River

Take part in two cultural walks along the Nemunas and Neris, and then share in the celebration when these two routes meet at Kaunas Santaka Park, the confluence of the two rivers. This event will give residents and guests the opportunity to reengage with the city's rivers and their banks, learn more about different Kaunas communities and discover the city anew, but this time from the water. Celebrate the River (Švėskime upę) is an initiative created by like-minded Kaunas creatives to encourage people to use the rivers, their waters, and riverbanks for cultural events and community gatherings.

21 May 2022

Neris & Nemunas Rivers

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Švėskime upę





## SOCIALLY ENGAGING GAME

# Upynės: On the Opposite Shore

In the summer of 2022, the Upynės project will invite city residents to gather by the water and start their own dialogue with the river and those who live on opposite riverbanks. We invite everyone to take part in this unique social river game!

The cultural river studies platform TėKa (Flow) invites you to re-establish diplomatic relations with opposite riverbanks and restore Kaunas' well-deserved title as the City of Rivers.

June – Aug 2022

Nemunas & Neris Rivers & their banks

*[www.upynes.lt](http://www.upynes.lt)*

*Facebook: tekakrantine*

**Team:** Justinas Kalinauskas, Paulius Tautvydas Laurinaitis, Rasa Chmieliauskaitė

**Organizers:** TėKa (Lithuanian Union of Architects Kaunas Branch)



## EXHIBITION

# MagiC Carpets Landed

Your attention please to the international exhibition MagiC Carpets Landed!

This is one of the oldest projects in the Kaunas 2022 programme. Financed by the Creative Europe programme, MagiC Carpets, four years in the making, will show off its results to Kaunas. Don't miss the chance to come and see!

Known in Lithuanian as Stebuklingi kilimai (Magic Carpets), this project tells the story of journeys between people, communities, artists, and curators.

An exhibition curated by Benedetta Carpi de Resmini (Italy) will present works of art created during the MagiC Carpets project, exhibiting them at the Kaunas railway station, Kaunas Picture Gallery, and other public spaces around Kaunas. Exhibition visitors will be accompanied by an augmented reality guide created especially for the show. A catalogue will also be published for this event, showcasing works created over the past four years and their creators, accompanied by texts about creative work with communities in public spaces.

05 Nov 2021 – 23 Jan 2022

Kaunas Picture Gallery, K. Donelaičio g. 16, Kaunas Railway Station, M. K. Čiurlionio g. 16 & other Kaunas public spaces

[www.magiccarpets.eu](http://www.magiccarpets.eu)

Facebook:

[MagiCCarpetsCreativeEurope](https://www.facebook.com/MagiCCarpetsCreativeEurope)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Biennial

**Partners:** EVA International – Ireland's Biennial (Ireland), Folkestone Fringe (United Kingdom), Ideias Emergentes (Portugal), Jam Factory Art Centre (Ukraine), Kaunas 2022, KUNSTre-PUBLIC (Germany), LAB 852 (Croatia), Latitudo SRL (Italy), META Cultural Foundation (Romania), New Theatre Institute of Latvia (Latvia), Novo Kulturno Naselje (Serbia), Openspace Innsbruck (Austria), Prague Biennale (Czech Republic), Tbilisi Photo Festival (Sakartvel), Trempolino (France)







# Courtyard Festival

Because everyone in Kaunas already knows about the Courtyard Festival, you already know what you'll be doing on May 20th!

The Courtyard Festival has become a traditional event to foster community-building and friendship among people living in the city of Kaunas and the surrounding region, and also an opportunity to celebrate International Neighbours' Day. Event participants – communities, organizations, and neighbours – bring their chairs and tables to the city centre and set them with white tablecloths and flowers. The longest of these tables, a line stretching from the Kaunas “Soboras” (St. Michael) Church all the way down to City Hall Square in Old Town, symbolizes the friendship and unity of the city's people and neighbours. The event is also marked by music played in the most unexpected places, as well as different creative installations and performances, some of which are created by you – the people and guests of this city.

20 May 2022

Laisvės al. & Vilniaus g.

Facebook: *kiemusvente*

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



# Putvinskio Street Day 2022

Although this celebration is devoted to Putvinskio Street, the area has such a rich history that it is truly worth experiencing by everyone.

Since 2017, once a year, on one Saturday in May, rain or shine or pandemic, all of V. Putvinskio Street comes together to celebrate the neighbourhood.

21 May 2022

Putvinskio g.

[www.kmn.lt](http://www.kmn.lt)

Facebook: [KaunoMenininkuNamai](#)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Artists' House





# Fluxus Festival

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The Fluxus Festival is one of the greatest successes of the Kaunas 2022 programme.

This is a true Kaunas carnival! People in Kaunas begin preparing for this celebration well in advance, creating costumes and building props, because the main point of this festival is to climb up Parodos Hill in the most unexpected ways and costumes.

Like every year, Parodos Hill (usually a very busy street) will be closed off for exactly 22 minutes to celebrate this carnival!

The climb up the hill will begin at the square named after the founder of Fluxus, George (Jurgis) Maciunas and, once they make it to the top, participants will join in a special programme.

The Fluxus Festival invites you to an extraordinary full-day programme presenting all sorts of objects, performances, and activities created since 2018 by communities in collaboration with various artists, as well as the opening of new exhibitions. At night, the programme will present a breathtaking show created by local communities together with Walk the Plank (Great Britain) and other impressive performing groups.

Fluxus is about never-ending movement and the drive to rise, climb, and change: from a temporary to a contemporary capital. From the centre to the not-centre. From the routine to the unexpected.

This festival will be a celebration of the city for the city.

10 Sept 2022

Parodos Hill & Ažuolyno Park

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Walk the Plank (Great Britain)



# Communities Forum

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A two-day Communities Forum will take place before the Fluxus Festival to discuss results achieved in Kaunas and the Kaunas District over the past 5 years, talk about newly created and tested models and methods for engaging with communities, and about the changing view of community-based art, its benefits, and financing. The second day of the forum will be devoted to discussing the vitally important subject of including Kaunas' rivers and communities into a process of river revitalization, presenting international river practices associated with sustainable river tourism activities (as part of the Interreg Europe project's STAR Cities initiative). We'll hear the inspiring experiences of other European Capitals of Culture and, most importantly, ask ourselves the question: What's next?

08–09 Sept 2022

Zapyškis Church of St. John the Baptist,  
Kaunas District

[www.kaunas2022.eu/star-cities](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/star-cities)  
[www.interregeurope.eu/starcities](http://www.interregeurope.eu/starcities)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (Germany), Lazio Region (Italy), Municipality IX EUR of Rome (Italy), Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region (Slovenia), Val-de-Marne Tourism Board (France), NECSTouR (Belgium)



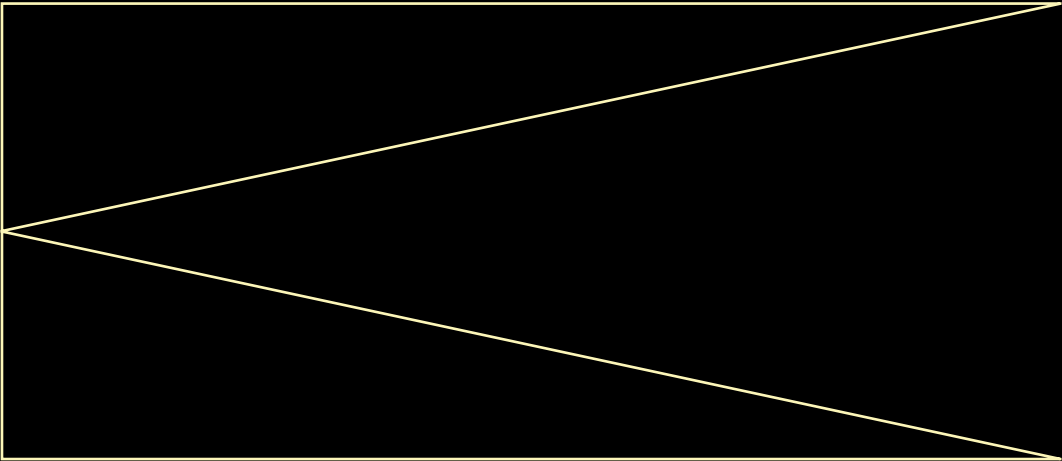


Kaunas Lagoon Dock in winter









# KAUNAS DISTRICT PROGRAMME

# The Kaunas District shares the title European Capital of Culture with the city of Kaunas!

It's important to know one thing: the Kaunas District shares the title European Capital of Culture with the city of Kaunas!

Relationships between cities and their surrounding areas are interesting and complicated throughout Europe. And everywhere they're influenced by culture. This is why listening to the needs of our region was the first task of Kaunas 2022. Another objective was adapting the programme tools of a cultural capital to those needs.

The work of the Capital of Culture in the Kaunas District is taking place along several approaches. One of these is a community project called Contemporary Neighbourhoods, involving 15 local municipal jurisdictions within the Kaunas District. A Path of Emerald project is being conducted in 9 elderships.

Human relationships and coming together play an important role in the Kaunas District, like nowhere else. This is why these district projects have created special, I would even say passionate, partnerships. The best example is Italian contemporary circus director Roberto Magro, who is now beloved by communities in the district.

Over the five years of the Capital of Culture programme, the Kaunas District has proven itself to be not only active but also innovative. So, it's not surprising that it is here, in 2022, that the public will be invited to the unveiling of Nemuno7, an environmental design project that is unique in the European context. I won't tell you what it is, though. You'll have to see it for yourselves!

Community-building, empowering local creators, and accessibility to superior cultural services are the values that guide us in the Kaunas District.

I must also say that it was the people of the Kaunas District who constantly drove us to improve the entire Kaunas 2022 project. Through our work with them, we've all grown considerably, and I dare say that it is precisely in the Kaunas District where the changes brought about by the European Capital of Culture are most clearly felt.

Finally, I'd like to invite everyone living in the Kaunas District to celebrate the title of European Capital of Culture in 2022 by participating in events, enjoying our culture, discovering new art sites, and learning about and experiencing diversity.

I also suspect that some of our team members may just want to move to the Kaunas District to live...



# CONTEMPORARY NEIGHBOURHOODS

This is the project that launched the European Capital of Culture programme in the Kaunas District. The essence of the project is simple: local jurisdictions called “seniūnijos” (elderships) strengthen communities and address rising challenges through culture. How does this work in practice, you ask? You’ll find all the answers in your invitations to Contemporary Neighbourhoods, so don’t miss the chance to read through them and then take part in eldership events!

The Contemporary Neighbourhoods project began to really pick up speed in 2019, after it was joined by elderships in Linksmakalnis, Garliava, Vilkija, Karmėlava, Akademija, Rokai, and Ringaudai. In 2020, the project expanded to include elderships in Babtai, Domeikava, Kačerginė, Raudondvaris, Samylai, Ežerėlis,

Kulautuva, and Lapės. The Kaunas 2022 programme helped these neighbourhoods build ties with artists, cultural leaders, and educators, who then all embarked together on a long and colourful cultural journey.

This project is about seeking change through culture. And that’s the essential purpose of Kaunas 2022.

From June to September 2022, we’ll invite everyone to feel the strong pulse of community and creativity in the Kaunas District and attend the main Contemporary Neighbourhoods events. It will be worth it – we promise!

[www.visikaipvienas.eu/en](http://www.visikaipvienas.eu/en)



**1. Ežerėlis / June 2022**

**2. Kulautuva / 11 June 2022**

**3. Raudondvaris / 17 June 2022**

**4. Karmėlava / 30 June – 03 July 2022**

**5. Babtai / July 2022**

**6. Vilkija / 23 July 2022**

**7. Garliava region / Aug 2022**

**8. Ringaudai / Aug 2022**

**9. Lapės / 03 Sept 2022**

**10. Linksmakalnis / Sept 2022**

**11. Rokai / 03 Sept 2022**

**12. Kačerginė / 04 Sept 2022**

**13. Akademija / 10 Sept 2022**

**14. Domeikava / 17 Sept 2022**

**15. Samylai / 17 Sept 2022**

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# Ežerėlis

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Ežerėlis invites you to a series of photography exhibitions at a newly established community gallery.

June 2022

With the help of Ignas Venslavičius, Donatas Stankevičius, Vytautė Trijonytė, Elijus Kniežauskas, you'll see an interpretation of images of the town and portraits of those who live there, curated by Vaida Virbickaitė.

An alternative reality audio guide created by artist Žygimantas Kudirka will invite you to explore an imagined local reality, while discussions with members of the established Ežerėlis football club and other guests will encourage you to reconsider the identity of the small town, highlighting the most important features of Ežerėlis – its unique nature, local people, and their stories.

**Organizers:** Ežerėlis Culture Centre, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Ežerėlis Photoclub, Ežerėlis Eldership, Lithuanian Photographers Association Kaunas Branch

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# Kulautuva

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The community of Kulautuva and director Eimutis Kvoščiauskas invite you to a theatrical musical performance about the history of the town. Not only will you be warmly welcomed with some of the miraculous Kulautuva forest herbal teas, you'll also learn more about the town's more interesting legends and hear the most beautiful voices of the people who live here. This production has been created and will be performed by Kulautuva community members, town choirs, and professional performers. It will be accompanied by works of art created by Laura Slavinskaitė, Džiugas Karalius, and Gaila Akelienė during the Contemporary Neighbourhoods project and now displayed in different public spaces in the town. All of this and more awaits you among the beautiful pines by the Nemunas River.

11 June 2022

**Organizers:** Kulautuva Community Centre, Kulautuva Leisure Hall, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kulautuva Primary School, Kulautuva Kindergarten, Dock7





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# Raudondvaris

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The Raudondvaris community and choreographer Marius Pinigis and event director Eglė Valadkevičiūtė invite you on a wonderful tour – a journey through time. This event's main form of expression will be presented in a theatrical night-time walk. During this walk, artists and the people of Raudondvaris will present their community through the use of contemporary stagecraft. Performers (including local community members and groups) will perform stage productions at different locations to represent the area's most important historic events, its most prominent personalities, and the personal experiences of the region's residents.

17 June 2022

**Organizers:** Raudondvaris Culture Centre, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Raudondvaris Gymnasium, Raudondvaris Eldership, Raudondvaris Community, Raudondvaris Village Community Centre

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# Karmėlava

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Historic locations in Karmėlava will be presented through the increasingly strong Street Rock Festival with Skylė and Aistė Smilgevičiūtė, Rome (Luxembourg), BA., YMKA (Israel), Colours of Boubles, Ingaja and others. You'll be treated to unexcepted exhibitions and works of street art. All of this will be crowned by a combined environmental art work called Flying Cepelinai, created by artists from Lithuania and Luxembourg: Algimantas Šlapikas and Serge Ecker.

From now on, the Karmėlava neighbourhood will not only be known as the "capital of cepelinai" or for its airport, but also for its interesting and creative community and its love for music and history.

This project will also be joined by artists Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, Karolis Grubis aka Karolis dėžutėje, Artūras Morozovas, and Tomas Pabedinskas.

30 June – 03 July 2022

Ramučiai, Narėpai bunker, Karmėlava churchyard, Karmėlava Soviet nuclear missile base

**Organizers:** Ramučiai Culture Centre, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Karmėlava Library, Karmėlava Gymnasium, Karmėlava Eldership, Kaunas Airport, LEZ



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# Babtai

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This you have to see – Babtai will have its own trolleybus!

July 2022

For some time now, the Babtai community has been looking for a way to connect the neighbourhoods of Babtai, Sitkūnai, Panevėžiukas, and Pagynė and bring their communities together for co-creative activities to develop a shared identity. It was eventually decided to revive an old trolleybus that would feature a laboratory on wheels. Members of the community have come together to equip the trolleybus, which will be accompanied by creative workshops, activities by local artists, and the pursuit of community among these different neighbourhoods.

Next summer, Babtai will be ready to invite you to try out their mobile creative laboratory together!

**Organizers:** Babtai Culture Centre, Kaunas 2022

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# Vilkija

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In July 2022, Vilkija will celebrate Midsummer, and their centrepiece will be a ferry connecting both sides of the Nemunas River. The celebration will include concerts, theatrical performances, and art installations.

23 July 2022

The Vilkynė ferry across the Nemunas will connect the two riverside communities of Vilkija and Šakiai every day, but it will be more than just a means of transportation. It will also be a symbolic bridge, a chance to talk about what separates and joins us, about how we view others, the environment, and the poetry of everyday life.

**Organizers:** Vilkija Culture Centre, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Vilkija Eldership, Vilkija Community Centre

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## Garliava region

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In August 2022, a community initiative undertaken in the area around Garliava will organize a Steampunk Festival, inviting local communities and guests to a magical fiesta.

The festival aims to introduce visitors to the Steam-punk movement, and its programme will give everyone a chance to plunge into this fantastical world and liberate their imaginations and creativity. During the festival, you'll also be invited to embark on a special tour of the Garliava area.

Aug 2022

Third Fort, Titnago g. 43a, Seniava

**Organizers:** communities of Ilgakiemis & Juragiai, Šanaša community, Robotuko klubas, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kaunas Fortress Park

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## Ringaudai

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In 2022, the neighbourhood of Ringaudai will present their eldership through the the Ringaudai Almanac, created by the community and artist Paulina Ružauskaitė. This community is home to many different kinds of people, long-time residents as well as newcomers, who have often had different perspectives on Ringaudai. This Ringaudai Almanac and all the creative workshops that have accompanied its creation have helped the community develop a shared view of their neighbourhood's identity. The year of the European Capital of Culture will be a symbolic marker, giving us the chance to celebrate the community that Ringaudai has become. The almanac will be presented along with an interactive sculpture dedicated to this community.

Aug 2022

**Organizers:** Ringaudai Leisure Hall, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kaunas District Bajorai Village Community, Kaunas First Fortress, Noreikiškiai Old Village Community, Ringaudai Eldership, Ringaudai Elementary School, Ringaudai Library, Ringaudai Community Centre



# Lapės

In 2022, Lapės invite you to the now annual Lapės Sustainability Festival!

Choosing such subjects as nature, the conservation of natural resources, sustainability, and the popularizing of recycling culture wasn't an accident – for many, Lapės has become associated with the landfill located here. It was for this reason that the community decided to devote more attention to environmental issues, unnecessary waste, and growing volumes of rubbish due to increased consumption. In 2020, Algimantas Šlapikas created his work called FOX-BOX, a symbol of foxes escaping from a container, and in 2021 the community created a recreational space out of unused jeans.

03 Sept 2022

Facebook: [Lapiutvarumofestivalis](#)

**Organizers:** Lapės Community, Lapės Leisure Hall, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kaunas Region Union of People with Disabilities, Kaunas District Lapės Public Library, KB design, Lapės Eldership, Lapės Primary School, Lapės Kindergarten, LMBC, AML prekyba, Simburg



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# Rokai

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In 2022, Rokai will unveil a mythical sculpture and invite you to a show.

03 Sept 2022

This small town will host a spectacular light, laser, and music celebration directed by Eglė Valadkevičiūtė. At the heart of the identity of Rokai is the uninterrupted 400-year-old history of its brickyard and the clay found all around the town. In recent years, members of the community have been introduced to various ceramic techniques and have worked together to create the Clay Road. Since 2021, the community also rediscovered its own myths, stories, and legends. It's said that the word Rokai comes from a mythical bird of the same name. Algimantas Šlapikas and the community have been creating a sculpture together to bring new meaning to this legend.

**Organizers:** Rokai Leisure Hall, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Rokai Eldership, Kultūros kiemas

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# Linksmakalnis

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Linksmakalnis and the charismatic Roberto Magro (Italy) have created a show about angels. Nobody knows yet what kind of show this will be. And they can't possibly know, since co-creation means working without a planned script!

Sept 2022

Contemporary circus artist and choreographer Roberto Magro immediately noticed the uniqueness of Linksmakalnis. He says he realized that the radio antennas that used to be part of a once secret military compound here in the Soviet days attracted a bunch of invisible angels who've decided to remain in Linksmakalnis forever. This is how angels have become a new symbol for this special place and a source of inspiration for new works of art and the contemporary circus productions created here every year together with the local community.

**Organizers:** Linksmakalnis Community, Linksmakalnis Eldership, Linksmakalnis Leisure Hall, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Linksmakalnis School-Kindergarten, Linksmakalnis Library



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# Kačerginė

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With the help of artists Enrika Striogaitė and Remis Ščerbauskas, Kačerginė plans to create a collection of stories inspired by the experiences of its residents. Kačerginė is a small town known not only for its harmonious landscape, but also for its deeply rooted cultural traditions. Kačerginė played a role in the lives of Lithuanian writers Jonas Biliūnas, Pranas Mašiotas, and Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas, which is why literature is an important part of the local identity. In 2022, Kačerginė will invite you to celebrate the results of co-created art, accompanied by the presentation of a collection of stories and a classical music concert inspired by the town's sense of community and arranged by Barbora Valiukevičiūtė.

04 Sept 2022

*Facebook: [seniunija.kacergine](#)*

**Organizers:** Kačerginė Community, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Kačerginė Multifunctional Centre, Kačerginė Eldership, "Žibutė" School of Kačerginė Children Sanatorium

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# Akademija

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It's a premiere!

Akademija will present a musical production at the Eleventh (Marva) Fort. The script for this production was created with director and poet Vytautas V. Landsbergis and will be performed by the town's community. Located on the outskirts of Kaunas, Akademija actively participates in the Contemporary Neighbourhoods project. Throughout their participation in the project, over 100 activities were organized here with local residents and professional artists: concerts, tastings, laser shows, and picnics. In 2022, Akademija will open the sustainable shop Lokali: Made in Akademija, established by the community.

10 Sept 2022

Eleventh (Marva) Fort

Lokali Shop: Varžupio g. 1, Akademija

*[www.lokali.lt](http://www.lokali.lt)*

*Facebook: [Akademijosbendruomene](#)*

*Facebook: [lokali.lt](#)*

**Organizers:** ABC – Akademija Community Centre, Kaunas 2022

# Domeikava

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We invite you on a playful journey through Domeikava!

17 Sept 2022

The Domeikava eldership has chosen to develop lively activities, roles, and orienteering games. The aim of the project Let's Play Domeikava is a platform developed and implemented by MB Game Masters Viktorija Gotovtienė, Tadas Valutis, Skirmantė Valutienė, and the community of Domeikava, to experience and learn more about this Contemporary Neighbourhood. This platform will be presented as a way to bring the local community together and involve partners from outside the neighbourhood, where everyone can become an active participant as organizers or players, integrating existing heritage sites within the neighbourhood that are closely associated with the overall history of Kaunas and Lithuania.

**Organizers:** Domeikava & Voškoniai Leisure Halls, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** D. Bikuličius Trading Company, Domeikava Gymnasium, Domeikava Village Community Centre, Domeikava Community, RD, Voškoniai Community, Voškoniai Leisure Hall Amateur Theatre, Kaunas Fortress Park

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# Samylai

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See you at the Girionys Land Art Festival!

17 Sept 2022

The identity of Girionys lies in its beautiful nature and the expanse of the Kaunas Lagoon. The community of Girionys treasures the harmonious bond between its residents and nature. Based on the principles of sustainability and "second use", the community worked with architects Lilija ir Vytautas Putna to create the Sunset Amphitheatre in 2020. In 2021, florist Marijus Gvildys intends to highlight the beauty of Girionys, working together with a team of artists to create more than 5 land art objects. Objects found in nature and ideas shared by residents will all be part of the co-creation process.

Girionys

**Organizers:** Samylai Culture Centre, Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Girionys Community Centre, Girionys Kindergarten, Kauno Marios Regional Park Directorate, Kaunas Forestry and Environmental Engineering University of Applied Sciences, Kaunas District Šlienava Primary School, Kaunas District Children's Day Centre, Samylai Eldership, Dubrava Regional Branch of the State Forest Enterprise

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## PUBLIC ART PROJECT

# A Path of Emerald

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Begin your search for emeralds in the Kaunas District in 2022. These emeralds are new art objects that will appear in the most unexpected places. Some of them have been under creation from the very start of the programme, others rely on objects in the Kaunas District for their existence, transforming them in a contemporary way.

The Kaunas 2022 team approached the Kaunas District with a clear vision: to contribute to a strengthening of the sense of identity and pride in the local environment in the region.

Each created art object has been adapted to a specific place or space and, beginning in the summer of 2022, will greet curious locals and guests alike.

In the Vilkija area, Čekiškė, Piliuona and Neveronys water towers will be used to implement artistic ideas.

The Batniava eldership will install “Stebėtojas” (The Watcher) project that will encourage visitors to take a closer look at the town and its history.

The Užliedžiai eldership will shine and invite you to view the area through a colourful play of light.

In Alšėnai, our gaze will turn to the theme of the post-war Lithuanian partisans – our forest brothers – and the subject of historical memory, which will resonate with the sounds of Lithuanian folk percussion instruments called “tabalas”.

In 2022, the Kaunas District will likely become one of the most interesting places for tourists seeking contemporary culture.

June – Aug 2022

Alšėnai, Batniava, Čekiškė, Piliuona,  
Neveronys, Užliedžiai,  
Vilkija surroundings

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022



## ART INSTALLATION

# Reflecting Memory in Landscapes. Vandžiogala

Your attention please to this unusual public diary of drawings.

Using material gathered around the small town of Vandžiogala, artist Mindaugas Lukošaitis adds his own drawn stories to the area's authentic landscape to create a unique diary. His goal has been to collect the traces of history of this region which he found in natural surroundings. The artist also has the perspective of an outsider – a view that extends the contours of the landscape through the lines of his drawings and highlights unique details, presenting audiences with a very personal code by which they can “read” what the artist has seen.

From Autumn 2022

Vandžiogala public spaces

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

**Partners:** Vandžiogala Leisure Hall









# Nemuno7, the great ship of culture

Nemuno7 is a river engineering and landscape design project that is unique in Europe and which will serve as a public cultural space.

The object combines technological history, historic heritage, and contemporary architecture and is expected to become a new attraction in Kaunas for locals and tourists.

A dredger placed on the left bank of the Nemunas River near the small town of Zapyškis will become a cultural centre for visual art, media and technology, interdisciplinary collaboration, science, and creativity, and promises to become one of the most vibrant accents in the Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022 programme.

This object is being created on a Czechoslovak construction dredger first put in use in 1965 which, given its outdated technology that harmed the river ecosystem around it, could no longer be used for its main function. Instead of dismantling the object, a more sustainable solution was devised: to create a new, more relevant role and transform it into a cultural space, inviting the public to explore the subject of water from the perspective of art, history, and science.

Throughout the life of the project, we'll invite you to experience ever new aspects of this object.

The dredger will serve as an event space, a laboratory for creative industries, a shop for locally designed products, and other functions.

The site promises to be fascinating both from the outside, when viewed from the riverbank, and from the inside, whether onboard or floating down the Nemunas.

The Nemuno7 dredger will also have space for artistic residencies.

Visitors will be able to view the results of each artistic residency right on the boat.

Meanwhile, a surprise encounter with nature will await on deck. Continuing on the subject of sustainability, the site will be home to pioneer plants that grow in open habitats and easily adapt to extreme cultivation conditions.

This will be a place you'll want to return to again and again. During the warm months of the year, we'll invite you to experience new exhibitions, performances, and events on current themes.

Opening 22 May 2022  
Visit up to Nov 2022

The left bank of the  
Nemunas in Zapyškis

[www.nemuno7.lt](http://www.nemuno7.lt)

**Organizers:** Ars Futuri

# Roberto Magro's Contemporary Circus Show

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This show will bring together different towns in the Kaunas District.

June – Sept 2022

Kaunas District

The work of Italian contemporary circus director Roberto Magro has quickly become an integral part of the activities undertaken by the European Capital of Culture 2022 programme in Kaunas and the Kaunas District.

As we celebrate the title of European Capital of Culture, Roberto Magro and his company are returning to the Kaunas District and, in the summer of 2022, will invite audiences to enjoy and participate in a community-based contemporary circus show.

Roberto Magro's work displays bold and surprising creative approaches and a deep respect for local communities and their environment.

In 2019, Magro worked with the Linksmakalnis community and contemporary circus artists to create a show called Radio Angels, inspired by the town's identity and history. One year later, the show was expanded to include new forms.

In 2021, Roberto Magro presented the show Visions, based on the poetry of Vytautas Mačernis. The production was set into the lush forests of Alšėnai, Neveronys, and Batniava, and participating audiences felt as if they'd become characters in an evening of fairy tales.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the staging of Roberto Magro's shows in the Kaunas District and we look forward to seeing you soon!

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022







# The Joint Lithuanian Klezmer Orchestra's Kaunas District Tour

A musical klezmer bus will be visiting your town in the summer of 2022!

The Lithuanian Klezmer Orchestra's tour of towns in the Kaunas District will rekindle the memory of local communities and their culture.

Prior to the Second World War, the towns of the Kaunas District were home to large Jewish communities. In some of them, Jews comprised the majority of local inhabitants.

The orchestra's bus will stop in Čekiškė, Vilkija, Babtai, Kačerginė, Kulautuva, and Zapyškis. Performances will be accompanied by tours exploring the not so distant past of these towns.

Aug 2022

Babtai, Čekiškė, Kačerginė, Kulautuva, Vilkija, Zapyškis

**Organizers:** Meninių projektų ciklai, Kaunas 2022



FESTIVAL OF ROCK CULTURE

# Street Rock

Street Rock is now a traditional rock music festival in Ramučiai that has come to be synonymous with the Karmėlava eldership. The festival provides a stage not only for emerging bands, but also for Lithuania's best known rock music stars and has expanded to new spaces in other towns and treated audiences to new publicly displayed works of photography and street art on the rock music theme.

01–03 July 2022

Karmėlava

[www.ramuciuko.lt](http://www.ramuciuko.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas District Ramučiai Culture Centre

**Partners:** Kaunas 2022, Kaunas District Municipality, Kamėlava Eldership, Starna



## KITE FESTIVAL

# Between Earth and Sky

For the European Capital of Culture programme, the 17th Kite Festival will feature creative workshops, kite and paper airplane competitions, a postcard postal service, and soap bubbles.

Different communities from around Zapyškis will present their activities and offer educational programmes, and audiences will be invited on an introductory walk through Zapyškis, taking a tour specially created by the town community.

Artists and kite masters will create large and impressive banner kites, and everyone will have a chance to help create a community kite. Under the direction of Virginija Pūrienė, the festival will include the participation of competition judges, photographers, painters, and other artists.

We hope to see you at this special Kite Festival during such a special year!

22 May 2022

Next to the Old Church of St. John the Baptist, Zapyškis

*Facebook: aitvarufestivalis*

**Organizers:** Ežerėlis Culture Centre

**Partners:** Aitvarų perykla, Vėjo broliai, Kaunas 2022, Kaunas District Zapyškis Primary School, Kaunas District Zapyškis Eldership, Kaunas District Municipality, Kūrybos ir užimtumo stubas, Zapyškis Community





## FESTIVAL OF SUNG POETRY

# Akacijų alėja

This legendary festival launched by the Kulautuva community will present a rich musical programme in 2022.

The “Mažoji akacija” concerts will be performed in four towns along the Nemunas River. Then, the main festival event will take place in Kulautuva. Its three main parts will help develop works of superior artistic value and draw audiences from throughout the community.

The first part of this event will feature an introductory programme by the participants of Mažoji akacija, devoted to young poets. The second part of the programme will showcase Lithuania’s renowned poets, professional musicians, and works by diaspora Lithuanians. The final segment will include wonderful “new arrivals” from the world of rock, blues, country, pop, and folk music. This festival is being produced by Kazimieras Likša.

02 June – 09 July 2022

Kulautuva, Ežerėlis, Kačerginė, Raudondvaris, Vilkija

Facebook: *AkacijuAleja*

**Organizers:** Kulautuva Community Centre

**Partners:** Kaunas 2022, Kaunas District Culture Centres of Vilkija, Ežerėlis, Raudondvaris & Kačerginė Multifunctional Centre



## FESTIVAL

# Footsteps at the Bottom of the Lagoon

Everyone who comes to the Footsteps at the Bottom of the Lagoon festival in 2022 will get the chance to feel as if they've become part of the now flooded villages that once existed here.

This event will have a bit of everything: songs, stories, and folklore from flooded villages, contemporary music, and innovative technological solutions. The goal of this event is to recall, preserve, and commemorate the traditions and ways of life of villages flooded during the creation of the Kaunas Lagoon. The fate of these villages is an authentic part of our history, searching for kindred spirits within the European and global ethnocultural space. A theatrical production will include members of the community of these flooded villages, performing groups from the Samylai Cultural Centre, professional artists, and musical groups. This event will be directed by Eglė Targanskienė.

The Footsteps at the Bottom on the Lagoon festival has become a tradition and is one of the most popular of all events in the Kaunas District.

27 Aug 2022

Samylai Bay, Šlienava

*Facebook: pedosmariudugne*

**Organizers:** Kaunas District Samylai Culture Centre

**Partners:** Kaunas 2022, Samylai Eldership

## SERIES OF MUSICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

## Honorata Evenings in Obelynė

This is a series of open-air events showcasing the cultural heritage of Obelynė Estate and presenting its recently opened museum, park, and gardens. A new music and literature space is being created to preserve this unique and distinct natural and cultural space and will be made accessible to all social and age groups.

This series is open to all who wish to enjoy the symbiosis of nature, art, and society.

July – Aug 2022

Tadas Ivanauskas Obelynė Estate Memorial Museum, Obelynės g. 8, Akademija

*www.krmuziejus.lt*

*Facebook: obelyne*

*Facebook: kaunorajonomuziejus*

**Organizers:** Kaunas District Museum

**Partners:** Akademija Community, Akademija Eldership, Dr. Kęstutis Malinauskas Nursery



FESTIVAL OF FOOD AND CULTURE

# Skanaus: European Cuisines 2022

Enjoy European cuisine in Garliava!

07–11 Sept 2022

This five-day festival will include presentations of cultures and the latest gastronomic trends from abroad, cooking lessons by restaurant chefs, culinary film production, family entertainment, concerts by Lithuanian and foreign musical performers, and talk shows, lectures, and all sorts of competitions.

Vytauto g. Garliava  
Skroblių g. 18, Akademija

At this festival, representatives and communities from former, current, and future European Capitals of Culture will present their cuisine, meet with the residents of Kaunas and the surrounding region, and sit down with them to enjoy dinner around a shared table.

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Forum of Ideas

**Partners:** Kaunas 2022, Kaunas District Municipality



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

# Growing Obelynė Together

This event will feature tours, classes on planting apple trees (from which the cottage got its name), and the presentation of heirloom apple tree seedlings. This promises to be a harmony of energy, joy, happiness, and culture within the unique Kamša Botanical Preserve and the Tadas Ivanauskas Obelynė Estate Memorial Museum which encompasses an old heirloom garden and dendrological park.

18 Sept 2022

Tadas Ivanauskas Obelynė Estate  
Memorial Museum, Obelynės g. 8

*[www.krmuziejus.lt](http://www.krmuziejus.lt)*

*Facebook: obelyne*

*Facebook: kaunorajonomuziejus*

**Organizers:** Kaunas District Museum

**Partners:** Akademija Community,  
Akademija Eldership, Dr. Kęstutis  
Malinauskas Nursery

## DANCE PERFORMANCE

# Mikado

In 2022, the residents of the Kaunas District and their guests will be invited to view a philosophical exploration of the connection between humans, their tools, and the virtual world.

Aug 2022

Kaunas District

*[www.seikodancecompany.com](http://www.seikodancecompany.com)*

Audiences will see a harmony of different languages of movement: natural physicality, archaic Akido and other martial art traditions, and contemporary dance, all accompanied by rhythms, music, and references to Italian culture.

Mikado has been choreographed by Vittoria de Ferrari Sapetto (Brazil – Italy – Belgium) and Andrea Valfre (Italy), and will be performed by the Šeiko Dance Theatre, Nuepiko Dance Theatre, and dancers from other European countries and the city and district of Kaunas. Lighting design by Giacomo Gorini (Italy) and composition by Giorgio Ferrero (Italy).

**Organizers:** Šeiko Dance Company

**Partners:** Goethe-Institut Litauen,  
Lithuanian Council for Culture, Kaunas  
2022, Klaipėda City Municipality

# Terra Rokai – The Clay Road

The community of Rokai invites you to a mystical celebration of light, lasers, and music.

The final event of TERRA ROKAI – The Clay Road will bring new meaning to the local memory through the primordial natural gift given to Rokai – clay.

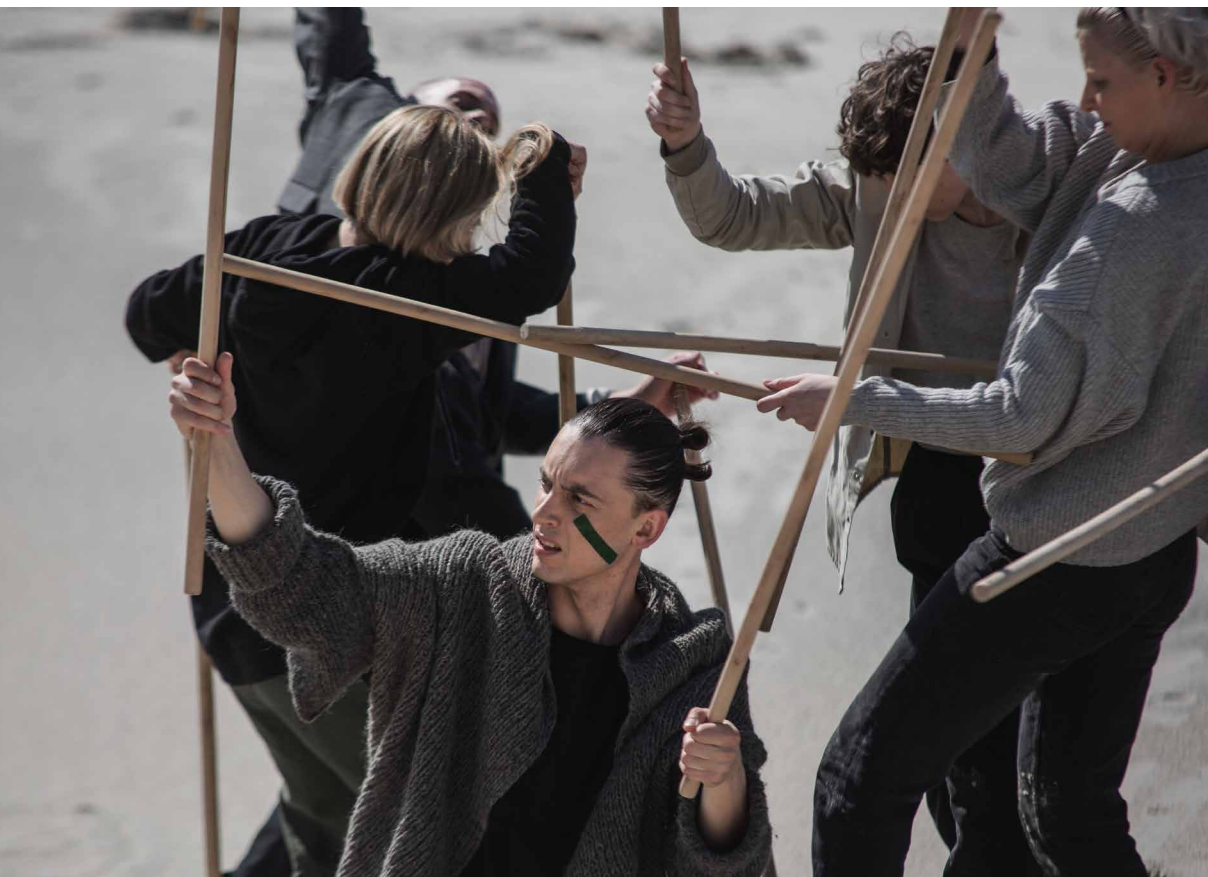
The celebration will present the myths and legends of Rokai, a sculpture of the mythical bird Rokas, explore the legend and present-day life of Rokai, and remind all visitors that Rokai is part of the European Capital of Culture in 2022.

04 Sept 2022

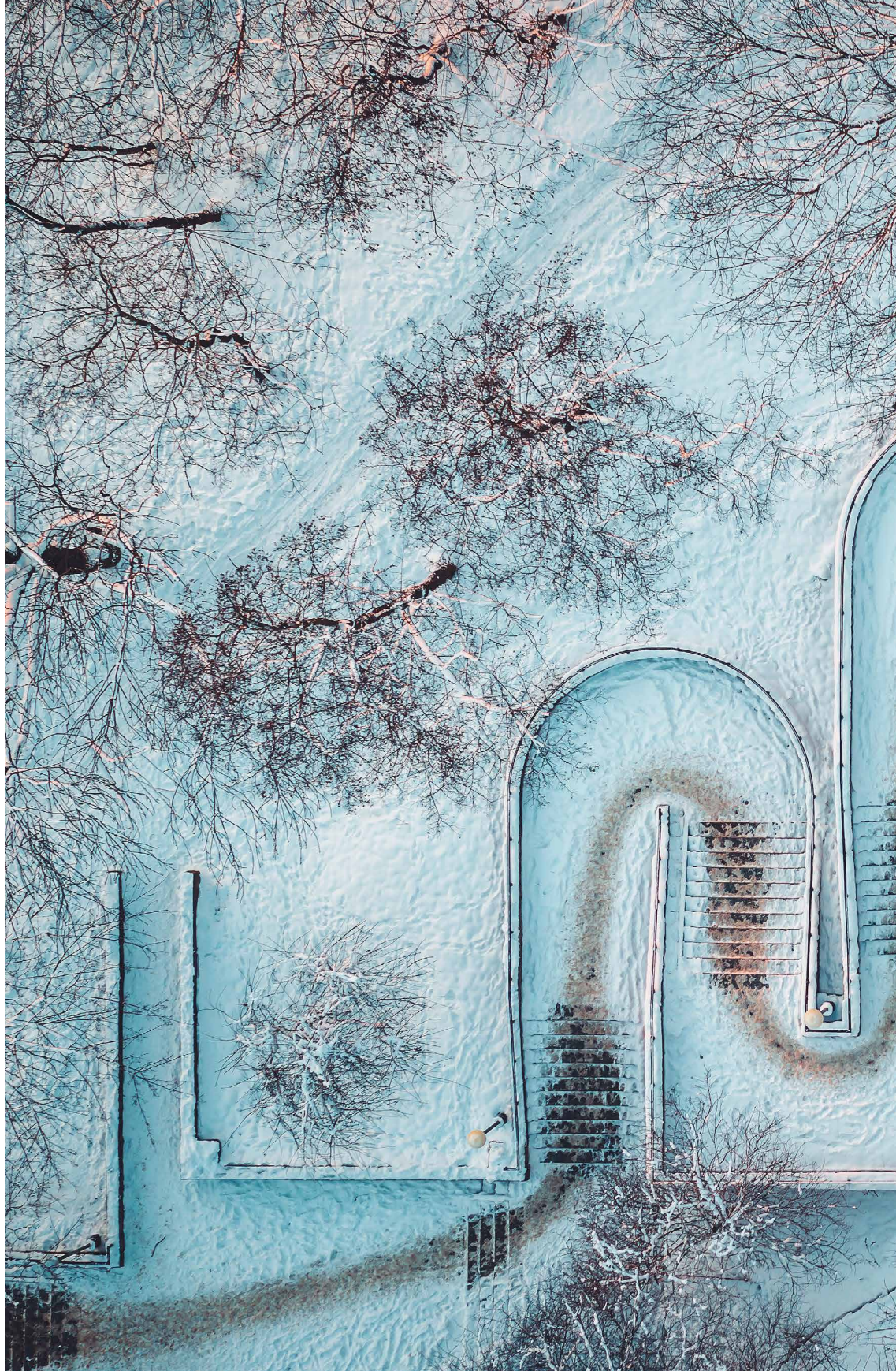
Nemuno g. 15, Rokai

[www.kultūroskiemas.lt](http://www.kultūroskiemas.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Kultūros kiemas, Samylai Culture Centre Rokai Leisure Hall



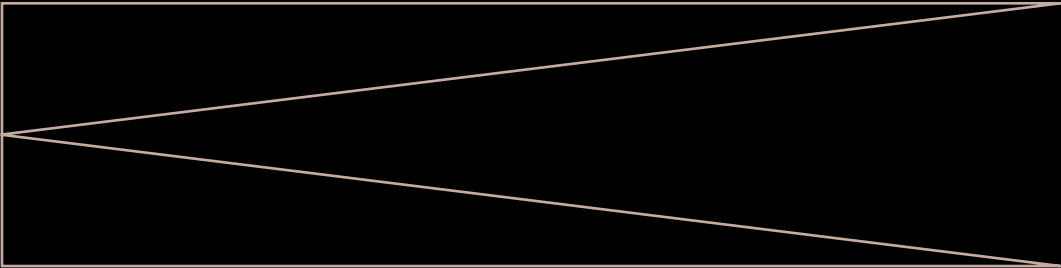












# CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

# Kaunas as the European Capital of Culture would be impossible without a successful partnership programme

We have brought together around 80 partners and organizations, from national institutions to strong representatives from the non-governmental sector.

Thanks to these partnerships, we can present truly impressive events to the city and the world. Just decide for yourself:

Solo exhibitions by Marina Abramović and Yoko Ono, the ConTempo international festival of performing arts, the 13th Kaunas Biennial, Kaunas Literature Week and the Children's Book Festival, the Arterija Arts Installation, and over 10 unique theatre premieres created together with foreign partners.

We'll invite guests to extraordinary performing art events: director Robert Wilson's staging of Dorian, the documentary show Taxi, the Kaunas Jazz Stops jazz music spaces, concerts by Milda Gražinytė-Tyla and the Kaunas State Choir at the Pažaislis Festival, an international puppetry festival, events at the Aura Dance Festival, the Kaunas Sings concerts of choral music, special programmes by the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra, and many, many others.

New ties between renowned organizations is the surest driver of change, which is why we invited cultural organizations, institutions, artists, and creators to contribute to the emergence of Kaunas 2022 in many different ways. By inviting our partners to join in our programme from the very start, we now have more than 100 projects that will accompany the Kaunas 2022 programme.

We encourage cultural organizations to set bold, ambitious goals and strive for excellence. We support creators by engaging in unexpected partnerships and by initiating new experimental models of cooperation not only between different sectors, but also with partners in other European countries.

Kaunas 2022 is an enormous educational project, one in which we are all learning new forms of cultural activities together.

I am sure that the partnerships established through our project will shape the cultural map of Kaunas in the coming decades.



# Memory of Being An Exhibition by Marina Abramović

Yes – she's coming to Kaunas!

Kaunas - European Capital of Culture 2022 presents a unique opportunity to see *Memory of Being*, a solo exhibition by Marina Abramović, one of the world's most renowned artists.

This will be one of our programme's most significant events.

The exhibition is based on Abramović's series *The Cleaner*, which began at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm in 2017 and reached the conceptual end of its journey in 2020 in her native city of Belgrade, where she presented her work for the first time after a break of nearly 50 years.

The exhibition provides a detailed presentation of the most important stages of Marina's work since the 1960s. It will feature video documentations of her interviews and most famous works, as well as the artist's best known video installations.

This impressive project was made possible through the partnership of Meno Parkas Gallery with the Centre for Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu in Toruń, which successfully hosted *The Cleaner* in 2019 and agreed to assist in establishing contact with the Marina Abramović Institute in New York and serve as co-curators (Wacław Kuczma and Dorota Kuczma) for this event.

The exhibition is being organized in collaboration with the Marina Abramović Institute, in consultation with the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade and the Moderna Museet in Stockholm.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a Lithuanian edition of the catalogue *The Cleaner* – the most comprehensive review of the works of Marina Abramović to date. A lecture by the artist is also planned.

March – July 2022

Kaunas Picture Gallery,  
K. Donelaičio g. 16

[www.menoparkas.lt](http://www.menoparkas.lt)  
Facebook: [galerija.meno.parkas](https://www.facebook.com/galerija.meno.parkas)



Paid event

**Authors:** Marina Abramović, Ulay

**Curators:** Giuliano Argenziano (Italy/ United States), Arvydas Žalpys (Lithuania), Dorota Kuczma (Poland), Wacław Kuczma (Poland)

**Architects:** Jeroen de Vries (Serbia), Marina Dokmanovic (Serbia)

**Organizers:** Meno Parkas Gallery

**Partners:** Znaki Czasu (Poland), Marina Abramović Institute (United States), Moderna Museet (Sweden), Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark)







# AN INSTALLATION AND A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION BY Yoko Ono

Yoko Ono will be visiting Kaunas, the native city of her friend George (Jurgis) Maciunas.

Whether loved or hated, Yoko Ono is known by all as a nonconformist artist.

A music producer, prominent figure on the New York arts scene, and the wife of John Lennon, one of the founders of the legendary rock band The Beatles, Yoko Ono once collaborated with George Maciunas in the early days of the Fluxus movement.

During the opening weekend of “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”, Yoko Ono’s installation “Ex It” will be opened to the public in the Bank of Lithuania, a modernist building in the centre of Kaunas.

At the beginning of autumn, a major retrospective exhibition of Yoko Ono’s work, “The Learning Garden of Freedom”, will open at the Kaunas Picture Gallery near George Maciunas’ childhood home. The exhibition will include a wide range of works spanning the various periods and practices of this iconic artist: from conceptual art and experimental cinema to installations, performances, objects, and text-based works.

The exhibition is organized by the Contemporary Art Centre in collaboration with the Fundação de Serralves – Museu de Arte Contemporânea (Porto), and Studio One, founded by the artist in New York, and the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art.

The curator of this exhibition is Yoko Ono’s long-time friend and Fluxus connoisseur, John Hendricks.

Ex It  
22 Jan – 11 Sept 2022

Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch,  
Maironio g. 25

The Learning Garden of Freedom  
09 Sept – 04 Dec 2022

Kaunas Picture Gallery,  
K. Donelaičio g. 16

**Curator:** Jon Hendricks (United States)

**Organizers:** Contemporary Art Centre (CAC)

**Partners:** Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves (Portugal), M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, Studio One New York (United States), Magenta Landscape Design Festival



# CONTEMPORARY ART PROJECTS AT MENO PARKAS GALLERY

Read more about the special exhibitions of 2022 at Meno Parkas Gallery in Kaunas. Curated by Lina Mikalauskienė, Airida Rekšytė, Emilija Šneiderytė, Arvydas Žalpys.

Rotušės a. 27

[www.menoparkas.lt](http://www.menoparkas.lt)

Facebook: [galerija.meno.parkas](https://www.facebook.com/galerija.meno.parkas)

**Organizers:** Meno Parkas Gallery

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## Mechanics of Tomorrow's World

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Working as a twosome, Feipel&Bechameil produce installations where there is a mix of illusion, imagination, instability, and illogicality within gridded and controlled places in the contemporary world. The artists look into utopias that marked the 20th century, loaded with symbols glorifying the industry while keeping a critical eye on the place that was made for man. The exhibition starts together with the opening events of Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022.

22 Jan – 27 Feb 2022

[www.feipel-bechameil.lu](http://www.feipel-bechameil.lu)

**Partners:** Esch 2022

# Conceptual Reflexions

Collection is presented by Brigitte March ICA gallery (Stuttgart), working with some of the most influential artists in conceptual and minimalistic art field. Gallery emphasizes in key-works by pioneering artists of the mid-60th and 70th in relationships to new approaches to the public's mind and processes of art making. Artists: Myra Brooklyn (United States), Jean Le Gac (France), Les Levine (United States), Antoni Muntadas (Spain), Morgan O'Hara (United States), Daniel Schörnig (Germany), Timm Ulrichs (Germany), Lawrence Weiner (United States).

16 Sept – 16 Oct 2022

[www.brigittemarch.com](http://www.brigittemarch.com)

**Curators:** Brigitte March ir Dr. Danielle C. March (Germany)

**Partners:** Brigitte March ICA (Germany)

# Eye See You

Digital arts festival VIDEOFORMES (France) is presenting video installation exhibition, where the relationship between science and art, their impact on the environment and people is explored while operating with the most innovative technologies. Artists: Anne-Sophie Emard (France), Regina Hübner (Switzerland), Golnaz Behrouznia (France).

21 Oct – 20 Nov 2022

[www.videoformes.com](http://www.videoformes.com)

**Curator:** Gabriel Soucheyre (France)

**Partners:** VIDEOFORMES (France)

# Ultrasocial Pop

Interdisciplinary project by Filip Markiewicz (Luxembourg), that combines painting, drawing, film, performance and his musical project "Raftside". Markiewicz is resampling art concepts in a time where art history is written on social networks. seeking to show the backstage of this reality and create a new form of dada surrealistic pop language that tries to understand the current evolution of the European society.

25 Nov – 31 Dec 2022

[www.filipmarkiewicz.com](http://www.filipmarkiewicz.com)

For this project Philip Markiewicz received the Art Prize Bourse Bert-Theis in 2019. In 2015 artist resented Luxembourg in Venice Biennale.

**Partners:** Esch 2022



## 13TH KAUNAS BIENNIAL

# Once Upon Another Time... gyvenojie jau kitaip

The 13th Kaunas Biennial will ask the question: How can we connect different places of the world with people's stories?

Audiences will hear these stories in films, sculpture, installations, performances, and through the spoken word, in text, poetry, and other forms.

The Kaunas Biennial exhibition will reflect on different examples of humanity's resilience and adaptation. The exhibition will present works by 23 international artists and groups, exploring myths and fairy tales and personal and community stories of survival and transformation experienced in reality. Encountering contemporary art in unusual places, visitors to the biennial will be invited on a tour of the city of Kaunas and the history of human survival, presented in new ways.

"Stories from the past, present and even the future give us perspectives from different worldviews and cultures, and captivating narratives featured in the work of these artists help us empathize and establish personal connections. The 13th Kaunas Biennial hopes to turn stories of human resilience into a source of inspiration and an example from which we can learn how to cope with the difficulties and challenges that await us," says the curator of this year's Biennial, Josée Drouin-Brisebois (Canada).

12 Nov 2021 – 20 Feb 2022

Lithuanian House of Basketball,  
Santakos g. 11

Antanas Žmuidzinavičius Creations and  
Collections Museum / Devil's Museum, V.  
Putvinskio g. 64

Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Zoology  
Museum, Laisvės al. 106

[www.bienale.lt](http://www.bienale.lt)  
Facebook: [kaunas.biennial](https://www.facebook.com/kaunas.biennial)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas Biennial

**Partners:** Antanas Žmuidzinavičius  
Creations and Collections Museum /  
Devil's Museum, Embassy of Canada,  
Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Zoology  
Museum, Lithuanian House of Basketball,  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art



# Ostrale Biennial

OSTRALE Biennial – one of the largest exhibitions of contemporary art in Germany. As artworks cannot be traded at the biennial, this gives a possibility for artists to discuss on the current social themes freely and irrespective of the market events.

Since 2016, the OSTRALE Biennial organizes traveling exhibitions to present the interdisciplinary content of its exhibitions in various parts of Europe, also collaborating with other European Capitals of Culture.

In 2022, a travelling OSTRALE exhibition of contemporary art is presented in Kaunas, in one of the most precious modernist buildings – Central post office. This is a great opportunity to see impressive artworks from the 2021 exhibition of OSTRALE Biennale O21 in Dresden.

05 Oct – 13 Nov 2022

Kaunas Central Post Office,  
Laisvės al. 102

Robotron Kantine, Rethelstraße 45,  
Dresden

**Curators:** Patricija Gilytė (Lithuania), Ivana Meštrović (Croatia), Nataša Bodrožić (Croatia), Krisztián Kukla (Hungary), Andreea Hilger (Germany), Antka Hofmann (Germany)

**Organizers:** Ars futuri

**Partners:** OSTRALE – Centre for Contemporary Art (Germany)

## EXHIBITION

# Flowing Connections / Power of Water

Implementing the Flowing Connections (FLOC) project, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme, Kaunas 2022 with OSTRALE Biennial and two international partners present another exhibition of contemporary art in Kaunas District, Zapyškis. Visitors are invited to see installations created by artists in shipping containers.

01 July – 05 Oct 2022

Zapyškis, Kaunas District

**Organizers:** Ars futuri

**Partners:** OSTRALE – Centre for Contemporary Art (Germany), Art Quarter Budapest (Hungary), Slobodne Veze (Croatia)



## ARTS SPACE

# Arterija

This project is designed to represent the power of art schools, young creative people, their international collaborative efforts, and the exchange of ideas. “Arterija”, the Lithuanian word for “artery”, appeals to the process of vitally important movement, so, in Arterija, it’s not just the result that is important, but also action, renewal, the act of being cyclical.

During international creative workshops in 2021, artists, creators, and creative groups were selected to develop works for Arterija. The aim of the workshops was to foster international communication, education, and co-creation among art students and artists, analysing the identity of Kaunas in the European cultural context and creating ideas for the Arterija arts space. After the creative workshops and competition were over, a section of Kuzmos Street between Muitinės Street and Karaliaus Mindaugo Prospektas was reimagined as the Arterija arts space concept, consisting of four cycles, based on the ideas developed in the programme. A new cycle is planned for each season of the year – winter, spring, summer, and autumn. Exhibits will be created by the artists, creators, and creative groups who presented the best ideas for the project.

20 Jan – 27 Nov 2022

Openings of new cycles:  
20 Jan, 21 Apr, 21 July, 22 Sept 2022

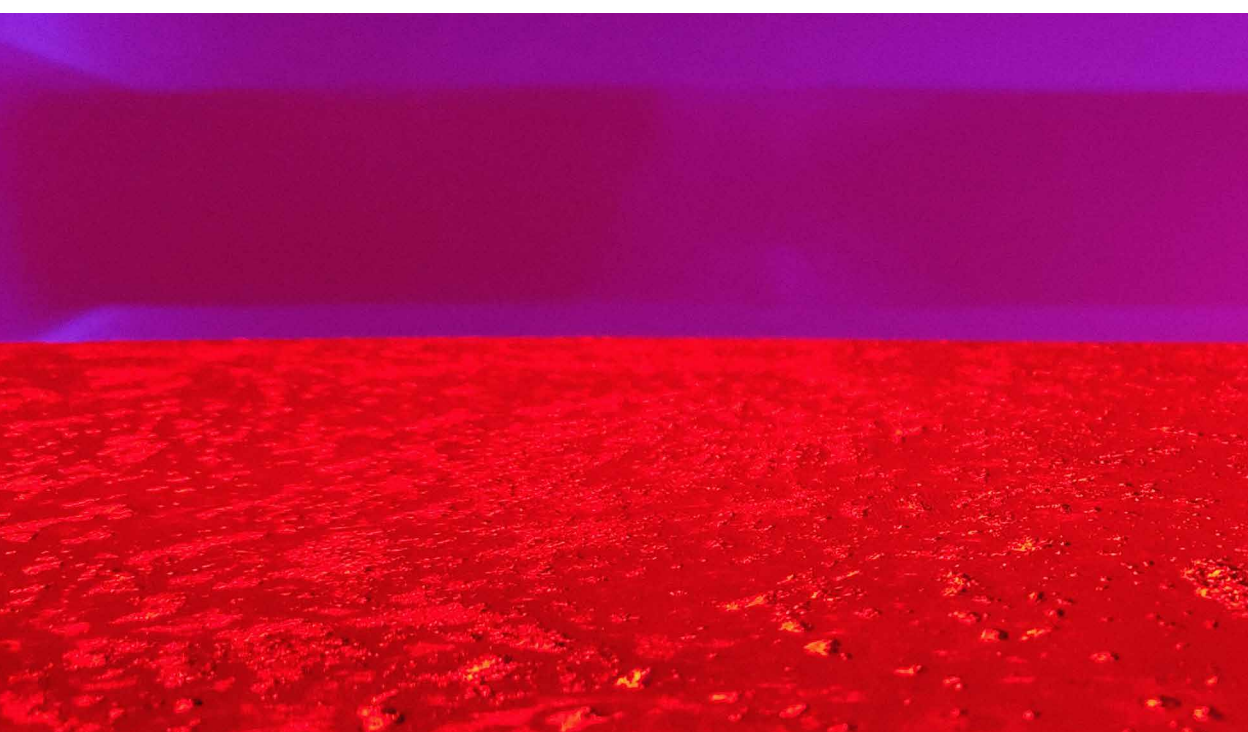
V. Kuzmos g.

*Facebook: VDAKF*

**Curators:** Jonas Audėjaitis,  
Mindaugas Butvila, Gabija  
Černeckaitė, Rimantas Giedraitis,  
Alfonsas Vaura

**Coordinators:** Inara Klimienė,  
Agnė Dalibagienė

**Organizers:** Vilnius Art Academy  
Kaunas Faculty



## PERFORMATIVE INSTALLATION

# Pitchblack Assembly

This is a diverse performative installation that will take you into space – outer and inner.

It is 2803: Space miners have discovered a device that stores “Memories of Voices”... the last word was uttered in space 102 years ago. Will this discovery revive a sense of community?

The Pitchblack Assembly is a place where everyone can become a creator and influence other co-creators of the installation. Is it possible to sing together and rediscover archaic ways of interacting with one another using modern technology? This work is part of the international partnership between Kaunas 2022 and Esch 2022 – one that will unite not only creative groups, communities, and organizations, but also the people of these two cities.

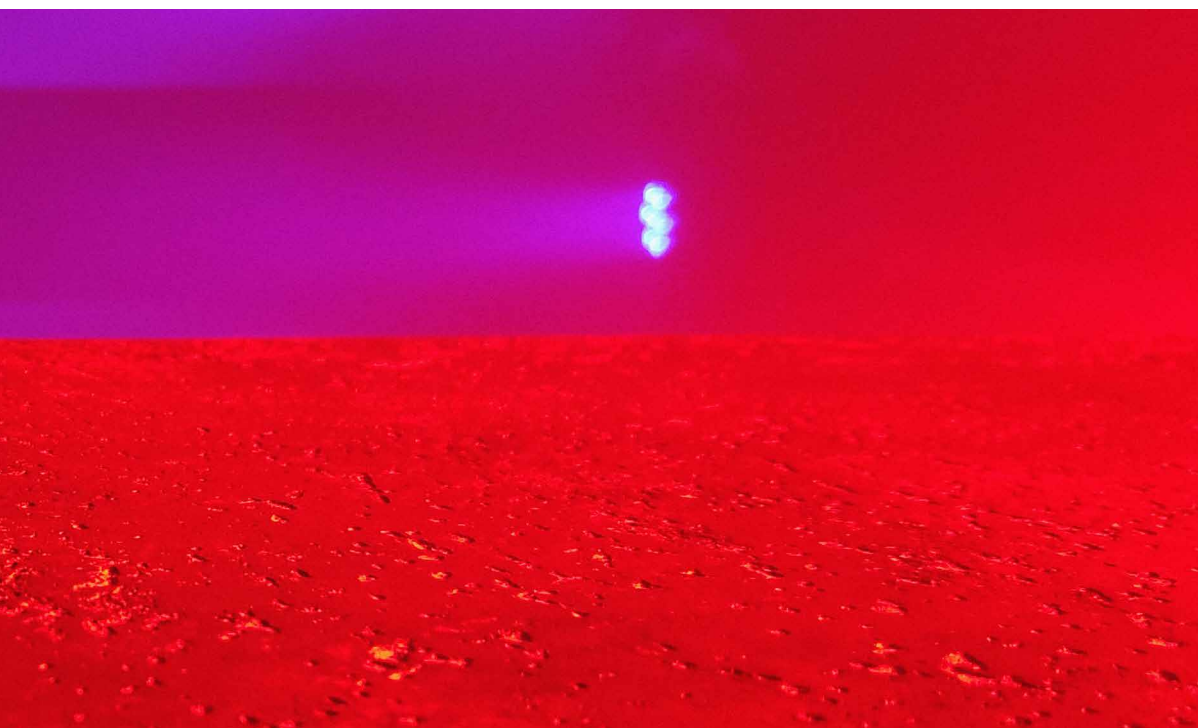
06–12 Sept 2022

Cinema “Romuva”,  
Laisvės al. 54

**Team:** Catherine Elsen, Charlotte Bruneau, MADTRIX, Laura Manelli, Pierre-Antoine Vettorello, Pouya Ehsaei, Rene Alessandro Huarie Matheus, Wesley Allsbrook

**Organizers:** Kosmos Theatre

**Partners:** Esch 2022 (Luxembourg), Kaunas City Museum, GLUK media











# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

## ConTempo

The 2022 ConTempo programme promises the most stunning projects in the festival's history.

Here are just a few of the shows you can expect to see:

Exceptional performance venues will be presented by one of the most famous French circus artist Boris Gibé. He will present 3 artistic productions: a philosophical piece "L'absolu" that is performed inside a unique theatre arena in the shape of 12 meters high metal cylinder. In addition, the ConTempo audience will also get to see a premiere of "Anatomie du Désir" – a new creation by Boris Gibé, which will take place in a specially made building, inspired with panopticon shape. The last artwork to be presented is called "Installation Tripod" and it takes place in water.

The sound artists Strijbos and Van Rijswijk of the Netherlands, who have become famous through their exploration of the connections between space and sound, will present their landscape opera Signal, created especially for the environs of the Kaunas District.

The contemporary performing arts company Rhizome from France will astound audiences with the impressive metal construction used by the performers of the show La Spire as they entwine themselves with the structure and hang in mid-air.

The performing company Kamchâtka (Spain), already well known and loved by Kaunas residents, will return to the festival in 2022, this time with a work of itinerant street theatre called Fugit, which will allow audiences to immerse themselves in the lives of refugees searching for a better world.

ConTempo, an international festival of performing arts launched by Kaunas 2022, has been organized in Kaunas and the Kaunas District since 2019.

01–21 Aug 2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

[www.contempofestival.lt/en](http://www.contempofestival.lt/en)  
Facebook: [contempofestival](https://www.facebook.com/contempofestival)



Partially paid event

**Curator:** Gintarė Masteikaitė

**Team:** Eglė Nevedomskė, Povilas Laurinaitis, Vasara Visockaitė, Agnė Tuskevičiūtė, Miglė Kolinytė, Fausta Miežytė, Vytautė Šapokaitė-Samulėnienė

**Organizers:** Kultūros platforma

**Partners:** Nuepiko (Lithuania), Strijbos (Netherlands), Van Rijswijk (Netherlands), Kamchâtka (Spain), Ivo Dimchev (Bulgaria), Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Lithuanian Dance Information Centre, L'Institut français de Lituanie, Šeiko Dance Company (Lithuania), Boris Gibé (France), Rhizome (France), Vytautas Magnus University







## CONTEMPORARY DANCE PROJECT

# Tribune // Dance yourself!

This is a joint dance performance premiere by two Capitals of Culture: Kaunas 2022 and Esch 2022.

Four partners – TROIS C-L – Creation Choregraphique Luxemburggeois (Luxembourg), the Kaunas Cultural Centre, the Lithuanian Dance Information Centre and Kultūros platforma united by common goals and the drive to develop an original and innovative perspective as part of the European Capital of Culture project. Thanks to this partnership, we invite you to discover a new choreographic aesthetic and feel the power of dance.

08–14 Aug 2022

Vytauto pr. 79

*[www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt/en](http://www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt/en)  
Facebook: kaunokulturoscentras*

**Organizers:** Kultūros platforma

**Partners:** Kaunas Cultural Centre,  
Lithuanian Dance Information Centre,  
TROIS C-L – Centre de Création  
Chorégraphique Luxemburggeois  
(Luxembourg)



INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL "AURA 32" AND DANCE PERFORMANCE

# Jungle Book

Kaunas Dance Theatre AURA invites to 32nd festival, where it will present "The Jungle Book", a performance by the exceptional Akram Khan contemporary dance company (United Kingdom).

"The Jungle Book" will follow the original work created by journalist Rudyard Kipling, but this version will be its own original personal interpretation of that story. "The main character will be a boy named Mowgli together with other original characters," says choreographer Akram Khan, one of the most influential contemporary dancers in Europe.

Festival 26 Sept – 04 Oct 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

Performance 13 Oct 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre,  
Laisvės al. 71

[www.aura.lt](http://www.aura.lt)  
Facebook: [sokiateatrasaura](https://www.facebook.com/sokiateatrasaura)



Partially paid event

**Organizers:** Dance Theatre AURA

Akram Khan in The Adventures of Mowgli, 1984



## MODERN DANCE SHOW

# Love in Love

We invite you to a premiere of a show dedicated to the work of Lithuanian poet and artist Aldona Gustas, who lives in Berlin.

Gustas' work is well known in Germany. In Lithuania, she is more widely known as a poet. In this stage production, Gustas' work will be presented with the help of contemporary modern dance and music, revealing the universality, contemporariness, and modernity of her work.

June – July 2022

Vilnius Art & National Kaunas Drama Theatre, Laisvės al. 71

[www.krmuziejus.lt](http://www.krmuziejus.lt)

[www.aura.lt](http://www.aura.lt)

[www.dramosteatras.lt](http://www.dramosteatras.lt)

Facebook: [kaunorajonomuziejus](#)

Facebook: [sokioteatrasaura](#)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas District Museum

**Partners:** Dance Theatre AURA,  
Chamber Orchestra NIKO, National  
Kaunas Drama Theatre

## DOCUMENTARY THEATRE PLAY

# The Assembly Kaunas

The Assembly Kaunas is a performance work that invites audiences to discuss the most divisive subjects in society today – and to defend their own points of view and listen to those of others.

This is a joint project between the National Kaunas Drama Theatre and the Porte Parole Documentary Theatre Company of Montreal, Canada.

The main idea of the performance is to make effective use of the means of theatrical expression and to create a field of political discussion. Live theatrical action serves as an alternative to discussions on social media and the “echo chamber” effect, as here the audience is compelled to hear opposite opinions and is given an opportunity to express their own.

The performance is based on an original model of political theatre created by the creative team of Porte Parole (Annabel Soutar, Brett Watson, Alex Ivanovici), different versions of which have been implemented in Montreal, Munich, and the University of Maryland in the United States.

Premiere 18–20 Feb 2022

Laisvės al. 71



Paid event

**Organizer:** National Kaunas Drama Theatre

**Partner:** Porte Parole (Canada)

## INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL

## Kaunas Puppet 22

The festival will bring together the brightest puppeteers in Europe and will inform the whole city that the European Capital of Culture 2022 has arrived in Kaunas!

This festival will bring together Europe's most prominent puppeteers and send the message to the entire city that, in 2022, the European Capital of Culture is right here – in Kaunas!

“The time has come to ‘wake up’ and unleash your creativity, encourage your children, inspire your neighbours, and go out into the spring-time streets of Kaunas to celebrate the festival of culture!” says festival director Rasa Bartninkaitė.

Most of the programme will be devoted to families raising children between the ages of 3 and 10, but young and adult audiences alike will also be invited to make unexpected discoveries.

The festival programme will include: performances by 12 groups from different European countries presented in theatres and public urban spaces, creative workshops with renowned masters of puppetry and object theatre from around Europe, meetings and discussions with festival participants, discussions of performances, and exhibitions.

And, of course, an impressive theatrical procession of festival participants, partners, and volunteers down Laisvės Alėja – an event which has become a centrepiece of the festival, marking its official opening.

20–24 May 2022

Laisvės al. 87A

[www.kaunoleles.lt](http://www.kaunoleles.lt)

Facebook:

[kauno.valstybinis.leliu.teatras](https://www.facebook.com/kauno.valstybinis.leliu.teatras)



Paid event

**Team:** Andrius Žiurauskas, Rasa Bartninkaitė, Sergėjus Bocullo, Urtė Grigaliūnaitė

**Organizers:** Kaunas State Puppet Theatre

**Partners:** International Puppet Theatre Union UNIMA

## DOCUMENTARY THEATRE PERFORMANCE

## Taxi

One of the strangest premieres ever seen in Kaunas will take place... in taxis.

During this documentary theatre performance, taxis will serve as a platform to complement the story: their sound systems, screens, and interior features will be used as microdetails to help drivers tell their stories in a unique way. During the performance, a fixed number of taxis will drive around Kaunas and will come together to form a network of stories that will showcase the streets of Kaunas through a car window.

The inside of a car is a particularly intimate space – and a great place to share stories. Could this also be a great space for theatre? Don't miss this unique premiere.

Premiere 23–29 May 2022

Kaunas

Facebook:

[agentura.artscape](https://www.facebook.com/agentura.artscape)



Paid event

**Team:** Aistė Ulubey, Ieva Šlechtavičiūtė, Kristine Werner, Rimantas Ribačiauskas

**Organizers:** Artscape





# Dorian, a theatre play by Robert Wilson

This production of the play Dorian is a landmark event in the history of the Kaunas National Drama Theatre and Kaunas culture overall.

Dorian is the work of director Robert Wilson and his team at the Kaunas National Drama Theatre, created in collaboration with D'haus (Düsseldorf, Germany).

Robert Wilson is one of the most famous contemporary theatre directors, called an architect of time and space, and is among the most renowned scenographers and creators of avant-garde theatre in the world, one who has changed the idea of modern theatre art and the audience's perception of what transpires on stage. Robert Wilson is a master of form, basing his performances on a landscape perfected by lighting, video projections, and motion architecture. His work on the stage unconventionally integrates a wide range of artistic forms of expression, including dance, lighting, sculpture, music, and text, and his work has garnered worldwide acclaim from audiences and critics as well as numerous awards.

Dorian, a solo performance (written by Darryl Pinckney) based on Oscar Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray, tells the story of a prince in search of pleasures, whom the director perceives as a man incapable of finding himself within his own time.

You must see this premiere!

Premiere 01–02 Oct 2022

Laisvės al. 71

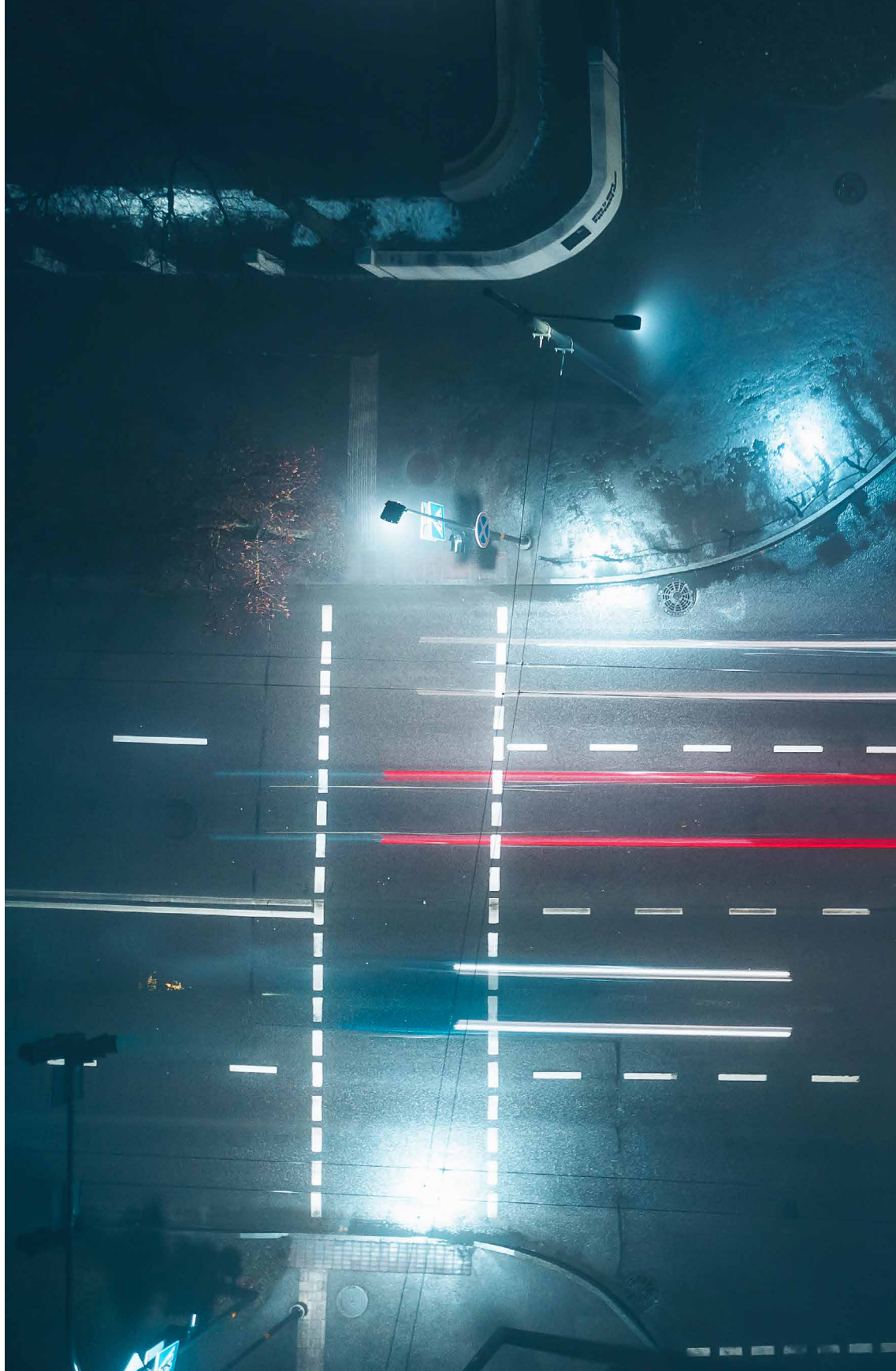
[www.dramosteatras.lt](http://www.dramosteatras.lt)  
Facebook: *DramosTeatras*



Paid event

**Organizers:** National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Kipro Petrausko g.









## MUSIC FESTIVAL

# The Stars of Music at Pažaislis

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla appears in Kaunas! She is known as the world's best female conductor, and she has led the world's most important orchestras. In the exclusive concert "In memoriam Irena Veisaitė" Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla will conduct the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra (artistic director and senior conductor Modestas Pitrenas), the Aidija Chamber Choir (director and conductor Romualdas Gražinis), the Katowice City Vocal Ensemble "Camerata Silesia" (director and conductor Anna Szostak (Poland), the Kaunas State Choir (artistic director and conductor Robertas Šervenikas), and the pianist Onutė Gražinytė.

The Pažaislis Monastery, known as the pearl of Baroque, will be the venue for the world known Fantasia for piano, choir and orchestra by Beethoven, and the culmination of the concert will be the world premiere of the Ninth Symphony by Mieczyslaw Weinberg, one of the most interesting Polish composers of the 20th century.

02 Sept 2022

Pažaislis Monastery,  
T. Masiulio g. 31

*www.pazaislis.lt*  
*Facebook: pazaislis*



Paid event

**Organizers:** Pažaislis Music Festival

## Pažaislis Music Festival

The largest classical music festival in Lithuania. Open and welcoming, an explorer of unconventional spaces and creator of good traditions. Every year, this festival invites exceptional artists and groups to Lithuania. From jazz to opera, from quartets to symphony orchestras. Every leading artist in the contemporary music world has visited the Pažaislis Music Festival at least once.

On the occasion of the European Capital of Culture the festival will present an exclusive programme!

05 June – 28 Aug 2022

Pažaislis Monastery, T. Masiulio g. 31 &  
elsewhere in Kaunas & Kaunas District

*www.pazaislis.lt*  
*Facebook: pazaislis*



Paid event

**Organizers:** Pažaislis Music Festival

## EVENTS SERIES

# Encounters in Music

Encounters in Music is a series of events for audiences who are unable to participate in the cultural life of the city for various reasons.

Adapting the experience of the Embrace Nederland Foundation's unique musical programmes for disabled children and adults, an extraordinary cultural programme is being created for residents of Kaunas and the Kaunas District who may have different needs.

The project provides training for professional musicians and music therapists, led by the Foundation's representatives, Philip Curtis and Simone Zwart, and the knowledge gained from such training is then adapted in encounters with special centres, care homes, etc.

2020–2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

*www.pazaislis.lt*  
Facebook: *pazaislis*

**Organizers:** Pažaislio muzikos festivalis

**Partners:** Embrace Nederland Foundation (Netherlands)

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Kaunas Piano Fest

This fest is a place for young Lithuanian and foreign pianists to excel and is one of several such events in Northeastern Europe.

We invite visitors to the European Capital of Culture to hear, learn about, and experience the power of piano music in concert!

The festival programme will include master classes, lectures, and concert activities. For young musicians, it has become a springboard to a career and a way to introduce themselves to audiences.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide opportunities to perform and develop opportunities for young pianists who, like us, are at the start of their professional careers," say the festival organizers.

July 2022

Kaunas & Kaunas District

*www.kaunas pianofest.com*

**Organizers:** Muzikos kodas

## INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

# Kaunas Jazz 2022

This legendary jazz festival in Kaunas will be a crowning moment in the European Capital of Culture programme.

The largest in Lithuania. Drawing performers to Kaunas from around the world. This festival has been traveling from the temporary to contemporary for more than thirty years, bearing the flag of good music and building lasting traditions.

Kaunas Jazz is one of the most modern events in Lithuania. Its audiences are true music connoisseurs, and festival concerts have become singular events.

Tourists come to Kaunas from all over Lithuania, Europe, and around the world – just to see Kaunas Jazz.

22 Apr – 01 May, 07–08 July 2022

Kaunas, Kaunas District & other cities in Lithuania

[www.kaunasjazz.lt](http://www.kaunasjazz.lt)

Facebook: [kaunasjazz](https://www.facebook.com/kaunasjazz)



Partially paid event

**Team:** Alma Grondskienė, Audra Jučienė, Evelina Baltuškaitė, Indrė Jučaitė-Sarneckienė, Jonas Jučas, Vytenis Čimielius

**Organizers:** JJJAZZ



# Kaunas 2022 Jazz Stops

Now legendary and loved by all, born together with the restoration of Lithuania's independence and considered the largest jazz festival in Lithuania, KAUNAS JAZZ presents:

KAUNAS 2022 JAZZ STOPS - four stations located in the centre of Kaunas and in Vilkija (Kaunas District) featuring jazz from Lithuanian and European cities.

Lithuania (Kaunas, Vilnius, Klaipėda), Norway (Bodø), Hungary (Veszprém), Estonia, Luxembourg, and Ukraine will present their talented jazz composers.

Together with jazz musicians in Dudelange (Luxembourg) and Novi Sad (Serbia), the organizers of this event will present a unique project called jazzXchange at one of the jazz stops. A jointly created product will be presented: A premiere work which also be shown to audiences in Dudelange and Novi Sad in 2022.

It is no coincidence that one jazz station stage will be located in the Kaunas District, in Vilkija, which will become the culmination of the Kaunas 2022 Jazz Stops programme and its final stop. The legendary jazz singer and trumpet player Louis Armstrong had a connection to this town in Lithuania. Listeners and audiences will be able to hear not only versions of works performed by Louis Armstrong, but also see and hear a very special concert guest - the best performer of Louis Armstrong's works in Lithuania. This special guest will be accompanied by the Kaunas Big Band, Lithuania's best.

DISCOVER talented, promising Lithuanian and European jazz composers, the modern and original jazz projects they have CREATED and CELEBRATE together in contemporary Kaunas!

18–19 June 2022

Jazz Stop stages next to: Kaunas 2022 Office, Laisvės al. 36; the fountain at Laisvės al. 68; Vienybės Square; Vilkijs dock amphitheatre in Kaunas District

*www.kaunasjazz.lt*  
*Facebook: kaunasjazz*

**Organizers:** JJJJAZZ

**Partners:** Bodø 2024 (Norway), Cultural Centre of Novi Sad (Serbia), Esch 2022 (Luxembourg), Like A Jazz Machine (Luxembourg), Nordnorsk Jazzsenter (Norway), Novi Sad 2022 (Serbia), Ukrainian Institute, Veszprém-Balaton 2023 (Hungary), Ville de Dudelange Opderschmelz (Luxembourg)



## CONCERT

# Kaunas 808 orchestra

For the first time, works of electronic music popular around the world will be performed by a symphony orchestra in Kaunas.

Kaunas 808 Orchestra is a wonderful opportunity to hear, see, and feel the synthesis of different music genres, dance, light installations, and video projections in a non-traditional space.

The Kaunas Symphony Orchestra, nominated for a Grammy Music Award, will perform arrangements of Jievaras Jasinskis' works created especially for this project, consisting of selections from famous electronic music composers (DJs) and classical music.

The music will be enhanced and accompanied by contemporary dance, presenting a story to audiences in the language of movement, and the entire experience will be enveloped by the video projections and installations designed by a light artist.

Žilvinas Širka, artistic director of the project, says: "The event gives meaning to the synthesis of past and future music culture, to the classical and the modern, youth and maturity, that which does not die, but is still to be born. It combines and unites different art forms and types. We will give the audience the gift of newly felt emotions and cultural experiences."

08 Sept 2022

Former factory Pergalė,  
Kaunakiemio g. 5

IG: @Kaunas 808 orchestra



Paid event

**Organizers:** Freimas

**Partners:** Kaunas  
CitySymphony Orchestra

## CONCERT BY

# Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

A rare gift – an exclusive concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Great Britain) in Kaunas!

The European Capital of Culture and all of Lithuania will be able to enjoy a unique opportunity to hear one of the most prestigious ensembles in the United Kingdom – the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (artistic director and chief conductor Vasily Petranka).

The orchestra will appear together with the Kaunas State Choir (artistic director and chief conductor Robertas Šervėnikas), famous for its powerful voice. Together they will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, Op. 80, the predecessor to the famous Ode to Joy, the anthem of the European Union, presenting audiences with the gift of joyful emotion.

09 Oct 2022

Kaunas Sports Hall,  
Perkūno al. 5

[www.kaunofilharmonija.lt](http://www.kaunofilharmonija.lt)  
Facebook: kaunofilharmonija



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas State  
Philharmonic

## CHOIR MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Kaunas Cantat – Kaunas Sings

The first international choral event of this scale in Kaunas invites you to enjoy choral music of various styles performed by some of the best European choirs.

During this four-day festival, you'll see and hear choirs on outdoor stages, in squares, and around fountains.

Part of the festival programme is also devoted to classical choral music to be performed in churches, and a joint choir seminar will invite audiences to sing along and hear a unique performance by a virtual choir.

Festival organizers believe that choral music can be diverse and interesting and can offer something for everyone – from classical masterpieces to arrangements of popular music – because singing is the language of joy!

09–12 June 2022

Kaunas

[www.lituaniacantat.lt](http://www.lituaniacantat.lt)

**Organizers:** Lithuania Cantat

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Kaunas Gospel & Worship Festival

On the second day of Easter, this event in Kaunas will feature the joyous programme of the Kaunas Gospel Choir, a screening of an Easter film, and a special children's programme.

Tents will rise in the Kaunas District, in the eldership of Taurakiemis, and will host a spirited three-day festival of concerts by Lithuanian and foreign gospel choirs and worship groups, film screenings, seminars, creative workshops, and a special programme for children.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: Rejoice and sing praise." (Psalms 98:4)

18 Apr 2022

Kaunas Cultural Centre, Kęstučio g. 1

03–05 June 2022

Taurakiemis, Kaunas District

[www.kaunasgospel.eu](http://www.kaunasgospel.eu)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Prabudimo orkestras

**Partners:** Good News Centre, Children's Christian Education Society

# Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*

Requiem, the Grammy Award winning composition by one of the world's most famous contemporary composers, Andrew Lloyd Webber, will be performed in Lithuania.

The work will be presented by the Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra and an array of world-famous performers and soloists, including the Kaunas State Choir, the Dagilėlis Boys and Youth Choir, soprano Lina Dambauskaitė, tenor Edgaras Montvidas, and conducted by Constantine Orbelian.

Spectacular lighting installations and video projections as well as modern scenography will move and astound even the most discerning listeners. "I think this will be a modern event that reflects the culture of a contemporary city, and one that people will remember for a very long time," says the project's manager Algimantas Treikauskas.

This will be a premiere for true lovers of contemporary music – mark your calendars!

31 Oct 2022

Žalgiris Arena,  
Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

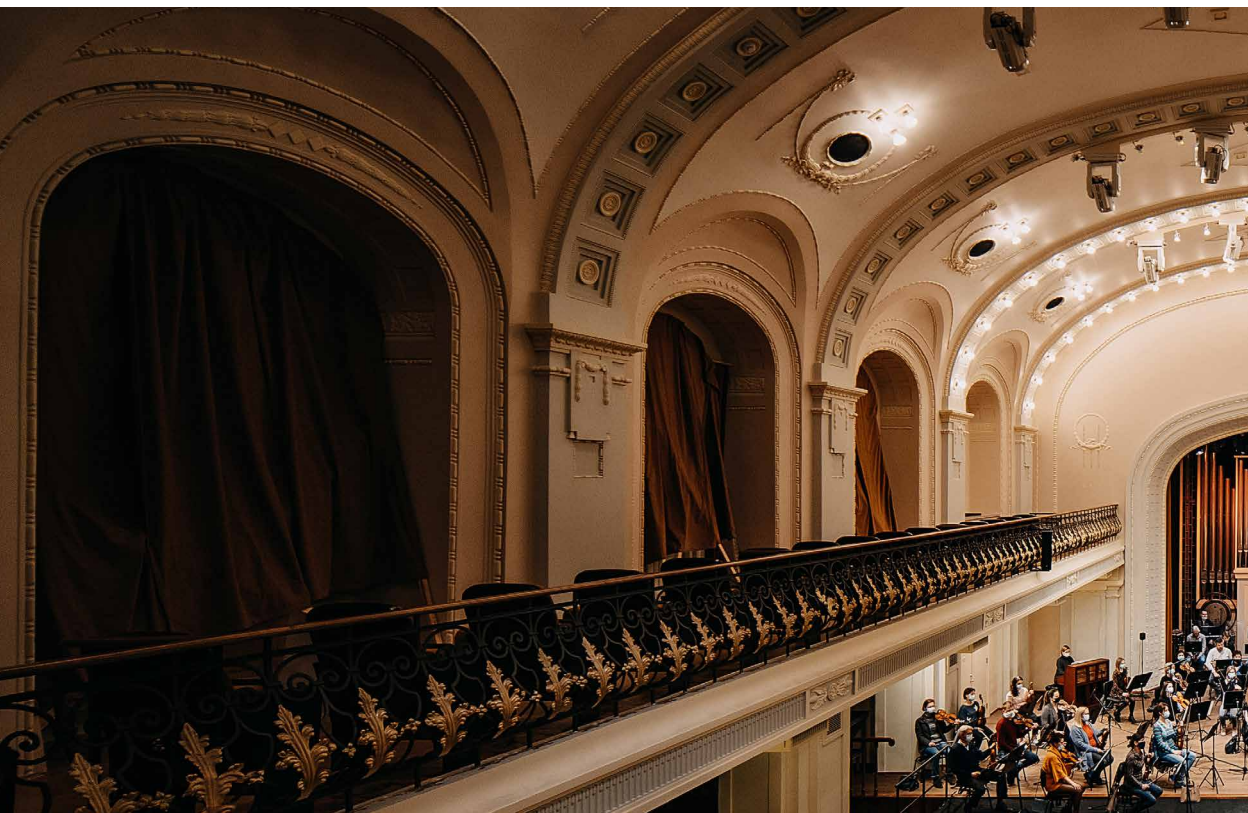
[www.kaunosimfoninis.lt](http://www.kaunosimfoninis.lt)  
Facebook: [KaunoMiestoSimfoninisOrkestras](#)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra

**Partners:** Kaunas State Philharmonic, Žalgiris Arena



## PROJECT

# (con)Temporary Music Train

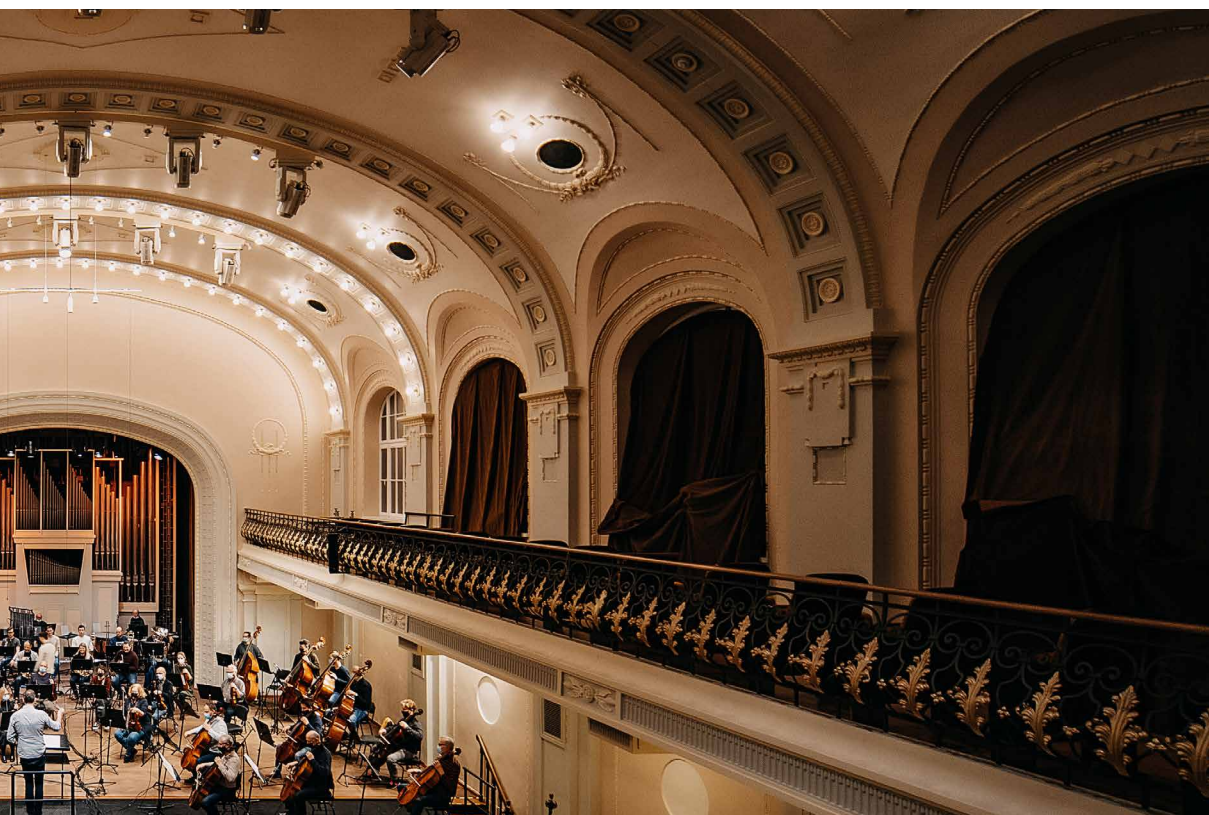
The (con)Temporary Music Train project will symbolically connect two 2022 European Capitals of Culture, Kaunas and Esch-sur-Alzette, with the capital of the European Union – Brussels. Trains traveling along the route Kaunas-Esch-sur-Alzette-Brussels will feature concerts by winners of international professional music competitions. This project seeks to present the sounds of classical and contemporary music in non-traditional spaces and spread the word about the European Capitals of Culture.

May 2022

Kaunas, Esch-sur-Alzette & Brussels  
South Railway Stations

**Organizers:** Tarptautinių kultūros  
projektų centras

**Partners:** Balys Dvarionas Charity and  
Support Foundation, European Union of  
Music Competitions for Youth (EMCY),  
Ecole de musique de l'Union Grand-Duc  
Adolphe (UGDA Music School)





Vytautas the Great War Museum & M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art







## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WRITERS AND BOOKS

# Kaunas Literature Week

To the delight of book lovers, Kaunas will finally be hosting an international literature festival.

Kaunas Literature Week events will present the most interesting Lithuanian and foreign writers. The festival will devote special attention to works by Kaunasians and authors with roots in Kaunas, and especially to the youngest writers in Kaunas.

Kaunas Literature Week represents the diversity of literary genres and seeks to respond to readers' preferences, while also preserving aesthetic quality.

In its effort to become a reliable partner, Kaunas Literature Week has been developing ties with international literature festivals, promoting an exchange of ideas and joint initiatives.

"Our priorities are a well-conceived programme of events, slow readings, and sincere encounters, where there will always be room for dialogue between authors and the public. The festival team feels that intriguing stories, clever and witty conversations never go out of style," says Laurynas Katkus, writer, translator and curator of the festival's artistic programme.

Together, we believe that Kaunas is a city full of literature!

04–08 May 2022

VMU, Kaunas public spaces, libraries, museums, theatres & elsewhere

*[www.literaturossavaite.lt](http://www.literaturossavaite.lt)*  
*Facebook: literaturossavaite*

**Organizers:** Vytautas Magnus University

**Partners:** Festival littéraire à Bettembourg "LiteraTour" (Luxembourg), Goethe-Institut Litauen, Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Vilnius, Kaunas 2022 Kaunas Challenge project "Puota", Kaunas Full of Culture, Kaunas County Public Library, Cinema "Romuva", Kaunas Artists' House, Kaunas Municipal V. Kudirka Public Library, Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum, Reading Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Tartu rahvusvaheline kirjandusfestival "Prima vista" (Estonia), Wrocławski Dom Literatury (Poland)





# Kauno literatūros savaitė

Tarptautinis rašytojų  
ir knygų festivalis

05.20-23



[literaturosavaitė.lt](http://literaturosavaitė.lt)

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[literaturosavaitė.lt](http://literaturosavaitė.lt)

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E



## EVENT SERIES

# Mystical Connection

Have you ever wondered what smells, tastes, or sounds might come from the book you're currently reading? We invite you to discover these connections through an interactive exhibition: a literary salon of the senses.

May 2022

Kaunas

[www.kvb.lt](http://www.kvb.lt)

In different and unexpected places around the city of Kaunas, we'll invite you to enjoy literary and emotional experiences and hone your senses by listening to readings in the dark, in whispers or aloud, surrounded by all sorts of scents.

Elements of horror and mythological characters from Lithuanian folklore will inhabit a contemporary city and its abandoned spaces. Myths will be transformed in creative writing workshops until they are reborn, incorporating sound and visuals, as stories in a Night of Horror.

**Organizers:** Kaunas County Public Library

**Partners:** Vytautas Magnus University

## MOBILE APP

# On the Path of Modern Art

This mobile app is a modern explorer's guide to the art world in Kaunas.

[www.artkaunas.com](http://www.artkaunas.com)

You'll have the chance to learn about 20th century artists, including R. Jankauskas-Kampas, A. Vaitkūnas, V. Povilaitis, L. Drazdauskaitė, and N. Arbit Blatas. This contemporary journey will not only introduce you to, but also surprise you with undiscovered places and the stories of artists.

You'll be invited to walk through "Vaitkūnas-esque" abandoned staircases and gardens, entertain a different perspective of Aleksotas Hill and Šančiai barracks, discover A. Samuolis' Vaisių Street and the J. Tūbelis Villa, enjoy the aura of painters' workshops.

This walking tour, navigated with the help of QR codes, Google Maps, and a website will give you the chance to discover a different Kaunas.

The app has been created in Lithuanian and English and is adapted for users of all ages.

**Organizers:** Kaunas Modern Art Foundation

# Kalniečių Park Reading Room

This is an open and modern cultural and educational space, a place for the people of Kaunas to spend their free time in a truly wonderful way. The reading room invites readers to borrow and peruse books and periodicals, play board games, and participate in various events, educational programmes, and gatherings.

Free cultural events will take place in the reading room and the outdoor space around it, including: meetings with writers, book presentations, readings, stage performances, concerts, film screenings, lectures, educational activities, bibliotherapy meetings, readings with therapy dogs, etc.

Activities are open to both children and adults, and a summer camp will be organized for school-age children. The reading room is adapted for people with mobility, hearing, and visual disabilities.

The opening of the reading room is scheduled to take place during Kaunas Literature Week.

From May 2022

Kalniečių Park

[www.kaunas.mvb.lt](http://www.kaunas.mvb.lt)

Facebook: [KaunoMiestoBiblioteka](#)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Municipal V. Kudirka Public Library

**Partners:** Eiguliai Eldership



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PRESENTATION OF THE 6TH EDITION OF J, A SPECIAL MAGAZINE FOR KAUNAS

## A City's Futures

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The final issue of a very special magazine.

18 Jan 2022

*J*, a special magazine devoted to Kaunas, was launched six years ago to explore the city from various angles and tell untold stories about Kaunas.

Kaunas Photography Gallery,  
Vilniaus g. 2

[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)  
*To buy: shop.kaunasgallery.lt*  
*Facebook: Kaunasgallery.lt*

This year, the presentation of the 6th edition of *J* magazine is for everyone who occasionally asks themselves the question: What will tomorrow look like?

During this presentation, the authors contributing to the magazine's final issue will invite readers and audiences to a discussion about the city's possible futures and its changing layers.

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Photographers  
Association Kaunas Branch

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## Book of Kaunas City and District Cultural Subscribers 2022

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This is a unique publication where those working in the cultural field as well as anyone who is not indifferent to culture will be able to find one another.

Presentation 13 Apr 2022

Kaunas Photography Gallery, Vilniaus g. 2

[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)  
*To buy: shop.kaunasgallery.lt*  
*Facebook: Kaunasgallery.lt*

The list will include contact information for artists, curators, museum professionals, and anyone who has expressed a desire to contribute regularly to cultural initiatives, as well as companies and organizations that are involved in and drawn to art and culture.

To promote the networking of the Kaunas cultural community initiated by this publication and to present the world of culture in Kaunas to citizens and guests of the city, a presentation event of the publication will take place, accompanied by discussions on cultural topics.

Donatas Stankevičius, artist and the author of this book, collaborating together with the Kaunas Photography Gallery presents this inventive solution entitled the Book of Kaunas City and District Cultural Subscribers 2022.

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Photographers  
Association Kaunas Branch





# Kino Pavasaris Pop-up Cinema

It's time to properly celebrate the most important award in the history of Lithuanian cinema – the Venice film festival lion won by “Pilgrims”, a crime drama directed by Karmėlava-born Laurynas Bareiša.

For the film's Lithuanian premiere, the International Vilnius Film Festival “Kino Pavasaris” will build a pop-up cinema in Karmėlava, the town in Kaunas District featured in “Pilgrims”. The team will also present an immersive guide of filming locations around town.

March 2022

Karmėlava, Kaunas District

[www.kinopavasaris.lt/en](http://www.kinopavasaris.lt/en)

Facebook: [kinopavasaris.lt](https://www.facebook.com/kinopavasaris.lt)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Vilnius Film Festival “Kino pavasaris”



## PROGRAMME

# European Film Journeys

A journey through new European film at Romuva!

Advance premiere screenings of works by twelve contemporary filmmakers and open-air film presentations in Kaunas will showcase the colourful diversity of European cinematic culture.

This programme will present films that explore contemporary issues and the most important filmmakers working in Europe today. European Film Journeys is for discerning audiences and cinema lovers!

Apr – June 2022

Laisvės al. 54

[www.kcromuva.lt](http://www.kcromuva.lt)

Facebook: [kinasromuva](#)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Cinema "Romuva"

**Partners:** Film distributor "Lokys, liūtas ir šakelė"

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

# Kaunas – a Fortress of Europe 2022

The European Federation of Fortified Sites congress convenes every year in a different European city. We are happy to welcome the congress to Kaunas in 2022!

This is a significant event every year – a meeting of the international community of fortified sites and a unique opportunity to bring together fortification experts, heritage conservationists, and heritage developers, as well as researchers, historians, and practitioners.

The revival of the Kaunas Fortress complex began with an initiative of community volunteers and locality creation.

Forts have become meeting places for artistic freedom and community gatherings.

Thanks to efforts by local communities and hundreds of clever initiatives over several decades, a social partnership between the Kaunas District, Kaunas City Municipality's Kauno tvirtovė (Kaunas Fortress) volunteer organization, and local creators and artists has transformed neglected forts into welcoming areas that will continue to strengthen the city's creative power, develop creative industries and green innovations well after 2022.

2022 promises to be a wonderful year to visit the forts of Kaunas!

05–07 Oct 2022

Kaunas Fortress Park

[www.kaunotvirtove.lt](http://www.kaunotvirtove.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Fortress Park

**Partners:** European Fortress Network (EFFORTS)

Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery









INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
PROJECTS AND  
THE 2022 CAPITALS  
OF CULTURE  
PROGRAMME

Kaunas and the Kaunas District will become one enormous European stage in 2022. We're extremely proud to have worked with so many friends from around the continent to develop a programme that will prove that we in Kaunas are the truest representatives of European culture! The year we've been given will be a wonderful opportunity to return here, or visit us for the first time, to experience the unique story of Kaunas.

It's wonderful to return to the European cultural map and not only welcome our guests, but also to present Kaunas and its people in so many different locations around the city and region. We strive to be charming, professional, and appealing. This is a sincere privilege and a duty to the future.

We hope the amazing international "Contemporary Capital" programme will give you the gift of fascinating encounters, wonderful emotions, and will open new perspectives, and galvanize and inspire you as much as we ourselves have been inspired through its creation. Look for the many contributions already made by our guests in all parts of our programme and on the summer stage that will flourish throughout the warm months of 2022. And remember to tell others about the programme!

Very special events created in very special company!

Europe will have as many as three Capitals of Culture in 2022!

Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), Novi Sad (Serbia), and Kaunas (Lithuania)

But do you know the best thing? There's no competition like there is in sports. It's a wonderful company of people striving to achieve more in culture!

The Capital of Culture title has turned into a unique programme of events uniting artists from three countries.

It's diverse and colourful – just like our colleagues in the Capitals of Culture.

Thank you, dear friends!

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**Head of International Relations**  
**Dovilė Butnoriūtė**

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## Kaunas 2022 and Wrocław 2016

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Two capitals – a future one, Kaunas 2022, and a former one, Wrocław 2016 (Poland) – organized creative workshops. Artists from Wrocław and Kaunas took a creative look at the history of their countries and the cultural and modern ties between them and developed artistic interdisciplinary interpretations of Kaunas' modernist heritage. This is how the documentary theatre production *Pusė (Half)* was born. For more, see p. 116). Our friends have promised that this will not be all: In 2022, we'll welcome musicians and other talented artists from Wrocław (for more see p. 240–241).

[www.strefakultury.pl/en](http://www.strefakultury.pl/en)

**Partners:** Strefa Kultury Wrocław (Poland)

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## Kaunas 2022 and Tartu 2024: Wild bits, an exhibition

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In the spring of 2022, artists from Lithuania and Estonia will meet at the Maajaam artists' residence in southern Estonia. Surrounded by nature, they'll explore the impact of technology on how we behave, think, and understand our world. Then, they'll create works of art that are meant for display in open spaces and that speak about contemporary humanity. The project is being overseen by the renowned Estonian artist Timo Toots.

Sept 2022

Kaunas district

[www.maajaam.ee](http://www.maajaam.ee)

The results of this collaboration will be presented in an exhibition in Kaunas district!

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## Kaunas 2022 and Novi Sad 2022

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Artists from Serbia are participating in many projects – for more see p. 56, 152, 163, 188, 263, 286.

[www.novisad2021.rs/en](http://www.novisad2021.rs/en)  
Facebook: NoviSad2022

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# Kaunas 2022 and Esch 2022

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For more about joint Capital of Culture projects, see p. 94–97, 113, 116, 163, 247.

[www.esch2022.lu/en](http://www.esch2022.lu/en)  
Facebook: *esch2022*

Artists from Luxembourg are participating in numerous projects – for more see p. 252, 263, 270, 286.

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## JAZZ PROJECT BY THE THREE 2022 EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE JAZZXCHANGE

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Three new friends, the 2022 Capitals of Culture of Novi Sad, Esch, and Kaunas, have invited talented jazz musicians from their cities to create a unique traveling musical adventure that will visit each country. Under the direction of the renowned Serbian jazz pianist Bojan Z, musicians attending a special residency project will create and later perform a special programme. For anyone who's been missing the sound of jazz, this original concert in Kaunas performed by the participants in this project will be a wonderful gift on a cosy summer evening.

18 June 2022

Vienybės Square

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022,  
JJJAZZ

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# Kaunas 2022 and Grenoble, the 2022 European Green Capital

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In 2022, Kaunas' big brother, Grenoble (France), will become the European Green Capital.

[www.grenoble.fr](http://www.grenoble.fr)

In lieu of congratulatory cards, these two partners will exchange initiatives in 2022: We'll talk about the environment, sustainability, new city planning and urbanism, strengthening the ties between our cultural institutions through dance, cinema, and the visual arts. Stay tuned for more information about programme highlights!

**Partners:** Magenta Landscape Design  
Festival





## FESTIVAL

# Days of Japan in Kaunas “WA!”

In 2022, the Sugihara Week, an event that Kaunas knows so well, expanded into a festival called Days of Japan in Kaunas “WA!”, offering even more reason for those interested in the Japanese culture to come together. The programme includes performances by Japanese artists, dance performances, concerts, exhibitions of photographs and drawings, films, initiatives offered by pupils, a Japanese crafts fair, a Hanami festival, the creation of a Japanese-style cognitive trail, the unique project “Ainu & Balti” presenting the communion of Ainu and Baltic nations, implemented with partners from Latvia, and many other beautiful initiatives.

The Japanese programme in 2022, supported by the EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee, is accompanied by an exhibition of photographs “EU Eyes on Japan”, Kaunas Architecture Festival “East-East” (see more on p. 68), concerts by Japanese musicians, performances by a Japanese puppet theatre, also a joint concert of a Japanese children’s choir and the Kaunas A. Kačanauskas Music School children’s choir, and other events.

25 Apr – 01 May 2022

Kaunas

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Azija LT, Dance Theatre AURA, Kultūrinės ir organizacinės idėjos, KyūmeikanKendo

## Exhibition of Japanese and Lithuanian contemporary textile art

This exhibition, featuring contemporary textile art by 20 artists from Lithuania and Japan, will explore mysterious boundaries, when fabric can be everywhere – around and within us. This exhibition of textile and fibre art will reveal visible and invisible textures, bringing together the artists of two cultures who share a textile approach to the world.

26 Apr – 30 May 2022

Rotušės a. 27  
M. Valančiaus g. 21

[www.bienale.lt](http://www.bienale.lt)  
Facebook: [kaunas.biennial](https://www.facebook.com/kaunas.biennial)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Biennial

**Partners:** Balta Gallery, Meno Parkas Gallery, International Textile Network Japan, Lithuanian Artists’ Association, Tama Art University (Japan), Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty

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# Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage

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The Capital of Culture is setting the stage!

Kaunas 2022 invites the city and its guests to spend the warm season enjoying the extensive programme presented on our summer stage, where the best artists of Lithuania and Europe will come together to perform. Kaunas 2022, in collaboration with tens of partners around Europe and Lithuania, will offer a programme of different music genres, performances, literature readings, food tastings, and all sort of other events for young and old. The programme will include guests performers from Tartu, Veszprem, Galway, Wrocław, Esch-sur-Alzette, Faro, Grenoble, Novi Sad, and other European cities sharing a bond with Kaunas.

From May to September, don't miss this carefully selected artistic programme of weekend performances and hundreds of free events in the heart of Kaunas Old Town – City Hall Square!

May – Sept 2022

Kaunas City Hall Square

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022 with partners





Kaunas Lagoon







# ALSO IN KAUNAS AND KAUNAS DISTRICT IN 2022...

## University of Lithuania Centennial Celebration

The Year of the European Capital of Culture coincides with an important anniversary.

2022 will mark the centennial of the University of Lithuania. The university was the predecessor to today's Vytautas Magnus University, the Kaunas University of Technology, and the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. The celebration ceremony will be directed by Andrius Žiurauskas. This commemoration will be celebrated on 16 February, Restoration of Lithuanian Statehood Day.

16 Feb 2022

Žalgiris Arena,  
Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50



\* With invitations

**Organizers:** LSMU, KTU, VMU

## International Kaunas Carillon Music Festival 2022

This festival will feature 49 bells ringing out musical stories over the summer from the top of the Kaunas Carillon tower.

03–04 Sept 2022

Garden of Vytautas the Great  
War Museum, K. Donelaičio g. 64

*[www.kmn.lt](http://www.kmn.lt)*

*Facebook: KaunoMenininkuNamai*

**Organizers:** Kaunas Artists' House

# Celebrating the Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art

A conference and retrospective exhibition “Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country” will discuss the most important landmarks in the history of the Kaunas School of Art and explore issues related to processes, individuals, and events, highlighting the role of the school in the local, national, and global arts context.

An exhibition series “100 Years of the Kaunas School of Art. 12 Exhibitions. 12 Months” will showcase historically important individuals, the continuity of tradition, and contemporary artwork.

Conference 15 Aug 2022

M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art,  
V. Putvinskio g. 55

Exhibition series Jan – Dec 2022

Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas  
Faculty, Muitinės g. 2

Gallery of Kaunas University of Applied  
Sciences Art Academy, A. Mackevičiaus  
g. 27

**Organizers:** Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas  
Faculty, Kaunas University of Applied  
Sciences Art Academy

# Coronation of King Mindaugas Day / National Celebration in Raudondvaris

06 July 2022

Raudondvaris Manor Park,  
Kaunas District

**Organizers:** Kaunas District Municipality

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Operetta at Kaunas Castle

Join us for the annual stage music festival celebrating the music of operettas and other stage musical genres and productions. The festival is being organized as part of the annual national holiday celebrating Coronation of King Mindaugas Day.

05–06 July 2022

Next to Kaunas Castle

[www.operetta.lt](http://www.operetta.lt)

**Organizers:** Baritonų trio



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CLOSING CONCERT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC

## Laudate Pueri 2022

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We invite you to a concert performed by choirs, ensembles, and teachers of the Kaunas School of Sacred Music, which will include works of classical and modern sacred music.

26 May 2022

Kaunas St. Peter and Paul Cathedral  
Basilica, Vilniaus g. 1

[www.cantoresdavid.lt](http://www.cantoresdavid.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas School of Sacred  
Music

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CELEBRATION OF ST. CECILIA, THE PATRON SAINT OF MUSIC

## School That Resounds

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The Kaunas School of Sacred Music, now celebrating its thirtieth year of operation, will invite the people of Kaunas and visitors to the city inside the 400-year-old building it calls home.

22 Nov 2022

M. Valančiaus g. 8

[www.cantoresdavid.lt](http://www.cantoresdavid.lt)

**Organizers:** Kaunas School of Sacred  
Music

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47TH AMATEUR THEATRE FESTIVAL

## Kauno rampa 2022

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Kauno Rampa (Kaunas Footlights) has been held every year since 1973. The festival promotes and continues the tradition of amateur theatre in Lithuania. We invite you to learn more about the best amateur theatres from Kaunas and other cities and enjoy their performances.

21–23 Apr 2022

Vytauto pr. 79

[www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt](http://www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt)  
Facebook: [kaunokulturoscentras](https://www.facebook.com/kaunokulturoscentras)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Cultural Centre,  
Kazys Binkis Theatre

## FESTIVAL OF ORCHESTRAS, BANDS, AND MUSICAL ENSEMBLES

# Kaunas BandFest

Marching bands are a very European sight. You can see them all the time in Britain, Holland, Czechia... So, the European Capital of Culture couldn't go without a band festival!

You'll be invited to listen to wind ensembles and jazz bands, alternative and folk music groups, professionals and amateurs of all different fields of music, as well as educational institutions. BandFest continues the traditions of the previous Padūduokim Kaunui festival.

May – Sept 2022

Kaunas public spaces

[www.kaunosantaka.lt](http://www.kaunosantaka.lt)

**Creators and performers:** Kaunas Wind Orchestra "Ažuolynas", Kaunas Big Band, Lithuanian Armed Forces Orchestra, Air Force Orchestra, Lithuanian Army Land Forces Orchestra, Lithuanian State Wind Orchestra "Trimitas", Panevėžys Musical Theatre Wind Orchestra "Garsas"

**Organizers:** Kauno santaka

## INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

# Kaunas Choir Days

Fans of choral music are invited to special concerts by Lithuanian and foreign choirs. Together we will celebrate the European Capital of Culture Year in song and communion!

07–09 Oct 2022

Kaunas

[www.countries-and-cultures.org](http://www.countries-and-cultures.org)

**Organizers:** association "Countries & Cultures"

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BALTIC MUSIC DAYS

## Iš arti

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This programme will highlight our shared Baltic community of contemporary music.

11–18 Nov 2022

Kaunas State Philharmonic & elsewhere in Kaunas

[www.kaunofilharmonija.lt](http://www.kaunofilharmonija.lt)

[www.isarti.lt](http://www.isarti.lt)

[www.balticnewmusic.com](http://www.balticnewmusic.com)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Iš Arti, Baltic Contemporary Music Network

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## 22nd International Strindberg Conference

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First held in 1973, this conference honouring the dramaturgical legacy of Swedish writer August Strindberg will convene in Kaunas in 2022.

09–12 June 2022

VMU Faculty of Arts, Muitinės g. 7

[www.menufakultetas.vdu.lt](http://www.menufakultetas.vdu.lt)

[www.auguststrindberg.se/eng](http://www.auguststrindberg.se/eng)

**Organizers:** Strindberg Society (Sweden), Vytautas Magnus University

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## Kaunas Art Book Fair 2022

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For the fourth time, the Kaunas Art Book Fair will bring together the arts publishing community and invite audiences to learn about the most interesting publications and publishers from the past year. This will be a unique opportunity not only to view and purchase art books of exceptional content and design, but also to meet and engage with the artists, designers, and publishers creating these books from Lithuania and abroad.

07–09 Oct 2022

Kaunas Photography Gallery, Vilniaus g. 2

[www.kaunasgallery.lt](http://www.kaunasgallery.lt)

Facebook: [Kaunasgallery.lt](https://www.facebook.com/Kaunasgallery.lt)

**Organizers:** Lithuanian Photographers Association Kaunas Branch

**Partners:** Six Chairs Books

# Kaunas Aviation Festival

An event for aviation enthusiasts and professionals to introduce audiences to the different aspects of this field. From demonstrations by acrobatic and military planes, paragliders, helicopters, balloons, parachutists, and gliders to vintage and model airplanes, this celebration offers a varied and original programme year after year.

July 2022

Kaunas public spaces

[www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt](http://www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt)

Facebook: [kaunokulturoscentras](https://www.facebook.com/kaunokulturoscentras)

**Organizers:** Kaunas Cultural Centre

# Olympic Day 2022

Olympic Day is a massive family-friendly event that promotes sports and a healthy lifestyle. Its mission is to showcase the most diverse sports and give the public an opportunity to try them out and establish contacts with federations, clubs, coaches, and athletes. "Move. Learn. Discover" is the global slogan of Olympic Day, inviting you to be curious and dare to experience the joy of sport. Olympic Day returns to Kaunas after a 7-year break. This worldwide sports festival was last held in Kaunas in 2015.

18 June 2022

Kaunas City Hall Square & Santakos Park

[www.olimpinediena.lt](http://www.olimpinediena.lt)

**Organizers:** Lithuanian National Olympic Committee, Lithuanian Olympic Fund, Kaunas City Municipality

## 56TH INTERNATIONAL DANCE SPORT COMPETITION

# Gintarinė pora 2022

The best pairs of Lithuanian and foreign dance-sport performers take part in this competition every year, dancing to an impressive concert programme and adjudicated by world class judges from at least fifteen countries and presenting an impressive concert programme.

07–08 May 2022

Žalgiris Arena, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 50

[www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt/en](http://www.kaunokulturoscentras.lt/en)

Facebook: [kaunokulturoscentras](https://www.facebook.com/kaunokulturoscentras)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas Cultural Centre, Sports Dance Club "Sūkuryš"



# ETHNIC CULTURAL EVENTS IN KAUNAS AND THE PAKAUNĖ REGION

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## Shrovetide (Mardi Gras) Festival

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We invite you to join us for a raucous celebration of the most authentic Shrovetide (Mardi Gras) traditions at the Lithuanian Folk Museum in Rumšiškės! You'll have the chance to have fun and eat and, most importantly, awaken spring by laughing away the winter. This celebration will culminate in a fierce duel between Lašinis and Kanaipinis and the ceremonial burning of Morė, the personification of Lithuanian winter!

Other events scheduled at the Rumšiškės Lithuanian Folk Museum:

Easter 18 Apr 2022

St. John's Day (Midsummer) 23 Jun 2022

Žolinė (Assumption Day) 15 Aug 2022

Advent Village 03 & 10 Dec 2022

26 Feb 2022

L. Lekavičiaus g. 2, Rumšiškės,  
Kaišiadoriai District

[www.llbm.lt](http://www.llbm.lt)

Facebook: [openairmuseumoflithuania](https://www.facebook.com/openairmuseumoflithuania)



Paid event

**Organizers:** The Open-Air Museum of  
Lithuania

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## NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SENIOR FOLK DANCE GROUPS

## Atdarykim vartelius

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Sept 2022

Garliava, Kaunas District

[www.garliavosko.lt](http://www.garliavosko.lt)

**Organizator:** Garliava Sports and Culture  
Centre, Kaunas District

## INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

# Atataria lamzdžiai

First held in Kaunas in 1984, this festival brings together lovers of authentic folklore and invites audiences to learn more about the treasures of this tradition. The event will feature concert programmes by Lithuanians and other nationalities and will offer practical classes, exhibitions, and evening events – all exploring unique national customs, songs, dances, music, and crafts.

Other events organized by the Kaunas Centre of National Culture:

06 Jan 2022 Three Kings' Day procession, theatrical concert, fireworks and fire show

22 Sept 2022 Baltų raštai (Baltic Patterns), an international festival of youth and children's folklore, commemorating Baltic Unity Day

10 Dec 2022 Už girių girių (Behind the Woods), a special advent concert by Kaunas folklore ensembles

May – June 2022

A. Jakšto g. 18

[www.ktkc.lt](http://www.ktkc.lt)

Facebook: atatarialamzdžiai



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas Centre of National Culture

## THEATRICAL CONCERT BY DANCE AND SONG ENSEMBLES

# Gyvybės medis

The Gyvybės medis (Tree of Life) concert, performed by 1,500 dancers, singers, and musicians from different Lithuanian towns and regions, will highlight the beauty, customs, and traditions of folk music and dance, and celebrate the bonds linking nature, man, and our people. The event will also feature sound, light, and visual projections. Directed and choreographed by Leokadija Dabužinskaitė.

19 Nov 2022

Kaunas Sports Hall, Perkūno al. 5

[www.lnkc.lt](http://www.lnkc.lt)

**Organizers:** Lithuanian National Culture Centre

## FESTIVAL OF LITHUANIA'S DIALECTS

# Tėviškės atradimai

This festival, Tėviškės atradimai (Discovering the Native Land), will bring together Lithuania's many regional dialects to one event. Authors writing in the country's various dialects will present their work.

Other events organized by the Raudondvaris Cultural Centre:

28 May 2022 Ant žemės krašto, a national sung poetry festival

June 2022 Vaikystės ritmu, a national festival of children's Choirs

Nov 2022 Šok, trypk, linksmas būk, a national festival of youth and children's folk dances

31 March – 02 Apr 2022

Instituto g. 1 A.-2, Raudondvaris, Kauno r.

[www.raudondvario.kc.krs.lt](http://www.raudondvario.kc.krs.lt)

**Organizers:** Raudondvaris Culture Centre

## THEATRICAL AND CONCERT PROGRAMME HELD ALONG A NATURE WALK

# Skambantis Kadagių slėnis

Sept 2022

Kadagių Slėnis Path, Kaunas District

*Facebook: Skambantis Kadagių slėnis*

**Organizator:** Kaunas District Samylai Culture Centre

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

# Ka pasėsi... 2022

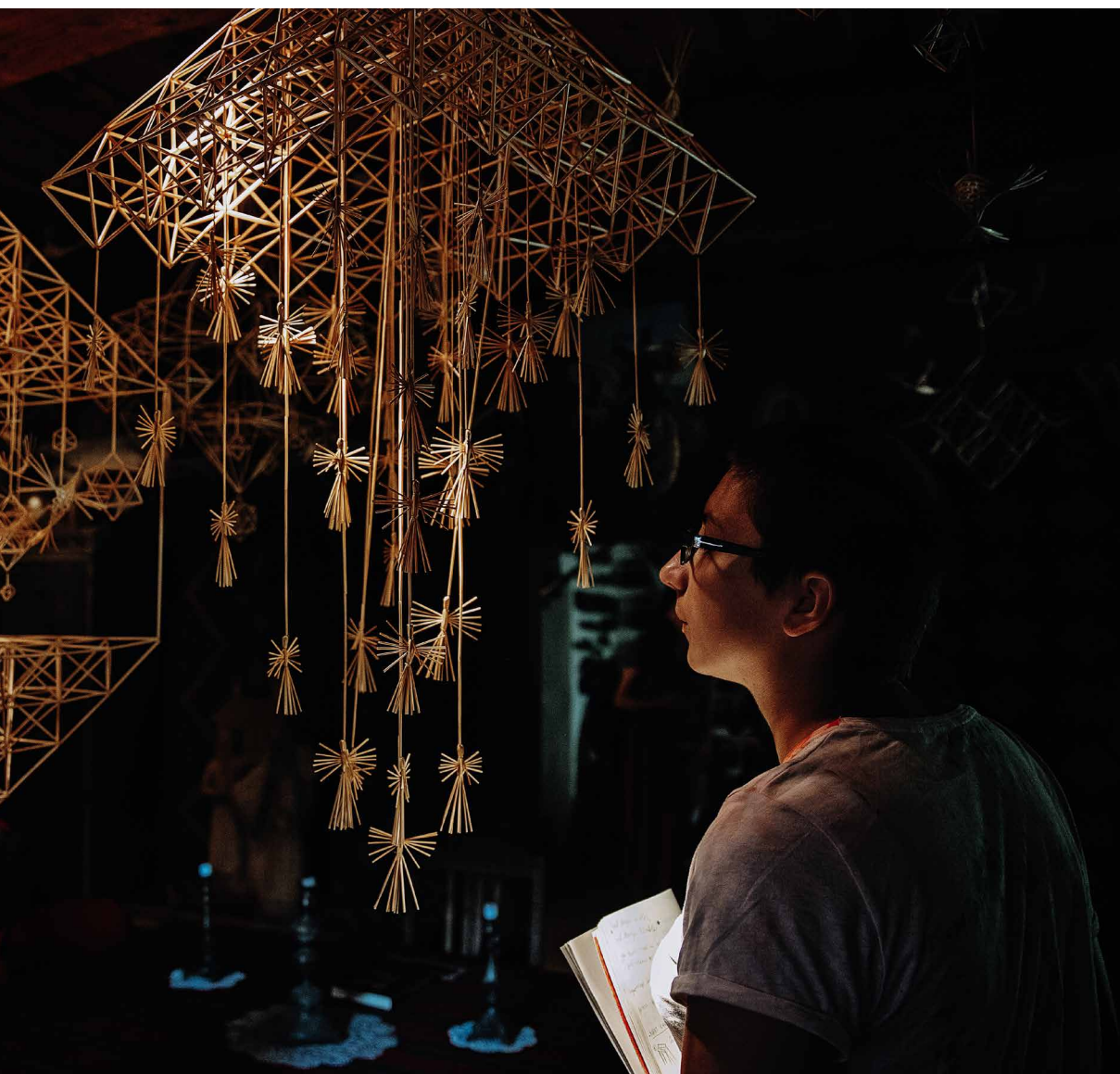
This is the largest exhibition of innovations in agriculture in the Baltic countries and has become a traditional celebration for the farming community. During this event, the town of Akademija transforms into a centre for the sharing of knowledge and innovation for tens of thousands of farmers and agricultural business representatives.

31 March – 02 Apr 2022

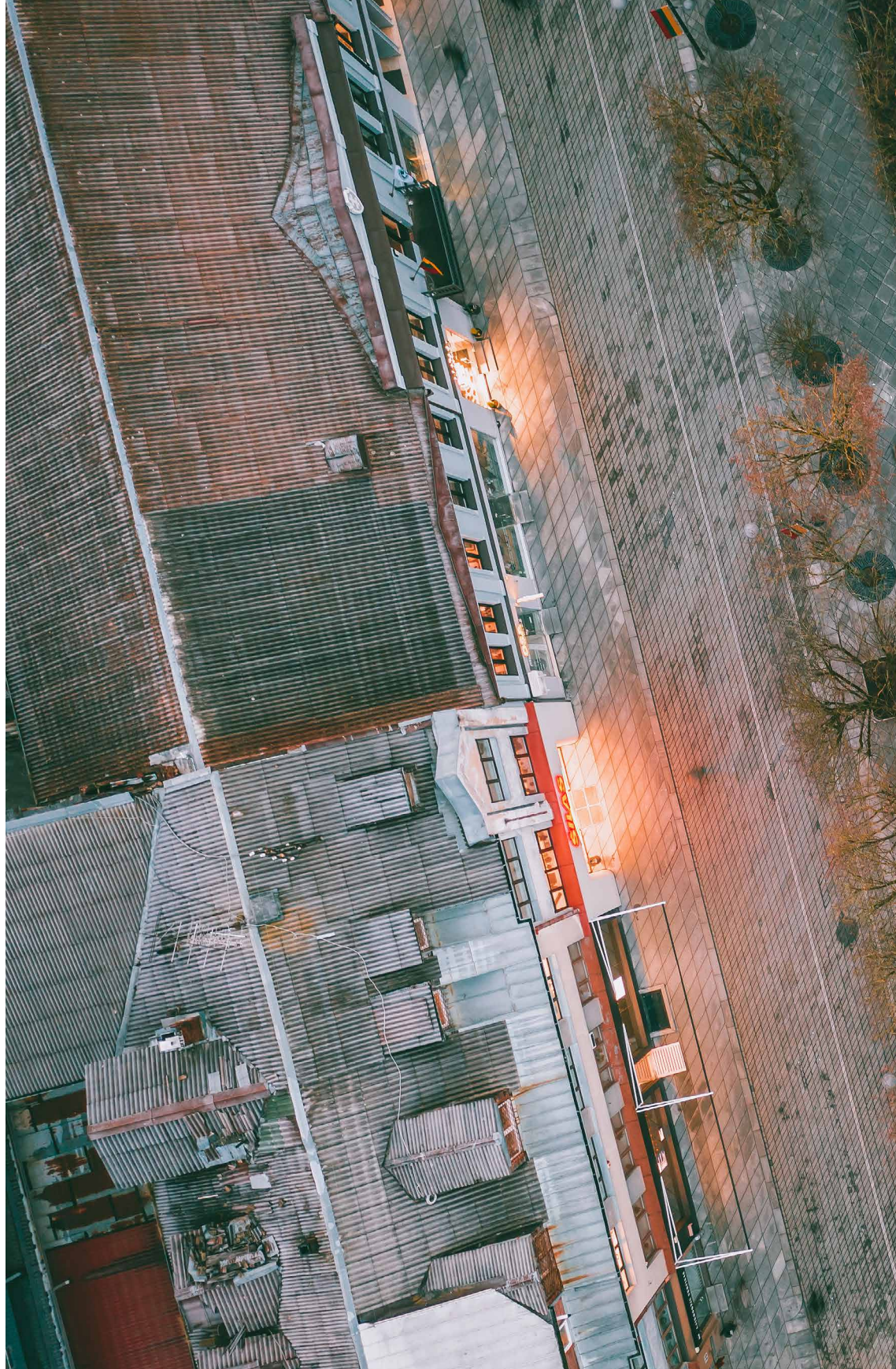
VMU Agriculture Academy,  
Universiteto g. 10B, Akademija,  
Kaunas District

[www.expoacademia.lt](http://www.expoacademia.lt)

**Organizers:** VMU Agriculture Academy  
Business and Social Partnership Centre













# TEMPO ACADEMY OF CULTURE



# The Kaunas European Capital of Culture is a huge educational project

And we mean that literally.

The Tempo Academy of Culture is an informal training programme held during the preparation for Kaunas 2022, bringing together participating organizations and people interested in developing new skills and innovative cultural projects.

Since 2017, the Academy has had 4 different faculties.

A faculty for professionals has been offering one training cycle every year for cultural organizations about how they can expand and strengthen their connection to existing and new audiences.

The youth faculty offers a unique programme called Kaunas Challenge, for school-age students in upper grades. The programme not only helps develop personal team skills but also, with the help of Kaunas 2022 mentors, has created and implemented youth cultural projects.

In classes offered by the community faculty, residents of Kaunas and the Kaunas District have had the opportunity to learn about community-building and neighbourhood activism practices through artistic and cultural activities.

The fourth faculty, volunteering and hospitality, offers introductory leadership training, hospitality classes to help welcome guests to Kaunas, and other essential training for Kaunas 2022 volunteers, whom we call “kultūristai”, or Culturists.

The Tempo Academy of Culture has been attended by tens of cultural institutions, thousands of young people, volunteers, and local residents. This training has been their first step to promoting new activities or changes within their organizations. Through their initiatives, Academy participants have contributed directly to the success of the Kaunas 2022 project and have become the true guarantors of long-term change in our communities and the world of culture.

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**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Impact Foundation (Poland), Kūrybinės jungtys, Tulbos konsultacijos, Sėkmės mokykla

# European Capital of Culture Forum

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This is a unique platform for leaders, academics, cultural professionals, and society at large.

Every year, city mayors, government ministers, university professors, diplomats, institutional leaders, members of the club of Capitals of Culture, community activists, and innovators have taken part in this forum as participants and speakers.

The forum is an influential international event recognized as an important shaper of opinion and policy in capitals of culture, raising important questions pertaining to European culture, policy, and public life.

With such themes as “European Capital of Culture”, “The Human Factor”, and “Culture Under Corona”, the forum has always aspired to be at the forefront of cultural events. It is our team’s fervent hope that the city of Kaunas will preserve this forum as a symbol of Kaunas’ leadership, long after the Capital of Culture programme has come to a close.

18–20 May 2022

Kaunas

[www.forumas.kaunas2022.eu](http://www.forumas.kaunas2022.eu)



With registration

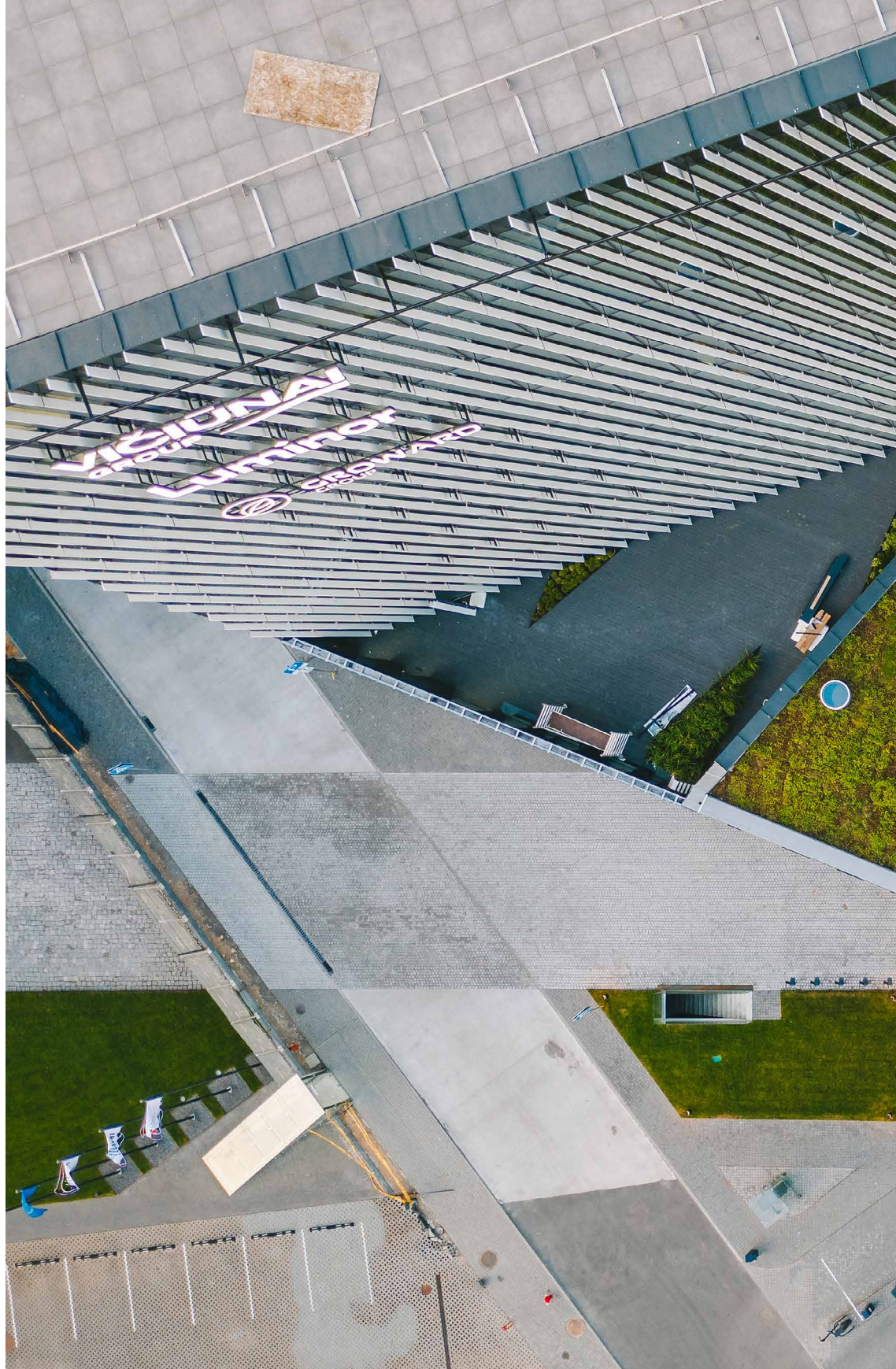
**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

# The Kaunas 2022 European Capital of Culture Forum is the city's effort to participate in building Europe's future



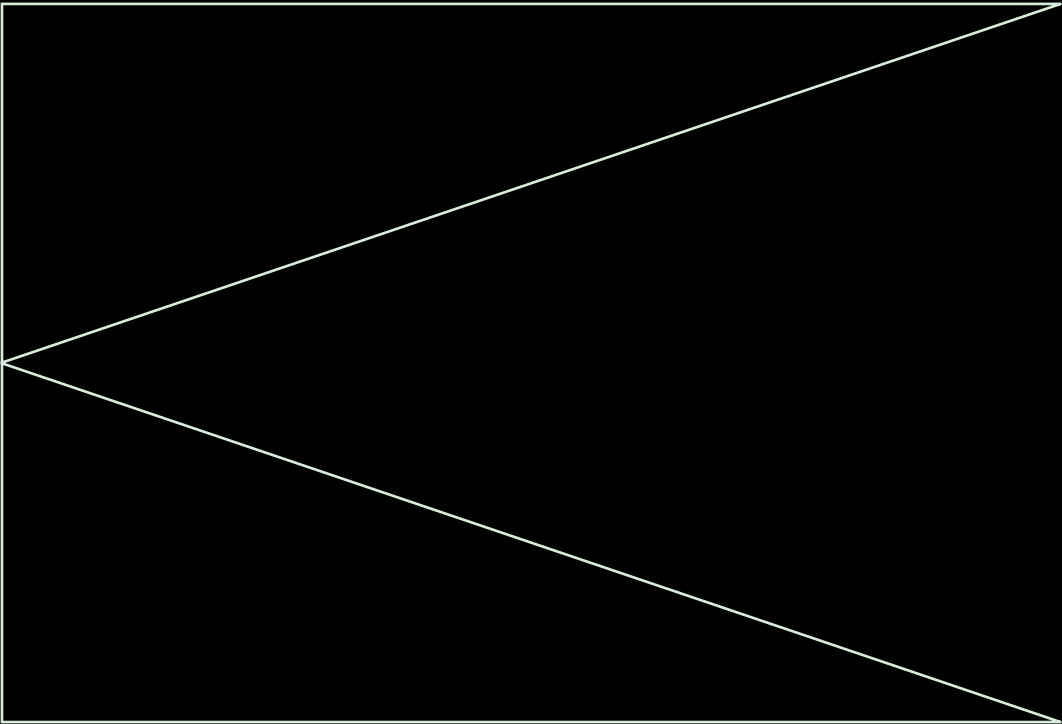


Business Centre in Karaliaus Mindaugo pr.











# THE MYTHICAL BEAST OF KAUNAS



# Creating a contemporary myth of the city

The Mythical Beast of Kaunas is a unique project, never before attempted by a European Capital of Culture. It seeks to create a contemporary urban myth.

This curatorial programme has two goals. First, we want to demonstrate the enormous power of storytelling. Since ancient times, storytelling has been known as a force capable of shaping communities, cities, and countries. In every age, myths and legends have always been used to encourage togetherness, patriotism, and civic-mindedness. Ancient myths later shaped the founding values of the European Union.

The Mythical Beast of Kaunas programme presents an innovation. Myths and legends can still be created now, crafting them for ourselves as cultural tools. These are value tools that promote empathy, a sense of community, respect for one another, and tolerance. And any engaged citizen can participate in the creation of myths and legends.

The stories of the Mythical Beast have become a very successful template that each of us can and has used to understand our city in a contemporary way.

Another goal of the Mythical Beast of Kaunas programme which we have been quite successful in reaching is transforming the Beast into the talisman and fun face of Kaunas 2022. Children in Kaunas have already been drawing, moulding, and constructing the Beast, and families continue to walk over to Kaunas Castle to listen to the Beast snoring somewhere below, or to see the Beast's dungeon beneath the First Fort.

The Kaunas Puppet Theatre has created a show about the Beast's stories, and anyone can read about the Beast's adventures in a specially created storybook. The Beast even has a dedicated website *www.kauno-legenda.lt* with an archive of stories, myths and legends. There is the Beast board game and the Beast perfume... And there's still so much more!

All this was made possible with the help of our wonderful partners and an enormous group of volunteers.

And, in conclusion, I guarantee: the Beast of Kaunas is here to stay forever. He'll be long remembered, tourists will collect his image, and future generations of Kaunasians will hear bedtime stories about the Beast and his adventures in our city.

It will happen.

# MYTH PROGRAMME TOOLS

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# Tales of the Beast of Kaunas

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This book is the Kaunas European Capital of Culture told in tales!

Although it's been created for children, every adult will also find it useful. The book includes the beautiful and mysterious city of Kaunas and the Kaunas District, the people of Kaunas, Kaunas legends, as well as the present and future of Kaunas. It enriches our city, telling a story about the huge Underworld Kaunas beneath our feet and the Sunny Kaunas we care for today. It talks about the Mythical Beast that protects our city, about the Princess of Kaunas, and about the people who once lived in Kaunas and those who live here today. It teaches us to be friendly and civic-minded, how to empathize with and understand our neighbours, and love our city together. *Tales of the Beast of Kaunas* is about about very simple and everyday things, because those are the goals of the Capital of Culture. Culture is the ability to create small miracles in our daily lives.

This book was written by Rytis Zemkauskas and drawn by Darius Petreikis. Darius is also the author of the official "form" of the Beast of Kaunas, after winning an international competition.

This book has been reviewed by educators and is perfect for school and kindergarten programmes. It was presented at the Vilnius Book Fair, where even the President of Lithuania had the chance to read it. The book has been touring our country's embassies abroad, helping them promote Lithuania, because the *Tales of the Beast of Kaunas* is not just a book about Kaunas – it suits any city and can be an example of how to use cultural methods to improve the lives of a city's inhabitants. Which is why a wonderfully translated English version of the book is also now reaching other countries in the European Union.

Simply put, this book **NEEDS TO BE READ**. Those who do, immediately fall in love with it!

This book can be purchased online, as well as at the Kaunas European Capital of Culture office and the Kaunas Tourism Information Centre.

Be sure to get your copy and read it!



## BOARD GAME

# The Beast of Kaunas

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The Beast of Kaunas board game emerged from the Tales of the Beast of Kaunas book.

Available for purchase at:

[www.visit.kaunas.lt/lt/el-parduotuve](http://www.visit.kaunas.lt/lt/el-parduotuve)

The game is based on the characters and stories created in the book, but the game can just as well be played without reading the book. :)

Especially the tale “How the Beast Recognizes a Kaunasian”, where we learn that a real Kaunasian is someone who has secrets. And we can divide the people of Kaunas into several groups: the Secret Keepers, Secret Seekers, Secret Creators, Secret Carriers, and, finally, the Secret Kaunasians. So, once you begin playing, you can choose which group you want to join according to your own likes and character.

This game is the creation of Urtis Šulinskas, a master of board games known throughout Europe. In Germany, his works were awarded the “Game of the Year” prize. While creating the game, Urtis saw Kaunas as a city of many hills and stairs. Every game lover knows that stairs, ladders, and funiculars are great for board games, since they allow players to climb up and sometimes – fall down. The game’s design was created by Darius Petreikis, who’s also responsible for the image of the Beast traveling around the world and into all of our homes.

The Beast of Kaunas game can be played by up to five people and it is suited for all players ages 7 and up. It’s said that it is possible to play the game in about fifteen minutes, but that’s hard to believe, since players usually take longer. Why? Because they read the stories from the book on the playing cards and start to talk about all those secrets and cities...

Oh, and one time around the game board will not be enough. It will enchant you!

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BEAST OF KAUNAS WEBSITE

# *www.kaunolegenda.lt*

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The Beast of Kaunas lives in Underworld Kaunas and emerges at night into Sunny Kaunas to make sure everything in the city is alright. He's rarely seen by anyone, but he does have his own website!

[www.kaunolegenda.lt/en](http://www.kaunolegenda.lt/en)

Here, you'll find everything you ever wanted to know about the Mythical Beast of Kaunas: news, information about the book, the game Kaunas, and the European Capital of Culture. But most importantly – it's also where you can find many, many tales and stories that you won't find anywhere else!

This site includes stories about the Beast and other mythical and real inhabitants of Kaunas, all created by real Kaunasians. People have sent and keep on sending stories, tales, and legends to the site, so it's constantly being updated!

You'll also find a collection of old legends about Kaunas, Vilnius, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, and other Lithuanian cities, not to mention a list and map of other mythical beasts in Europe!

So, visit the site, log in, and explore the site's mazes. It'll put you in a great mood and give you a place to spend time learning all sorts of new things!

And most importantly, maybe you'll be inspired to create new stories and myths about the city!



## THEATRE PLAY

# The Beast of Kaunas

Author and director Andrius Žiurauskas has written and mounted a play especially for the European Capital of Culture. This show is participatory, which means you won't just watch it, you'll become part of the action! The play's characters, Rotušė (City Hall) and Fontanas (Fountain) invite you to learn about the Mythical Beast of Kaunas, who's been napping away in the underworld of the city for hundreds of years. But this Beast likes to play hide-and-seek, so catching a glimpse of him won't be easy. You'll have to smell and hear him and track him down before you can see and touch and, if you're lucky, catch him.

Theatre season 2022

Laisvės al. 87A

[www.kaunoleles.lt](http://www.kaunoleles.lt)

Facebook: [kauno.valstybinis.leliu.teatras](https://www.facebook.com/kauno.valstybinis.leliu.teatras)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas State Puppet Theatre

## THEATRE PLAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

# i'm a beast

This play has been created by two volcanoes of energy: director and set designer Rokas Lažaunykas and writer Sandra Bernotaitė. And not just by them. The play has been created on the basis of "group directing", with an entire team taking part in its creation. It tells the story about the inner Beasts within all of us. How do we identify them? How do we tame them? And how to do we make sure that their energy doesn't destroy us, but instead inspires us to create? The idea of the Mythical Beast of Kaunas will be revelled in this play so that every young person will be able to identify with that idea, so don't miss your chance to see it and follow us for scheduling information.

Theatre season 2022

Laisvės al. 87A

[www.kaunoleles.lt](http://www.kaunoleles.lt)

Facebook: [kauno.valstybinis.leliu.teatras](https://www.facebook.com/kauno.valstybinis.leliu.teatras)



Paid event

**Organizers:** Kaunas State Puppet Theatre

MAGICAL GAME FOR ADULTS

# Meeting the Mythical Beast

Director Greta Gudelytė presents a special creation that has much in common with the idea of the Mythical Beast. Meeting the Mythical Beast, a magical game for adults, was created by combining different, complimentary practices used in psychotherapy and theatre. It's a visual, theatrical, and psychological experiment in which every participant can be drawn into the reality created during the game to better understand the physical and psychological processes taking place within each of them. The Beast of Kaunas is therapeutic. The Beast of Kaunas is our own journey into ourselves. Don't miss your chance to take part in one of only 12 performances!

July – Aug 2022

[www.apeirontheatre.net](http://www.apeirontheatre.net)

Paid event

**Organizers:** Apeiron Theatre



## MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

# Ho Monate / New Day

This is a musical performance on motifs of myths and tales, created jointly by Kgomotso Le Roux from South Africa and Jurga Šeduikytė from Lithuania, and is part of the European Capitals of Culture and African Capitals of Culture (ECoC/ACoC) cooperation programme. The programme's purpose is to create opportunities for female artists from different continents to meet and exchange cultural experiences through co-creation. The pandemic forced the project to be implemented remotely, but this creation by Kgomotso and Jurga will reach audiences for sure, despite the obstacles and distance.

2022

[www.kaunolegenda.lt](http://www.kaunolegenda.lt)**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

## PHOTO INSTALLATION

# Underworld Kaunas

Art photographer Chirag Jindal (India and New Zealand) has created a unique method that makes it possible to see open and closed spaces simultaneously. His method is best illustrated in the concept of Sunny and Underworld Kaunas presented in the book *Tales of the Beast of Kaunas*. Underworld Kaunas means that beneath us there lies another, mysterious city, a mirror image that arouses our curiosity and imagination. With the help of negative, scanning, and lightbox technology, Jindal will give us the chance to "see" Underworld Kaunas and experience an unforgettable adventure.

Nov 2022

Kaunas public spaces



Paid event

**Organizers:** Šviesos raštas

## GAME

# The New Hansa Road

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City games augmented by virtual reality are becoming more and more popular. Having begun with mobile apps for teens, today these games perform a cognitive, touristic, and educational function. The New Hansa Road is an enormous project that combines an online game with mythical stories and characters of Kaunas, cultural sites in Kaunas and the Kaunas District, and museum collections. Players can start the game at home and then embark on a real journey through historic places in Kaunas and the Kaunas District, guided by the Beast. Follow us for more news about this project. The game will be launched online and will be available for download.

2022

[www.kaunas2022.eu](http://www.kaunas2022.eu)**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022

## STREET DANCE SHOW

# Beast of the City

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In this show, director Vykintas Šukys talks about humanity's return to nature. City dwellers often choose artificial comforts and devote less time to walks and spending time outside. So, dancers transformed into beasts will invite everyone to the confluence of the Nemunas and Neris Rivers to get away from the city and, with their own bodies, to feel a change and a return to where we once came from.

The confluence of the Nemunas and Neris Rivers will host a shamanic event, reminding us of ancestral rituals. It's quite possible that here, thousands of years ago, this was how people prepared for the hunt and called on the elements for their favour.

July – Aug 2022

The confluence of Nemunas &amp; Neris Rivers (Kauno santaka)

*Facebook: studijagamers***Organizers:** Gamers Dance Studio, Šokis

# TRACKING THE BEAST

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## The Beast's Bedroom beneath Kaunas Castle

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Since the summer of 2020, anyone who wants to can find out where the Beast of Kaunas sleeps. And hear him snoring! All they need to do is come to the western tower of Kaunas Castle and search for signs there bearing the symbols of Kaunas 2022 and the words: "Here sleeps the Beast of Kaunas. Come to the opening and listen to him snoring. If you can't hear him, he's gone off somewhere – come back later. Just don't make too much noise..."

The west tower of Kaunas Castle, closer to the Neris River



# The Beast's Lair at the Kaunas Fortress

Since May 2021, viewers have been able to visit the First Fort of the Kaunas fortress complex and see an installation called The Beast's Lair, by light artist Linas Kutavičius of Klaipėda. A series of red shields that light up at night lead visitors into the underground beneath the fort – into the realm of the Beast. The installation is not just unique for its use of a special technology to make the shields. The red light of the installation was also chosen because it doesn't disturb the bats living inside the fort. They are the Beast's friends and everyone in the city has to take care of them. You can visit the installation any time of the day. Once you get close to the fort, you'll see the red signs!

Kaunas First Fort, Šiltnamių g., Kazliškiai

**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Kaunas Fortress Park, Lightforms Studio

# The Scent of the Beast of Kaunas

Kaunas has never had its own perfume. But everyone who's ever lived in a city can recognize the scents of a city – scents that can be so different: from bakery-fresh buns to the smells coming from kitchens in apartment buildings. From dandelions by a sidewalk to freshly cut grass in someone's yard. From sewage drains to gasoline and fuel oil. From smoke coming from chimneys in the winter to grills fired in courtyards in the summer. This entire range of city smells has been reflected in a unique project – the Scent of the Beast of Kaunas.

You can catch the strongest version of this scent at the Kaunas 2022 office, and a bit milder one can be purchased as a souvenir! Kaunas has never seen anything like it before!

2022

Kaunas 2022 Office, Laisvės al. 36

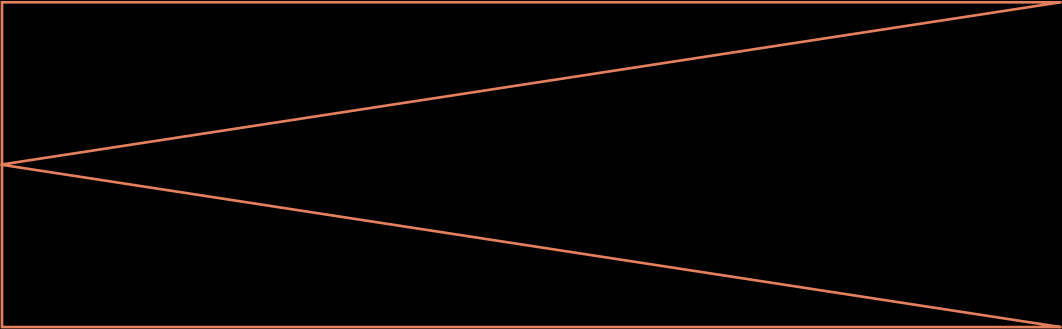
**Organizers:** Kaunas 2022, Eglė Jonaitytė Botanicals



The confluence of Nemunas & Neris







EXPERIENCE  
KAUNAS



# Planning on coming to Kaunas and exploring the Kaunas 2022 programme of events?

We're prepared to welcome you with three different hospitality options.

We've created them knowing that it's no longer enough just to give you a brochure and a tourist map. We know you don't want to hear pretty stories or go on standard tours anymore. We're sure that, just like us, you're no longer interested in the ordinary.

Bed & Culture, Culture Ride, and Culture Host are part of our effort to share with you, our city's guests, the less obvious stories of Kaunas and offer you the opportunity to experience the city through the eyes of those who live here – to see the real Kaunas through the keyhole, encountering things you've never experienced, seen, or heard before.

I myself only moved to Kaunas a few years ago, so I understand that the real beauty of the city may not always be immediately obvious to everyone. But I personally developed a love for it and deep fascination with this city very quickly, and that would never have happened if not for the Kaunas 2022 project bringing me into contact with so many Kaunasians who love their city deeply.

Nearly 1,000 Kaunas 2022 volunteers, local businesspeople, historians, and even taxi drivers have happily joined the hospitality programme to show their love for Kaunas and share their stories and knowledge about the city with everyone visiting the European Capital of Culture.

The formula for our hospitality programme is pretty simple: connect those who want to hear with those who want to tell and present it all in the original format.

So, if you're not satisfied with just Laisvės Alėja and you want to dive deeper into all the interesting aspects of Kaunas, I invite you to book a night at the Art Deco Museum, have a ride in a taxi driven by a guide, or just listen to a story or two told by a real Kaunasian.

I warn you, though once you've encountered Kaunas, you might just want to stay...

I wish you many wonderful impressions!

# BED & CULTURE

Have you always dreamed  
of traveling through time  
or spending a night in a  
museum?

Only during its year as European Capital of Culture will Kaunas 2022 offer you the chance to book accommodations at authentic Airbnb flats that will transport you to one of four different time periods, from the years of the Provisional Capital to contemporary Kaunas.

We'll have something to offer lovers of art deco architecture, fans of the Soviet-era heritage, and anyone who's curious how a typical Kaunas flat might have looked in the 1990s, during the days of wild capitalism.

Or maybe you'd like to experience how a contemporary Kaunasian lives?

Every trip through time in these apartments will not only feature authentic interiors, but also typical objects, sounds, and even tastes from the period.

This is an experiential experiment that invites you to not only see, but also live history and culture. Choose your apartment experience here:

[www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas)





# CULTURE RIDE

What professional knows his or her city the best and can tell the most surprising stories about it? Well, drivers, of course.

During Kaunas' year as European Capital of Culture, you don't have to ride in just any old taxi – you can call a Culture Ride! Short on time? Feeling a chill? Or maybe you've just walked a bit too much today? A Culture Ride

can transport you comfortably along a route of your choosing to explore a side of Kaunas you'll never see in a textbook or brochure... Hop in and take a ride to culture!

Find out how to hail your own Culture Ride here:

[www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas)

**Partners:** BOLT, Showaround



# CULTURE HOST

When you arrive in the city and you want to discover less-travelled paths or the latest cool spots, but you're still shy about asking someone on the street – just ask a Culture Host.

Our hosts are a group of friendly, local Kaunasians ready to open the doors of their city to everyone visiting the Capital of Culture and show them Kaunas through the eyes of a local.

Interested in street art, modernist architecture, or just finding the most delicious donut in town? Each Culture Host can share their own unique story with you – so all you have to do is find a likeminded new friend and the key to unlocking the most interesting way to explore the Contemporary Capital will be right there in your hand.

Experience Kaunasian hospitality and meet your own Culture Host here:

[www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas)

**Partners:** Showaround

# CULTURISTS – KAUNAS 2022 VOLUNTEERS

If you get to an event and you catch a glimpse of a bright-coloured jacket and a big smile, that means you've met a Culturist – a Kaunas 2022 volunteer. Don't be afraid to ask them anything!

Nearly 1,000 like-minded Kaunasians have joined this project to create positive change in their city and stand ready at the most important posts in the city during its time as European Capital of Culture, so that Kaunasians and their guests would have the best experience possible.

In 2019, we began calling our volunteers "Culturists", which in Lithuanian sounds a bit like our word for bodybuilder, since they started training their "cultural muscles" in

various classes to teach them more about the city, leadership, and hospitality, so that we could all raise the European Capital of Culture project to the next level.

Our volunteers are students and seniors, programmers and guides – people with all sorts of skills and different backgrounds, but most importantly, they are our friends and one big family, all coming together for one purpose: to transform their city into a contemporary European Capital of Culture.

Maybe you want to become a co-creator of change? Join us!

[www.kulturistai2022.eu](http://www.kulturistai2022.eu)





# USEFUL LINKS

## Mobile app “Kaunas 2022”

Look for mobile app “Kaunas 2022” on Google Play and the App Store.

## Kaunas 2022 info point

This is the information centre for Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022, where we can answer any of your questions about the programme and help you choose the events of greatest interest to you. You'll also be able to find the latest information about the programme, peruse our publications, and purchase souvenirs.

Laisvės al. 36, Kaunas  
I–V 9:00–18:00  
+370 617 86632  
*info@kaunas2022.eu*  
*www.kaunas2022.eu*  
*Facebook: Kaunas 2022*  
*@kaunas2022*

## Kaunas 2022 Tempo space

A youth space where you will find exhibitions, installations, concerts, and other initiatives.

M. Daukšos g. 34, Kaunas  
I–V 9:00–18:00  
+370 617 86632  
*Facebook: Tempo erdvė*  
*@TEMPO2022*

## Kaunas Tourism Information Centre

Rotušės a. 15, Kaunas  
I–V 9:00–18:00  
VI 10:00–16:00  
VII 10:00–15:00  
+370 616 23828  
*info@kaunas.lt*  
*www.visit.kaunas.lt*  
*Facebook: Kaunastika, It's Kaunastic*  
*@kaunastika*  
*@kaunastic*

## Kaunas District Tourism and Business Information Centre

Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, Kaunas District  
I–V 8:30–17:00  
VI–VII 10:00–17:00  
+370 699 48833  
+370 640 41855  
*info@kaunorajonas.lt*  
*www.kaunorajonas.lt*  
*Facebook: Kauno rajonas*

## Transportation in Kaunas

### Public transport

Kaunas is served by city buses and trolleybuses.

Schedules are available on the “Trafi” mobile app and at [www.stops.lt/kaunas](http://www.stops.lt/kaunas)

Tickets can be purchased through the “Žiogas” mobile app.

### Bicycles

Kaunas has a well-developed network of bicycle paths.

Bicycles and scooters can be rented using the CityBee and Bolt mobile apps.

Check also: [www.likebike.kaunas.lt](http://www.likebike.kaunas.lt)

### Car Sharing

If you're in a rush, hail a taxi from eTaksi, eTransport, GoFast, Bolt, City Bee and other carriers.

### Social Taxi

We're doing everything we can to ensure that the European Capital of Culture events are not only interesting, but also as accessible as possible. Which is why people of different needs will be able to attend the main Kaunas 2022 events by using special transportation free of charge and receiving friendly assistance services upon arriving to, during, and departing from their chosen events, thanks to our partners at Social Taxi and their specially trained volunteer Culturists.

For more information, visit:  
[www.kaunas2022.eu/en](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en)

## Transportation in the Kaunas District

### Public Transport

Kaunas and the Kaunas District are regularly served by inter-city buses.

For schedules, visit [www.marsrutai.lt](http://www.marsrutai.lt)

Schedules and tickets can also be obtained using the mobile app “autobusubilietai.lt” or by visiting [www.autobusubilietai.lt](http://www.autobusubilietai.lt)

### Bikes

The Kaunas District has an extensive network of bicycle trails:

[bit.ly/DviraciaiRajone](https://bit.ly/DviraciaiRajone)

### Water transport

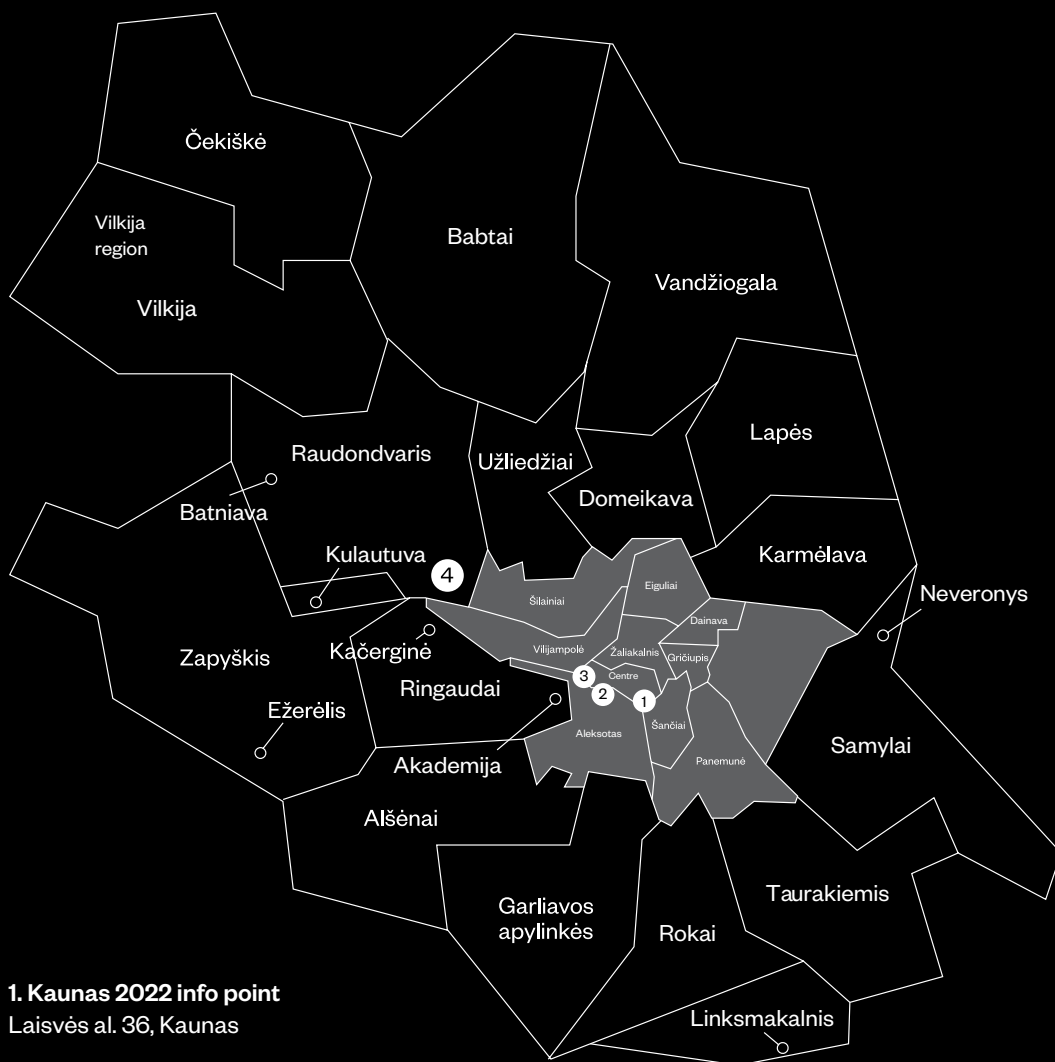
The Kaunas District has also been developing water tourism on the Nemunas River. Boat service is available to Kulautuva, Kačerginė, Zapyškis, Vilkija, the Raudondvaris estate, and Kadagių Valley.

[www.kaunorajonas.lt/laivai](http://www.kaunorajonas.lt/laivai)

Pakaunė has the only ferry service across the Nemunas River in Lithuania, connecting Vilkija and Pavilkija (Šakiai District) on the Vilkynė ferry.

[www.kaunorajonas.lt/lankytinos-vietos/vilkijos-keltas-vilkyne](http://www.kaunorajonas.lt/lankytinos-vietos/vilkijos-keltas-vilkyne)

# MAP OF KAUNAS AND THE KAUNAS DISTRICT



## 1. Kaunas 2022 info point

Laisvės al. 36, Kaunas

## 2. Kaunas 2022 Tempo space

M. Daukšos g. 34, Kaunas

## 3. Kaunas Tourism Information Centre

Rotušės a. 15, Kaunas

## 4. Kaunas District Tourism and Business Information Centre

Pilies takas 1, Raudondvaris, Kaunas District

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

## OCTOBER

Oct 2021  
Kaunas City Chamber Theatre

Prodiusai CoLab. Joan's Decision, a theatre play

## NOVEMBER

From 05 Nov 2021  
Various places in Kaunas

MagiC Carpets Landed, an exhibition

From 12 Nov 2021  
Various places in Kaunas

13th Kaunas Biennial: Once Upon Another Time...  
gyveno jie jau kitaip

Nov 2021  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition

## DECEMBER

Dec 2021  
Various places in Kaunas

MagiC Carpets Landed, an exhibition

Dec 2021  
Various places in Kaunas

13th Kaunas Biennial: Once Upon Another Time...  
gyveno jie jau kitaip"

Dec 2021  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition



# 2022 JANUARY

06 Jan 2022  
Kaunas

Three Kings' Day procession, concert and show

18 Jan 2022  
Kaunas Photography Gallery

Presentation of the 6th edition of *J*, a special magazine for Kaunas. A City's Futures

**19–23 Jan 2022**  
**Various places in Kaunas & Kaunas District**

**From Temporary to Contemporary. The Confusion**

From 20 Jan 2022  
Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty

Arterija, an arts space. Opening

From 21 Jan 2022  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art

That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge

From 22 Jan 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office

Modernism for the Future 360/365, an international exhibition

From 22 Jan 2022  
Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch

Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition

From 22 Jan 2022  
Meno Parkas Gallery

Mechanics of Tomorrow's World, an exhibition by Feipel&Bechameil

Up to 23 Jan 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono

Jan 2022  
Kaunas City Chamber Theatre

MagiC Carpets Landed, an exhibition

Jan 2022  
A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum

Prodiusai CoLab. A Dance That Isn't There, a theatre play

Jan 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition

Jan 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

13th Kaunas Biennial: Once Upon Another Time... gyveno jie jau kitaip"

Jan 2022  
Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy  
Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas  
University of Applied Sciences Art Academy

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and retrospective exhibition

# FEBRUARY

16 Feb 2022  
Žalgiris Arena

University of Lithuania Centennial Celebration

18–20 Feb 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

The Assembly Kaunas, a documentary theatre play

Up to 20 Feb 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

13th Kaunas Biennial: Once Upon Another Time...  
gyveno jie jau kitaip

26 Feb 2022  
The Open-Air Museum of Lithuania,  
Rumšiškės

Shrovetide (Mardi Gras) Festival

Up to 27 Feb 2022  
Meno Parkas Gallery

Mechanics of Tomorrow's World, an exhibition by  
Feipel&Bechameil

Feb 2022  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum  
of Art

That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by  
William Kentridge

Feb 2022  
A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum

ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition

Feb 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office

Modernism for the Future 360/365, an international  
exhibition

Feb 2022  
Shop windows in Laisvės al. &  
around

Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary,  
an exhibition

Feb 2022  
Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch

Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono

Feb 2022  
Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas  
Faculty

Arterija, an arts space

Feb 2022  
Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy  
Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas  
University of Applied Sciences Art  
Academy

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a  
Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and  
retrospective exhibition

Feb 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition

# MARCH

17–20 March 2022  
Vytautas Magnus University

On Happiness. Presuppositions 2022. Communities, an international congress

20 March 2022  
Kaunas, Kaunas District & all Lithuania

International Day of Happiness

From 31 March 2022  
Raudondvaris Culture Centre, Kaunas District

Tėviškės atradimai, a festival of Lithuania's dialects

From 31 March 2022  
VMU Agriculture Academy

Ką pasėsi... 2022, an international agricultural exhibition

March 2022  
A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum

ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition

March 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office

Modernism for the Future 360/365, an international exhibition

March 2022  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art

That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge

March 2022  
Vytautas Magnus University

Francophonie Month

March 2022  
Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around

Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition

March 2022  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

Memory of Being, an exhibition by Marina Abramović

March 2022  
Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch

Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono

March 2022  
Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty

Arterija, an arts space

March 2022  
Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences Art Academy

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and retrospective exhibition

March 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition

March  
Karmėlava, Kaunas District

Kino Pavasaris Pop-up Cinema

# APRIL

Up to 02 Apr 2022  
VMU Agriculture Academy

Ką pasėsi... 2022, an international agricultural exhibition

Up to 02 Apr 2022  
Raudondvaris Culture Centre,  
Kaunas District

Tėviškės atradimai, a festival of Lithuania's dialects

Up to 10 Apr 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office

Modernism for the Future 360/365, an international exhibition

13 Apr 2022  
Kaunas Photography Gallery

Book of Kaunas City and District Cultural Subscribers 2022. Presentation

From 15 Apr 2022  
Cinema "Romuva"

European Film Journeys, a programme

18 Apr 2022  
Kaunas Cultural Centre

Kaunas Gospel & Worship Festival

18 Apr 2022  
Open-Air Museum of Lithuania,  
Rumšiškės

Easter

20 Apr 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Jonas Jurašas. Barbora Radvilaitė in 1972, a discussion evening

19–21 Apr 2022  
Šilainiai Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Šilainiai

21 Apr 2022  
Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas  
Faculty

Arterija, an arts space. Opening of new cycle

21–23 Apr 2022  
Kaunas Cultural Centre

Kauno Rampa 2022, 47th Amateur Theatre Festival

From 22 Apr 2022  
Various places in Kaunas, Kaunas  
District & elsewhere in Lithuania

Kaunas Jazz 2022, international jazz festival



23 Apr 2022  
Baltų pr.

Šilainiai Urban Eco Festival

From 25 Apr 2022  
Kaunas

Days of Japan in Kaunas "WA!"

From 26 Apr 2022  
Meno Parkas Gallery & Balta  
Gallery

Exhibition of Japanese and Lithuanian contemporary  
textile art

From 29 Apr 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

Live Letters, a children's book festival

Apr 2022  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum  
of Art

That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition  
by William Kentridge

Apr 2022  
Temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Art  
Gallery & MO Museum in Vilnius

Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains, an exhibition

Apr 2022  
A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum

ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition

Apr 2022  
Kaunas & Kaunas District

World Music Concert Series

Apr 2022  
Shop windows in Laisvės al. &  
around

Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary,  
an exhibition

Apr 2022  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

Memory of Being, an exhibition by Marina Abramović

Apr 2022  
Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch

Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono

Apr 2022  
Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy  
Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas  
University of Applied Sciences Art  
Academy

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a  
Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and  
retrospective exhibition

Apr 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition

# MAY

01 May 2022  
Kaunas

Live Letters, a children's book festival

01 May 2022  
Kaunas, Kaunas District & other cities in  
Lithuania

Kaunas Jazz 2022, international jazz festival

01 May 2022  
Kaunas

Days of Japan in Kaunas "WA!"

01, 08, 15 May 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Tour series in modernist buildings

04–08 May 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

Kaunas Literature Week, an international festival  
of writers and books

05–09 May 2022  
Kaunas public spaces

Kaunas BandFest, a festival of orchestras, bands,  
and musical ensembles

07–08 May 2022  
Žalgiris Arena

Gintarinė pora 2022, 56th International Dance  
Sport Competition

From 12 May 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office

1972: Breaking Through the Wall, an exhibition

05 May 2022  
Laisvės al.

Made in Kaunas, a concert

13–14 May 2022  
Vytautas Magnus University

Forgiving or Forgetting – Dealing with the Painful  
Past, an international conference

13–15 May 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Kalanta, a theatre play

14 May 2022  
Kaunas State Musical theater

Rock Opera for Romas Kalanta

18–20 May 2022  
Kaunas

European Capital of Culture Forum

20 May 2022  
Laisvės al. & Vilniaus g.

Courtyard Festival

**20–22 May 2022**  
**Confluence of Nemunas and Neris**  
**& various places by the rivers in**  
**Kaunas & Kaunas District**

**From Temporary to Contemporary.**  
**The Confluence**

20–24 May 2022 Kaunas State Puppet Theatre	The Kaunas Puppet 22 International Puppetry Festival
21 May 2022 Putvinskio g.	Putvinskio Street Day 2022
21 May 2022 Neris and Nemunas rivers	Celebrate the River
21–22 May 2022 Cinema "Romuva"	Capital of Culture Classes. The Vladislovas Starevičius Animation Weekend
22 May 2022 Left bank of Nemunas in Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Nemuno7, the great ship of culture. Opening
22 May 2022 Next to Zapyškis Church of St. John the Baptist, Kaunas District	Between Earth and Sky, kite Festival
23–29 May 2022 Kaunas	Taxi, a documentary theatre performance
26 May 2022 Kaunas St. Peter and Paul Cathedral Basilica	Closing Concert of the Laudate Pueri 2022 International Festival of Sacred Music
From 27 May 2022 Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum	Spaces / Overcome Distances, an exhibition
28 May 2022 Raudondvaris Culture Centre, Kaunas District	Ant žemės krašto, national sung poetry festival
Up to 30 May 2022 Meno Parkas Gallery & Balta Gallery	Exhibition of Japanese and Lithuanian contemporary textile art
May 2022 M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
May 2022 Temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery & MO Museum in Vilnius	Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains, an exhibition
May 2022 Vytautas Magnus University	T4E Festival of European Culture
May 2022 Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around	Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition
May 2022 Kaunas Picture Gallery	Memory of Being, an exhibition by Marina Abramović

May 2022 Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch	Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono
May 2022 Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty	Arterija, an arts space
May 2022 Kaunas	Mystical Connection, an event series
May 2022 Kalniečių Park	Kalniečių Park Reading Room. Opening
May 2022 Kaunas, Esch sur Alzette & Brussels South Railway Stations	(con)Temporary Music Train, a project
May 2022 Kaunas City Hall Square	Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage
May 2022 A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum	ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition
May 2022 Various places in Kaunas	Archi/Texture: A Sensory Pavilion
May 2022 Kaunas	Architecture of Lust, an exhibition and study
May 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	World Music Concert Series
May 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	Roberto Magro's Contemporary Circus Show
May 2022 Cinema "Romuva"	European Film Journeys, a programme
May 2022 Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences Art Academy	The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and retrospective exhibition
May 2022 National Kaunas Drama Theatre	Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition
May 2022 Kaunas Centre of National Culture	Atataria lamzdžiai, international folklore festival



# JUNE

01–04 June 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Dive into the Theatre, an international educational theatre festival for children and youth

From 02 June 2022  
Various places in Kaunas District

Akacijų alėja, a festival of sung poetry

From 03 June 2022  
Reclaimed places in Kaunas

Reclamation, an exhibition

03–05 June 2022  
Taurakiemis, Kaunas District

Kaunas Gospel & Worship Festival

03–05 June 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

Optimismo, a musical programme

From 05 June 2022  
Pažaislis Monastery and elsewhere in Kaunas & Kaunas District

Pažaislis Music Festival

07–09 June 2022  
Eigulių Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Eiguliai

09–12 June 2022  
Kaunas

Kaunas Cantat – Kaunas Sings, a choir music festival

09–12 June 2022  
VMU Faculty of Arts

22nd International Strindberg Conference

10–12 June 2022  
Draugystės g. 8E

An interactive cultural and local creative game

11 June 2022  
Eiguliai Microdistrict

Resounding Walls, a musical tour

11 June 2022  
Kulautuva, Kaunas District

Contemporary Elderships. Kulautuva

12 June 2022  
Raudondvaris Manor Art Incubator, Kaunas District

Kirana, a children's opera

14–16 June 2022  
Dainava Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Dainava

17 June 2022  
Raudondvaris, Kaunas District

Contemporary Elderships. Raudondvaris

18 June 2022  
Draugystės Park

Dainava in Action. Midsummer Spells, a mystery play

18 June 2022  
Town Hall Square, Santakos Park

Olympic Day 2022

18 June 2022  
Vienybės Square

jazzXchange, a jazz project by the three 2022 European Capitals of Culture

18–19 June 2022  
Various places in Kaunas & Kaunas District

Kaunas 2022 Jazz Stops

23 June 2022  
The Open-Air Museum of Lithuania, Rumšiškės

St. John's Day (Midsummer)

24–26 June 2022  
Šančiai Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Šančiai

24–26 June 2022  
Šančiai Microdistrict

Šančiai Festival

From 20 June 2022  
Kaunas University of Technology

Modernism for the Future. Interpretations, an international conference

From 29 June 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Audra, Contemporary City Festival

From 29 June 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Audra, Contemporary City Festival. Gamers City Battle 2022, a street dance event

From 29 June 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Audra, Contemporary City Festival. Eye-Net 2.0, a theatre play

From 30 June 2022  
Karmėlava, Kaunas District

Contemporary Elderships. Karmėlava

From 30 June 2022  
Karmėlava, Kaunas District

The Street Rock Festival of Rock Culture

June 2022 A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum	ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition
June 2022 Kaunas	Archi/Texture: A Sensory Pavilion
June 2022 Cinema "Romuva"	Pleats / Folds, a premiere of film about Kaunas Modernism
June 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	World Music Concert Series
June 2022 M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
June 2022 Kaunas Central Post Office	1972: Breaking Through the Wall, an exhibition
June 2022 Temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery & MO Museum in Vilnius	Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains, an exhibition
June 2022 Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum	Spaces / Overcome Distances, an exhibition
June 2022 A. Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum / Devil's Museum	Exhibition of paintings by Simon Karozmar
June 2022 Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around	Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition
June 2022 Nemunas & Neris rivers & their banks	Upynės. On the Opposite Shore, a socially engaging game
June 2022 Ežerėlis, Kaunas District	Contemporary Elderships. Ežerėlis
June 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	A Path of Emerald, a public art project
June 2022 Left bank of Nemunas in Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Nemuno7, the great ship of culture

June 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	Roberto Magro's Contemporary Circus Show
June 2022 Kaunas Picture Gallery	Memory of Being, an exhibition by Marina Abramović
June 2022 Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch	Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono
June 2022 Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty	Arterija, an arts space
June 2022 Cinema "Romuva"	European Film Journeys, a programme
June 2022 Vilnius Art ir National Kaunas Drama Theatre	Love in Love, a modern dance show
June 2022 Kaunas City Hall Square	Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage
June 2022 Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences Art Academy	The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and retrospective exhibition
June 2022 Raudondvaris Culture Centre, Kaunas District	Vaikystės ritmu, national festival of children's choirs
June 2022 National Kaunas Drama Theatre	Jonas Jurašas. The Price of Existence, an exhibition
June 2022 Kaunas Centre of National Culture	Atataria lamzdžiai, international folklore festival



# JULY

Up to 01 July 2022  
Kaunas University of Technology

Modernism for the Future. International  
Modernism Summer School

Up to 03 July 2022  
Karmėlava, Kaunas District

The Street Rock Festival of Rock Culture

Up to 03 July 2022  
Karmėlava, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Karmėlava

Up to 03 July 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Audra, Contemporary City Festival

Up to 03 July 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Audra, Contemporary City Festival. Gamers City  
Battle 2022, a street dance event

Up to 03 July 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Audra, Contemporary City Festival. Eye-Net 2.0,  
a theatre play

05-06 July 2022  
Next to Kaunas Castle

Operetta at Kaunas Castle, an international music  
festival

05-07 July 2022  
Panemunė Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Panemunė

06 July 2022  
Raudondvaris Manor Park, Kaunas  
District

Coronation of King Mindaugas Day / National  
Celebration in Raudondvaris

07-08 July 2022  
Kaunas, Kaunas District & other cities in  
Lithuania

Kaunas Jazz 2022, international jazz festival

Up to 09 July 2022  
Various places in Kaunas District

Akacijų alėja, a festival of sung poetry

09 July 2022  
Panemunė Forest

Forest of the Senses, a festival

13-14, 16 July 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Culture to the Courtyards: Centras

From 14 July 2022  
Kaunas

CityTelling festival. The Journey, an exhibition by  
Marilia Destot

16 July 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Courtyard Stories, a festival

16 July 2022 Next to Kaunas ghetto memorial and next to Kaunas Ninth Fort	The Path of Reconciliation, a procession, and Nabucco by Giuseppe Verdi
19–21 July 2022 Gričiupio Microdistrict	Culture to the Courtyards: Gričiupis
From 21 July 2022 Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty	Arterija, an arts space. Opening of new cycle
21–24 July 2022 Kaunas Centre	CityTelling Festival. Threshold, a public art installation. Presentation
23 July 2022 Kovo 11-osios Park	Just Come, a poetry festival
23 July 2022 Vilkija, Kaunas District	Contemporary Eldershops. Vilkija
July 2022 A. and P. Galaunė House-Museum	ARNO FUNKtionalism, an exhibition
July 2022 Reclaimed places in Kaunas	Reclamation, an exhibition
July 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	World Music Concert Series
July 2022 M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
July 2022 Kaunas Central Post Office	1972: Breaking Through the Wall, an exhibition
July 2022 Temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery & MO Museum in Vilnius	Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains, an exhibition
July 2022 Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum	Spaces / Overcome Distances, an exhibition
July 2022 A. Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum / Devil's Museum	Exhibition of paintings by Simon Karczmar
July 2022 Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around	Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition
July 2022 Nemunas & Neris rivers & their banks	Upynės. On the Opposite Shore, a socially engaging game
July 2022 Babtai, Kaunas District	Contemporary Eldershops. Babtai

July 2022  
Various places in Kaunas District

A Path of Emerald, a public art project

July 2022  
Left bank of Nemunas in Zapyškis,  
Kaunas District

Nemuno7, the great ship of culture

July 2022  
Various places in Kaunas District

Roberto Magro's Contemporary Circus Show

July 2022  
Tadas Ivanauskas Obelynė Estate  
Memorial Museum, Kaunas District

Honorata Evenings in Obelynė, a series of musical  
and literary events

July 2022  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

Memory of Being, an exhibition by Marina  
Abramović

July 2022  
Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch

Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono

July 2022  
Pažaislis Monastery and elsewhere in  
Kaunas & Kaunas District

Pažaislis Music Festival

July 2022  
Kaunas & Kaunas District

Kaunas Piano Fest, a music festival

July 2022  
Vilnius Art & National Kaunas Drama  
Theatre

Love in Love, a modern dance show

June 2022  
Kaunas City Hall Square

Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage

July 2022  
[www.apeirontheatre.net](http://www.apeirontheatre.net)

Meeting the Mythical Beast, a magical game for  
adults

July 2022  
The confluence Nemunas & Neris rivers  
(Kauno santaka)

Beast of the City, a street dance show

July 2022  
Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas  
Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University  
of Applied Sciences Art Academy

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in  
a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference  
and retrospective exhibition

July 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

Kaunas Aviation Festival

July 2022  
Zapyškis, Kaunas District

Flowing Connections / Power of Water, an  
exhibition by OSTRALÉ Biennial

# AUGUST

02–04 Aug 2022  
Žaliakalnis Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Žaliakalnis

01–21 Aug 2022  
Kaunas & Kaunas District

The ConTempo International Festival of  
Performing Arts

06 Aug 2022  
Žaliakalnis Microdistrict

Step by Step, a tour and dance production

08–14 Aug 2022  
Kaunas Cultural Centre

Tribune // Dance yourself!, a contemporary dance

09–11 Aug 2022  
Petrašiūnai Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Petrašiūnai

14 Aug 2022  
R. Kalantos g. 124

Kaunas Lagoon Celebration

15 Aug 2022  
M. K. Ciurlionis National Museum of Art

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in  
a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference  
and retrospective exhibition

15 Aug 2022  
The Open-Air Museum of Lithuania,  
Rumšiškės

Žolinė (Assumption Day)

16–18 Aug 2022  
Vilijampolė Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Vilijampolė

19, 20, 23 Aug 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre &  
Čekiškė, Kaunas District

The Tower of Babel, an interactive theatre play for  
young people

19–21 Aug 2022  
Drained places in Kaunas

Critical Induction, the urban architecture  
symposium

20 Aug 2022  
Vilijampolė Microdistrict

Under the Carpet, an installation

20 Aug 2022  
Lampėdis Lake, Neris Krantinės Park

Culturethon, a festival of sport and art

Up to 23 Aug 2022  
Reclaimed places in Kaunas

Reclamation, an exhibition

27 Aug 2022  
Bay of Samylai, Šlienava, Kaunas  
District

Footsteps at the Bottom of the Lagoon,  
a festival



Up to 28 Aug 2022 Pažaislis Monastery and elsewhere in Kaunas & Kaunas District	Pažaislis Music Festival
Up to 28 Aug 2022 Kaunas	CityTelling festival. The Journey, an exhibition by Marilia Destot
Aug 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	World Music Concert Series
Aug 2022 Kaunas Central Post Office	1972: Breaking Through the Wall, an exhibition
Aug 2022 M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
Aug 2022 Temporary M. K. Čiurlionis Art Gallery & MO Museum in Vilnius	Kaunas-Vilnius: Moving Mountains, an exhibition
Aug 2022 Gimnazijos g. 2/4	CityTelling Festival. Out of Darkness, an exhibition
Aug 2022 Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre and elsewhere in Kaunas	CityTelling Festival. Litvak music programme
Aug 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	CityTelling Festival. A Half, a documentary theatre play
Aug 2022 A. Žmuidzinavičius Creations and Collections Museum / Devil's Museum	Exhibition of paintings by Simon Karczmar
Aug 2022 Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum	Spaces / Overcome Distances, an exhibition
Aug 2022 Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around	Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition
Aug 2022 Nemunas & Neris rivers & their banks	Upynės. On the Opposite Shore, a socially engaging game
Aug 2022 Third Fort of Kaunas Fortress	Contemporary Elderships. Garliava region
Aug 2022 Ringaudai, Kaunas District	Contemporary Elderships. Ringaudai

Aug 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	A Path of Emerald, a public art project
Aug 2022 Left bank of Nemunas in Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Nemuno7, the great ship of culture
Aug 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	Roberto Magro's Contemporary Circus Show
Aug 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	The Joint Lithuanian Klezmer Orchestra's Kaunas District tour
Aug 2022 Tadas Ivanauskas Obelynė Estate Memorial Museum, Kaunas District	Honorata Evenings in Obelynė, a series of musical and literary events
Aug 2022 Kaunas District	Mikado, a dance performance
Aug 2022 Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch	Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono
Aug 2022 Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty	Arterija, an arts space
Aug 2022 Kaunas City Hall Square	Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage
Aug 2022 <i>www.apeirontheatre.net</i>	Meeting the Mythical Beast, a magical game for adults
Aug 2022 The confluence Nemunas & Neris rivers (Kauno santaka)	Beast of the City, a street dance show
Aug 2022 Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences Art Academy	The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and retrospective exhibition
Aug 2022 Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Flowing Connections / Power of Water, an exhibition by OSTRALÉ Biennial

# SEPTEMBER

02 Sept 2022  
Pažaislis Monastery

The Stars of Music at Pažaislis, a music festival

03 Sept 2022  
Rokai, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Rokai

03 Sept 2022  
Lapės, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Lapės

03–04 Sept 2022  
Garden of Vytautas the Great War  
Museum

International Kaunas Carillon Music Festival 2022

04 Sept 2022  
Kačerginė, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Kačerginė

04 Sept 2022  
Rokai, Kaunas District

Terra Rokai – The Clay Road, a celebration

04 Sept 2022  
Žaliakalnis

Italian Art Picnic

06–12 Sept 2022  
Cinema "Romuva"

Pitchblack Assembly, a performative installation

07–11 Sept 2022  
Garliava & Akademija, Kaunas District

Skanaus: European cuisines 2022,  
a festival of food and culture

08 Sept 2022  
Former buildings of Pergalė factory

Kaunas 808 Orchestra, a concert

08–09 Sept 2022  
Zapyškis Church of St. John the Baptist,  
Kaunas District

Communities Forum

09–25 Sept 2022  
Kaunast

Magenta, Landscape Design Festival

From 09 Sept 2022  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

The Learning Garden of Freedom,  
a retrospective exhibition by Yoko Ono

10 Sept 2022  
Ninth Fort

The City Composing in Kaunas, a concert

10 Sept 2022  
Aleksotas Microdistrict

Mnemosyne, an interactive installation

10 Sept 2022  
Parodos Hill, Ažuolyno Park

Fluxus Festival

10 Sept 2022  
Eleventh Fort, Akademija, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Akademija

11, 18, 25 Sept 2022  
Kaunas Centre

Tour series and contemporary dance performances in modernist buildings

11 Sept 2022  
Bank of Lithuania Kaunas Branch

Ex It, an installation by Yoko Ono

13–15 Sept 2022  
Aleksotas Microdistrict

Culture to the Courtyards: Aleksotas

14–15 Sept 2022  
Servitutų g. 30

The Šančiai Cultural Courtyard Festival

From 16 Sept 2022  
Meno Parkas Gallery

Conceptual Reflexions, an exhibition by Brigitte March ICA gallery

17 Sept 2022  
Domeikava, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Domeikava

17 Sept 2022  
Girionys, Kaunas District

Contemporary Eldershops. Samylai

18 Sept 2022  
Tadas Ivanauskas Obelynė Estate Memorial Museum, Kaunas District

Growing Obelynė Together, an educational programme

18 Sept 2022  
Aleksotas Microdistrict

Flying Through Time, an interdisciplinary festival

From 16 Sept 2022  
Gallery Meno Parkas

Conceptual Reflexions, an exhibition by Brigitte March ICA gallery

21 Sept 2022  
VMU Small Hall

Fifth International Leonidas Donskis Academic Conference: Is Historical Revisionism Becoming Mainstream?

22 Sept 2022  
Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre

Modernism for the Future. International Modernism Summer School

22 Sept 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office

East-East, Kaunas Architecture Festival

22–23 Sept 2022  
Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre

East-East, Kaunas Architecture Festival. Lithuanian and Japanese Architecture Forum

22 Sept 2022  
Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty

Arterija, an arts space. Opening of new cycle



22 Sept 2022 Kaunats Centre of National Culture	Baltų raštai, an international festival of youth and children's folklore
23 Sept 2022 Kaunas public spaces	CityTelling Festival. The Youth Talk About War, performances in public spaces
23–24 Sept 2022 Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum	CityTelling Festival. Ecce homo: Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left, a project
25 Sept 2022 Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations	CityTelling Festival. Window to Jewish Life in Kaunas before the Holocaust, an exhibition
From 26 Sept 2022 Various places in Kaunas	International Dance Festival AURA 32
Up to 27 Sept 2022 Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum	Spaces / Overcome Distances, an exhibition
29–30 Sept 2022 VMU Great Hall	CityTelling Festival. World Litvak Forum
30 Sept 2022 Žalgiris Arena	CityTelling Festival. Kaunas Kantata
Sept 2022 M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
Sept 2022 The garden of Historical Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania in Kaunas	Kultūrų sodas 2022, a festival of Lithuania's ethnic communities
Sept 2022 Gimnazijos g. 2/4	CityTelling Festival. Out of Darkness, an exhibition
Sept 2022 Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre and elsewhere in Kaunas	CityTelling Festival. Litvak music programme
Sept 2022 Kaunas	CityTelling Festival. The Music Shell, a concert story
Sept 2022 Kaunas	CityTelling Festival. The Last Litvaks, a photography exhibition
Sept 2022 Various places in Kaunas & Kaunas District	CityTelling Festival. Journeys Through a Multi-Ethnic City, a tour programme
Sept 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	World Music Concert Series
Sept 2022 Kaunas	European Heritage Days Events

Sept 2022 Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around	Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition
Sept 2022 Kaunas City Chamber Theatre	The Starting Point, a youth theatre festival
Sept 2022 Linksmakalnis, Kaunas District	Contemporary Eldershops. Linksmakalnis
Sept 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	A Path of Emerald, a public art project
Sept 2022 Left bank of Nemunas in Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Nemuno7, the great ship of culture
Sept 2022 Various places in Kaunas District	Roberto Magro's Contemporary Circus Show
Sept 2022 Vandžiogala, Kaunas District	Reflecting Memory in Landscapes – Vandžiogala, an art installation. Presentation
Sept 2022 Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty	Arterija, an arts space
Sept 2022 Kaunas City Hall Square	Kaunas 2022 Summer Stage
Sept 2022 Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences Art Academy	The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference and retrospective exhibition
Sept 2022 Garliava Sports and Culture Centre, Kaunas District	Atdarykim vartelius, a national festival of senior folk dance groups
Sept 2022 Kadagių slėnis Path, Kaunas District	Skambantis Kadagių slėnis, a theatrical and concert programme
Sept 2022 Kaunas District	Wild Bits, an exhibition by Estonian & Lithuanian artists
Sept 2022 Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Flowing Connections / Power of Water, an exhibition by OSTRAL Biennial

# OCTOBER

01 Oct 2022  
Žalgiris Arena

CityTelling Festival. Kaunas Kantata

01–02 Oct 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

Dorian, a theatre play by Robert Wilson

Up to 04 Oct 2022  
Various places in Kaunas

International Dance Festival AURA 32

Up to 05 Oct 2022  
Zapyškis, Kaunas District

Flowing Connections / Power of Water, an exhibition by OSTRALE Biennial

From 05 Oct 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office & Robotron Kantine in Dresden

OSTRALE Biennial

05–07 Oct 2022  
Kaunas Fortress Park

Kaunas – a Fortress of Europe 2022, an international congress

05–15 Oct 2022  
Surroundings of Žalgiris Arena Amphitheatre

Kaunas Design Festival. 5X5® Design Programme

06–23 Oct 2022  
Kaunas modernist buildings

Inconvenient Films: Moving City Visions

07 Oct 2022  
MUAR, Luxembourg

The Great Industry, an exhibition

07–09 Oct 2022  
Kaunas Photography Gallery

Kaunas Art Book Fair 2022

07–09 Oct 2022  
Kaunas

Kaunas Choir Days, international choir festival

07–15 Oct 2022  
BLO – Business Leaders Center

Kaunas Design Festival. Design Week Lithuania. Good Design awards ceremony and winners' showcase

07–30 Oct  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

Kaunas Design Festival. Kaunas Asorti: Graphic Design (Hi)Stories and Their Actualisation, an interactive exhibition

09 Oct 2022  
Kaunas Sports Hall

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

13 Oct 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

The Jungle Book, a dance performance by Akram Khan Company

14 Oct 2022 Žalgiris Arena	Kaunas Design Festival. Assembly of International Design Networks
14 Oct 2022 Cinema "Romuva"	CityTelling Festival. The Dybbuk, a musical play
15 Oct 2022 Raudondvaris Manor Art Incubator, Kaunas District	CityTelling Festival. The Dybbuk, a musical play
Up to 16 Oct 2022 Meno Parkas Gallery	Conceptual Reflexions, an exhibition by Brigitte March ICA gallery
Up to 20 Oct 2022 Shop windows in Laisvės al. & around	Kaunas Design Festival. Lithuanian Design: from Temporary to Contemporary, an exhibition
From 21 Oct 2022 Meno Parkas Gallery	Eye See You, an exhibition by digital arts festival VIDEOFORMES
Up to 22 Oct 2022 Kaunas Central Post Office	East-East, Kaunas Architecture Festival
From 27 Oct 2022 Kaunas Picture Gallery	Working Class Heroes, an exhibition
31 Oct 2022 Žalgiris Arena	Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem"
Oct 2022 Kaunas & Kaunas District	100 Images of Kaunas, an exhibition
Oct 2022 Kaunas Picture Gallery & MUAR, Luxembourg	Darbas/Aarbeicht (Labour), a performance
Oct 2022 M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art	That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by William Kentridge
Oct 2022 Gimnazijos g. 2/4	CityTelling Festival. Out of Darkness, an exhibition
Oct 2022 Kaunas	CityTelling Festival. The Last Litvaks, a photography exhibition
Oct 2022 Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various Nations	CityTelling Festival. Window to Jewish Life in Kaunas before the Holocaust, an exhibition

Oct 2022 Various places in Kaunas	CityTelling Festival. Where Can I Find You?, a storytelling programme
Oct 2022 Various places in Kaunas & Kaunas District	CityTelling Festival. Journeys Through a Multi-Ethnic City, a tour programme
Oct 2022 Kaunas Central Post Office	Kaunas Design Festival. Porcelain City, International Bone China Symposium
Oct 2022 <a href="http://www.kaunas2022.eu/kaunoissukis">www.kaunas2022.eu/kaunoissukis</a>	Start of Kaunas Challenge
Oct 2022 Left bank of Nemunas in Zapyškis, Kaunas District	Nemuno7, the great ship of culture
Oct 2022 Kaunas Picture Gallery	The Learning Garden of Freedom, a retrospective exhibition by Yoko Ono



# NOVEMBER

05 Nov 2022  
Kaunas State Philharmonic

Sugihara Symphony, a concert

11–18 Nov 2022  
Kaunas State Philharmonic & elsewhere  
in Kaunas

Iš arti, Baltic Music Days

Up to 13 Nov 2022  
Kaunas Central Post Office & Robotron  
Kantine in Dresden

OSTRALE Biennial

17–19 Nov 2022  
National Kaunas Drama Theatre

The Face, a theatre play

19 Nov 2022  
Kaunas Sports Hall

Gyvybės medis, a theatrical concert  
by dance and song ensemble

Up to 20 Nov 2022  
Meno Parkas Gallery

Eye See You, an exhibition by digital arts festival  
VIDEOFORMES

22 Nov 2022  
Kaunas School of Sacred Music

School That Resounds, a celebration  
of St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music

24 Nov 2022  
Kaunas Photography Gallery

Experiencing Humanity, a discussion and  
magazine presentation

24 Nov 2022  
Kaunas Photography Gallery

The Family of Man, a photography exhibition

24–25 Nov 2022  
Vytautas Magnus University

CityTelling Festival. The Idea of Europe,  
an international symposium

**25–27 Nov 2022**  
**Kaunas Old Town & Raudondvaris**  
**Manor, Kaunas District**

**From Temporary to Contemporary.**  
**The Contract**

From 25 Nov 2022  
Meno Parkas Gallery

Ultrasocial Pop, an interdisciplinary exhibition  
by Filip Markiewicz

Up to 27 Nov 2022  
Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty

Arterija, an arts space

Up to 30 Nov 2022  
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art

That Which We Do Not Remember,  
an exhibition by William Kentridge

Nov 2022  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

Working Class Heroes, an exhibition

Nov 2022  
MUAR, Luxembourg

The Great Industry, an exhibition

Nov 2022  
Kaunas

CityTelling Festival. The Last Litvaks,  
a photography exhibition

Nov 2022  
Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various  
Nations

CityTelling Festival. Window to Jewish Life in  
Kaunas before the Holocaust, an exhibition

Nov 2022  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

The Learning Garden of Freedom,  
a retrospective exhibition by Yoko Ono

Nov 2022  
Kaunas public spaces

Underworld Kaunas, a photo installation

Nov 2022  
Gallery of Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas  
Faculty & Gallery of Kaunas University  
of Applied Sciences Art Academy

The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in  
a Modern City for a Modern Country, a conference  
and retrospective exhibition

Nov 2022  
Raudondvaris Culture Centre,  
Kaunas District

Šok, trypk, linksmas būk, National Festival  
of Youth and Children's Folk Dances

# DECEMBER

03 Dec 2022

The Open-Air Museum of Lithuania,  
Rumšiškės

Advent Village

Up to 04 Dec 2022

Kaunas Picture Gallery

The Learning Garden of Freedom,  
a retrospective exhibition by Yoko Ono

10 Dec 2022

The Open-Air Museum of Lithuania,  
Rumšiškės

Advent Village

10 Dec 2022

Kaunas Centre of National Culture

Už girių girių, a special advent concert by Kaunas  
folklore ensembles

Up to 15 Dec 2022

Kaunas Cultural Centre of Various  
Nations

Window to Jewish Life in Kaunas before the  
Holocaust, an exhibition

Dec 2022

Kaunas Photography Gallery

The Family of Man, a photography exhibition

Dec 2022

Kaunas Picture Gallery

Working Class Heroes, an exhibition

Dec 2022

MUAR, Luxembourg

The Great Industry, an exhibition

Dec 2022

Kaunas

CityTelling Festival. The Last Litvaks,  
a photography exhibitio

Dec 2022

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Dec 2022

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The Centennial of the Kaunas School of Art. Art in  
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and retrospective exhibition

# ALL YEAR

Permanently from 2020  
Public spaces in Kaunas & Kaunas District

Wall Stories

2020–2022  
Kaunas & Kaunas District

Encounters in Music, an events series

From 2020  
The west tower of Kaunas Castle

The Beast's Bedroom beneath Kaunas Castle

From 2021 05  
First Fort of Kaunas Fortress

The Beast's Lair at the Kaunas Fortress

From 2022  
Kaunas 2022 Office

The Scent of the Beast of Kaunas

Theatre season 2022  
Kaunas State Puppet Theatre

The Beast of Kaunas, a theatre play

Theatre season 2022  
Kaunas State Puppet Theatre

i'm a beast, a theatre play for young audiences

From May 2022  
Kalniečių Park

Kalniečių Park Reading Room

From July 2022  
Kaunas Centre

CityTelling Festival. Threshold,  
a public art installation

From Autumn 2022  
Vandžiogala, Kaunas District

Reflecting Memory in Landscapes –  
Vandžiogala, an art installation

From 23 Sept 2022  
Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum

Ecce Homo: Those Who Stayed and Those  
Who Left, a visual installation

All year 2022  
Sugihara House

Circle of Memory, a tour

All year 2022  
Sugihara House

Open air exhibition at the Sugihara House

All year 2022  
[www.kosmostheatre.com/kosmosapp](http://www.kosmostheatre.com/kosmosapp)

Kosmos App, mobile apps for exploring  
the city

All year 2022  
[www.artkaunas.com](http://www.artkaunas.com)

On the Path of Modern Art, a mobile app

All year 2022  
M. Daukšos g. 34

More Tempo initiatives at Tempo space

All year 2022  
Cinema "Romuva"

Capital of Culture Classes. The Vladislovas Starevičius Animation Laboratory

All year 2022  
Kaunas & Kaunas District educational institutions

Capital of Culture Classes. Point of Change, an educational programme

All year 2022  
Kaunas & Kaunas District educational institutions

Capital of Culture Classes. Educational Theatre Club

All year 2022  
Varžupio g. 1, Akademija, Kaunas District

Lokali: Made in Akademija, the sustainable shop

All year 2022  
Steigiamojo Seimo Square,  
Šv. Gertrūdos g. 19

K-Totem, a spatial sculpture

All year 2022  
[www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas)

Bed & Culture

All year 2022  
[www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas)

Culture Host

All year 2022  
[www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas](http://www.kaunas2022.eu/en/experience-kaunas)

Culture Ride

## 2023...

Jan 2023  
MUAR, Luxembourg

The Great Industry, an exhibition

Up to 23 Feb 2023  
Kaunas Picture Gallery

Working Class Heroes, an exhibition

Up to 01 Sept 2023  
Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum

Ecce Homo: Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left, a visual installation

Up to 2026  
Historical Presidential Palace of the  
Republic of Lithuania in Kaunas

Stories of the House, an exhibition



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**Kaunas State Musical Theater**

**Kaunas State Philharmonic**

**Kaunas State Puppet Theatre**



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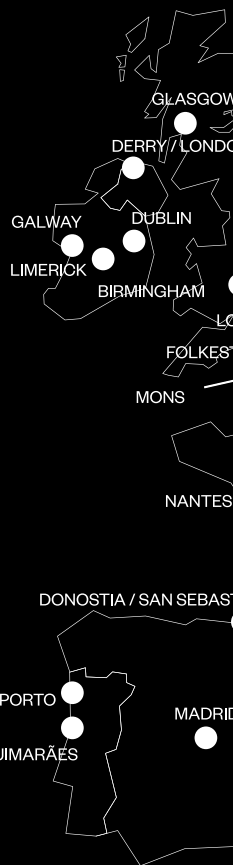
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...and many others



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