

# TÖNIS JÜRGENS

PORTFOLIO

2021

# POSTCARD IN FIVE STILLS

2020–2021

## VIDEOS

WITH SIRJA-LIISA EELMA

A series of shorts  
done in collaboration.  
The photos and texts in the  
videos are by Estonian artist  
Sirja-Liisa Eelma, the narration  
and editing were done by me.

We began the project as a response  
to or extension of a cancelled  
exhibition of Sirja-Liisa's in April 2020,  
regarding the COVID-19 lockdown.

The texts and photos are from  
Sirja-Liisa's stay at an artist residency  
in France, in autumn 2019.  
We made a selection from these  
"postcards", and posted a series of  
concurrent videos on social media  
spanning the period when  
the exhibition would've taken place.

From December 2020 through  
January 2021, we exhibited the  
piece at Hop gallery in Tallinn.

[link](#)



(above) outtakes from video series  
*Postkaart viies pildis / Postcard in Five Stills*  
2020–2021

(right) exhibited at Hop galerii in Tallinn  
photo by Stanislav Stepashko

# IGRITSUS (SEEPAGE)

2016

## INSTALLATION:

silicone cast + spatial installation  
with various materials

## EAA MASTER'S DEGREE

**GRADUATION EXHIBITION TASE'16**  
(supervised by Raul Keller)

This work focuses on a certain under-current beneath technological optimism – the paradox of technological emancipation.

A transhumanist vision of our future foresees the integration of flesh and technology, the total externalisation and storage of human's central nervous system and subjective consciousness into a designated cyberspace. This is a cybernetic dream of transferring human cognition and experiential structures to computers, in order to surmount the fragmentary, disconnected nature of the physical world, the inherent communicative ambiguity of languages, transcultural discrepancies, excessive inefficiency, sickness, even mortality.

Marshall McLuhan terms this as "spiritual information"; adhering to this aspiration means abandoning the body, or becoming emancipated from its burdens, and translating our Cartesian consciousness, separate from

flesh, into code, and all its rigid linearity and functionality.

This is an extreme, technophile fancy, which has slowly and steadily been taking root since the 1960s. In this dream, one reality is replaced with another, more rational, cerebral reality, and one seeps outward from one's human skin, into the expanses of our self-made cosmos.

This work was done with regards to my Master's thesis, "Dwelling in Code. The Paradox of Freedom within the Cybernetic Ethos" (EAA, 2016), available below:

[Master's thesis](#)  
[\(with English summary\)](#)

(right) *Igritsus*, detail, as exhibited at TASE'16, Tallinn





*Igritsus*, as exhibited at TASE'16, Tallinn

# ONCE THERE WAS A STORM

2016

ANIMATION

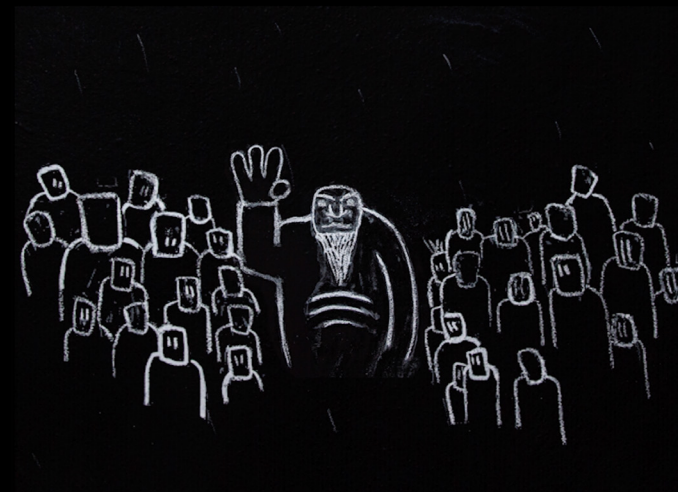
WITH KALJU-KARL KIVI

A collaborative animated short,  
done with chalk on blackboard.

Written by Jürgen Rooste,  
narrated by Liivika Hanstin,  
recorded by Külliki Valdma,  
edited by Tiina Vilu.

This was a commissioned work for the  
Estonian Public Broadcasting service,  
as part of a series of animated short  
stories and fairytales for children,  
for the Christmas of 2016.

[link](#)



(above) stills from animation  
*Oli kord üks torm / Once there was a storm*  
2016

# KUU 24

2015

**INSTALLATION:**

acrylic paint, chloroprene ball,  
LED-lighting

**WITH KULLA LAAS**

A collaborative site-specific installation created for the urban art festival UIT 2015 in Tartu, on an abandoned plot at the address Kuu 24 ("Moon 24").

A giant helium-filled balloon, attached to a dilapidated house on an abandoned lot, floating a few meters above the roof of the building. The "moon" glowed in the dark, casting light on both the roof and the overgrown grass and weeds in the yard.

This went in context with the urban festival for which the piece was created; to give new perspectives and meaning to certain lesser-known parts of the city of Tartu.



(left) Kuu 24, detail, Tartu, 2015  
photo by Patrik Tamm



Kuu 24, Tartu, 2015, photo by Kulla Laas

# CACHE

2015

## INSTALLATION:

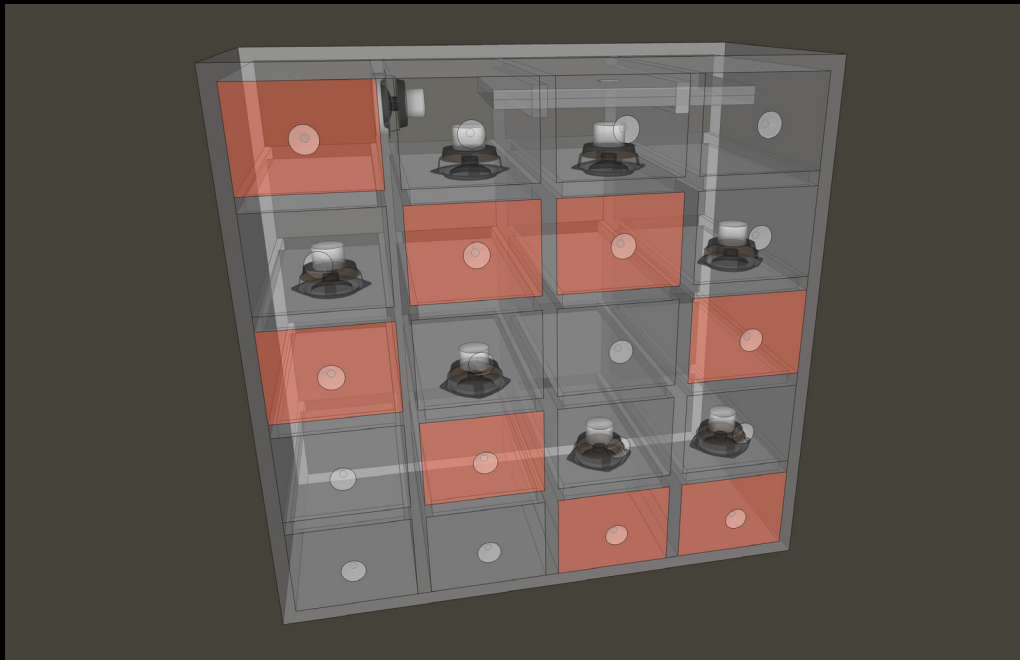
wooden filing cabinet  
(80x80x40cm), speakers,  
Arduino, laptop

**EAA FINE ARTS MASTER'S  
I COURSE GROUP EXHIBITION**  
(supervised by Andres Tali)

(below) 3D-model; (right) as exhibited at  
*I-Manifesto*, St. Catherine's Church, Tallinn  
2015

Eight openable drawers (as noted on the image below). Opening any of these drawers activated a monologue. These were various selected texts from the Estonian blogosphere, read by different voices. When a drawer was closed and opened again, the audio narration changed randomly. The drawers themselves were empty and worked as small acoustic spaces.

The piece was created with regard to the polemic of privacy as it relates to the development of social media and, concurrently, a certain feeling of anxiety.



# NURR

2015

## INSTALLATION:

speakers, LED-projector

## EEA INSTALLATION / SCULPTURE AND NEW MEDIA DEPARTMENTS' GROUP EXHIBITION

(supervised by Raul Keller)

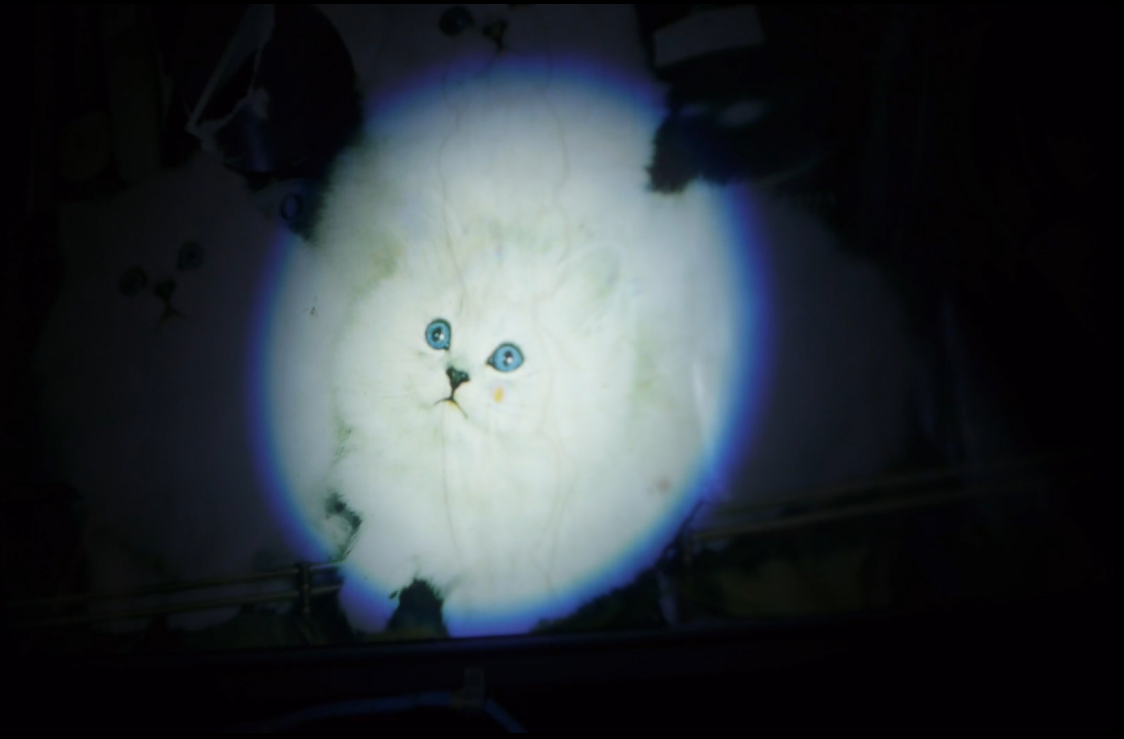
A site-specific piece created in an abandoned administrative building and former power plant in Tallinn's Noblessner quarter, where they used to build ships.

When the Peetri 7 building was officially closed off many years ago, all the furniture, documents, phones, calendars, posters etc. were left behind as they were. Over the years, the building was occasionally marauded, and used by both vagrants for living in and by film crews as a set.

The motive for the whole exhibition was to change as little as possible in the abandoned and dilapidated space, and rather amplify, with small gestures, its various idiosyncracies.

I found the poster of cats glued to the old printing machine as is. The sound heard in the video was audible on-site; a recording of my own cat (now deceased) purring.

[link](#)



(above) *Nurr*, detail, Peetri 7, Tallinn, 2015  
outtake from video documentation  
by Raul Keller

# UNTITLED

2014

**INSTALLATION:**

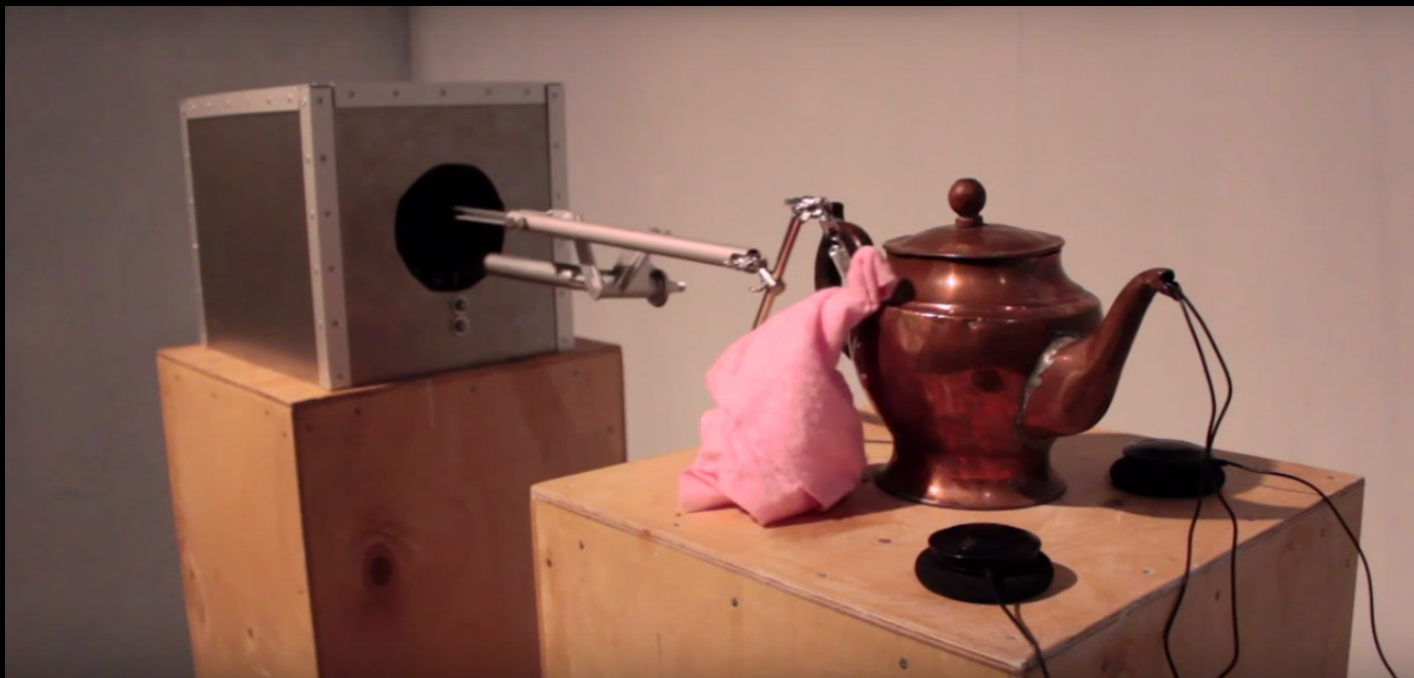
steel sheet, windshield wiper motor,  
MP3-player

**EAA FINE ARTS MASTER'S  
I COURSE GROUP EXHIBITION**  
(supervised by Andres Tali)

A kinetic installation created as part of  
the common Master's project of the  
fine arts department of the Estonian Art  
Academy.

The assignment entailed using three  
different media or technologies  
to create a single cohesive work.

[link](#)\*



\* The sound on the background of the video is  
what could be heard from the headphones at  
the exhibition.

(left) as exhibited at  
the Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia, Tallinn  
2014

# CV

## TÕNIS JÜRGENS

12.04.1989

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+372 5663 2174

Tallinn, Eesti

## EDUCATION:

2021–2022

**Academy of Arts,  
Architecture & Design  
in Prague**

photography,  
exchange studies

2019–

**Estonian Academy of Arts**  
art & design, PhD

2014–2016

**Estonian Academy of Arts**  
new media, MA

2012–2013

**Tallinn University**  
anthropology, MA  
(discontinued)

2008–2012

**Tallinn University**  
culture theory, BA

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

2019–

**Klassikaraadio**  
*Fantaasia* co-host

2019–2020

**IDA raadio**  
*Soojad Suhted* co-host

2018–

**Estonian Centre for  
Contemporary Art**  
*KKEKi ajakiri*  
photo- and videographer

2015–

**Kino Sõprus**  
projectionist

2015

**Slothrop's**  
book vendor

2013–2014

**Kodusaade**  
video editor

2013

**Paar Veini**  
barman



[https://www.etis.ee/CV/Tõnis\\_Jürgens/](https://www.etis.ee/CV/Tõnis_Jürgens/)

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

### **Postkaart viies pildis**

with Sirja-Liisa Eelma  
Hop galerii, Tallinn  
17.12.2020–2.02.2021

### **Ootamine igaviku seisukohalt**

tech support for Cloe Jancis  
Draakoni galerii, Tallinn  
30.04.–18.05.2019

### **+1**

(performance at  
NU Performance Festival 2016)  
tech support for Helena Keskküla  
Kanutü Gildi Saal, Tallinn  
4.11.2016

### **Raveshed**

with Timo Toots  
Urban festival UIT 2016,  
Lepiku 2, Tartu  
17.–20.08.2016

### **TASE'16**

EAA Master's degree  
graduation exhibition  
Kotzebue 1/Põhja pst 7, Tallinn  
2.–16.06.2016

### **RAM. Early Estonian Computer Art**

tech support, sound design  
KUMU, Art Museum of Estonia,  
Tallinn  
17.02.–04.09.2016  
[link](#)

### **Assuming Control Until Further Notice**

(at exhibition "Prosu(u)mer")  
tech support for Rundum  
Artist-Run Space  
EKKM/Lootsi 15, Tallinn  
17.09.–18.10.2015

### **Cache**

DisainiÖÖ 2015  
Kotzebue 1, Tallinn  
17.–20.09.2015

### **Kuu 24**

with Kulla Laas  
Urban festival UIT 2015,  
Kuu 24, Tartu  
19.–22.08.2015  
[link](#)

### **Noblessner Powerplant Live**

EAA new media + installation/  
sculpture departments'  
group exhibition  
Peetri 7, Noblessner, Tallinn  
28.05.2015

### **I-manifesto**

EAA Fine Arts Master's I course  
group exhibition  
Church of St. Catherine,  
Tallinn  
19.–20.05.2015

### **Open House**

group exhibition of  
new media department  
Gallery Metropol, Tallinn  
31.10.2014  
[link](#)

## WORKSHOPS:

### **Väino Tanner foundation art residency**

Mazzano Romano, Italy  
01.02.–31.03.2017

### **The Civic Imaginary**

KUNO workshop  
Bergen, Norway  
29.02.–4.03.2016

### **Dilemma**

DAMA workshop XX  
Tallinn, Estonia  
11.–15.01.2016

### **Error Variations**

DAMA workshop XIX  
Viljandi, Estonia  
23.–29.11.2015

### **Meet the Media Guru 2015 + Future Ways of Living 10**

Politecnico di Milano, Italy  
10.–19.06.2015

### **Silence!**

DAMA workshop XVIII  
Kaukonen, Finland  
1.–6.06.2015

