

# YUTRA

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The monumental cave. A chapel built inside. Concrete, not that old. To get there you have to take a really steep road by car, then walk, there's a narrow badly marked trail. And we found it. We went in the afternoon, because it was cooler, we were rushing to get back before the sunset, because going up this road in the dark is very scary and stressful. But we made it, I'm here!

I pray no one's coming the other way, it's a really windy road.

Open field, you could see. Of course we ran into someone. Greeks are really good drivers because they have very bad roads. Parking in Athens is shitty. There are many hills. There are hills and narrow, perfectly aligned, not hitting, just touching.

Rental makes it so stressful, one dent is like 1000.

And Barcelona. We still properly decide. Maybe Sicily, but maybe not in the winter.

It's nice for hiking. We didn't even look at flights yet.

Or Crete. I think it gets quite cold in the winter.

And you? Not now. My last trip was in august and I decided that's it, now I'm waiting. Now I don't want to be stressed. My mum is here.

You have to move all of your stuff, everything you have to move everything. To polish the floor. I sold some furniture then didn't buy it until it was done. The bed was in the kitchen, vertical. So I was sleeping on the floor, but because I didn't want to leave a mark I was moving each night so that I wasn't in the same place each night. And then finally I moved it all back.

Yeah, it's a pity we have to do it. But now it's all back and we don't have to do anymore. We have to move it to us, then move it back.

Like a gypsy. I'm used to it. Every year I would be in another place. Then my flat was the longest. Maybe 4 years. When I moved I was happy, but then I was happy to be somewhere for 2 or 3 years.

We can start getting ready. We have to make him feel as bad as possible. That the conversation has started now already.

How did the exhibition go with the paintings?

I think it went well. In general there were good inspirations from everyone. But most of them were positive.

I had a teacher, a German teacher in literature, he wouldn't let us use the word positive or negative because you can be HIV positive or negative. So positive has this other meaning. We couldn't use it, we would have to find other words like affirmative. It was German literature. We would know it and every time we would make a mistake he would mark it with an X. maybe he was neurotic. I'm sorry to interrupt. Please continue, because you were looking for positive words. I would say affirmative. Mine were the only critical ones, and everything else was digital prints, mine were the only ones that weren't. Everyone else had worked on the computer.

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Cutlery clanging.

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Stealing your space today.

Were you here for the wwgw? Did you like?

Some things for sure.

Maybe I was unlucky.



Did you see it? You were away no?

No I saw some of it, I left Friday morning and came back and started writing for DAI and I didn't finish but we were going to see some shows, so then we saw some, and I had to go back to finish some statements. I sent mine 5 to midnight. Then my friends started calling and asking where I was. I got up at 5 am and went to bed at 2 am, then Saturday Sunday I went to see some more.

So which ones? Because what I saw was not so good. Maybe I was unlucky. There was only one thing I really liked, and I was like 'no...'

Then I went to a few others, \

Which ones?

Le guern, because I know the girl. Then foksal?

Which one?

The propaganda one. But it was not all open for technical reasons.

I must say I didn't like the foksal one so much. The other foksals are worth it. XXXX is always controversial, but I would say worth it.

Have you been?

No no, I didn't go to those ones.

I would say the best is pole magnetyczni. Wow is pole magnetyczni. It's really worth it to see. I think it's a must see actually. It's nice, an old work from the 70s.

I went to monopol, but I didn't like this show much to be honest. I think they were trying to make more of it than it really was.

But stereo, in this big white space. Near zelazna, on miedzarna. I liked it a lot.

I only liked the photos.

Is stereo good?

I liked it, but she didn't.

Maybe it's because I need things to catch my eye, because I'm chasing after Leon all the time.

This guy came to my show at starter. He said it was the worst show of his life because the table was so low, he had 3 kids running around and needed to stop them being able to touch anything. It was a nightmare for him, now all we talk about is that, every time we see each other we just talk about that.

Then I liked arton, which was nice, old video works.

I didn't go to Alicja's, just didn't get around to it. But the other one in the real starter and the other one.

I actually fixed this space. My friend's mother owns the whole building. She's very generous and keen on allowing people to use it for non-commercial purposes. I actually showed my diploma there. In the shop space downstairs.

And this one they are renovating, so it's after renovation, but before anyone moved in.

I liked this show. Also Lokal 30, this was a nice show.

Raster too, but I didn't like raster at all actually.

I liked the show at zacheta, but I don't think this was anything new (in raster), it was not as good, simply.

Radziszewski gallery, yes?

Mmhmm.

Artists?

I saw many names

These weren't names of the artists, this was the title. The list was 'famous people with lymes disease'. So they are all celebrities!

Oh! Haha! I didn't read them all and didn't realized, I thought they were all artists.

And even here there are four artists but only 2 paintings.



Sometimes he shows things in the office, maybe they were in the office.

XXXX was a doing a performance. There was a chair, you could squeeze his nose and he would show you his tongue.

Salacious.

So I didn't get to Arton.

I like Arton's little space. They were showing videos. There was a Martha Rosler piece and some others.

I also recommend the one at studio too.

Where's studio.

Bar studio I think.

Its bar studio no?

Mmhmm.

The first time I was there it was kind of by mistake. The first time I was ever in Warsaw I went there because I'd read about it. But you know how there is the staircase and there is always the cordon there. Well this lady was there and I tried to explain that I was looking for the gallery, and she was like 'akjfnasjkfnakjnf Wait there wait there'... she disappeared and then I was waiting, and this guy turned up, all suited and booted.

Jan Arrives

I have some tahini.

It might go well with this.

So I need to go back to some of the shows. Maybe I didn't enjoy it because I was tired and I wanted to go fast before Leon goes to sleep.

The one in stereo seems to be the most well considered, the most well curated.

Maybe I needed more focus and concentration. Instead of a kid running around trying to throw things. Paintings are hanging further away.

He's not tall enough.

He liked it, but have to be careful.

Eat!

I'm looking for the recipe.

What are you making?

Tahini

Isn't tahini just sesame seeds?

Yeah... maybe.

How long have you lived in Greece?

I've never really lived there, but this year I spent a month, and I was there a few times before.

Greece on your mind.

What about the DAI travel?

All of them are 'far' i.e. outside of Europe.

The group I want to get to goes to Brazil.

One more is going to the states, and I guess it's either If I Can't Dance or Bassam

And open is either Mexico or South Africa.

I went to America with if I can't dance. It's possible they would redo that.

Based on this I would prefer to go to Mexico than Brazil. I like to use Spanish, and I have more curiosity about Mexico. I don't know if we will get to see much though. I didn't see much of the Netherlands this week.

Well, hopefully, there's not much to see

Flatlands...

This week was more functional and organized. But we will have some weeks in Eindhoven and we will go to Belgium for one week.

Brussels? Antwerp?

M... m... mechen.

I don't know it.

There is a biennale there.



The Liverpool biennale, talking about biennale's, the Liverpool one was great. All over the city in all different spaces. One in a mausoleum. Some really powerful stuff. There was a video by a trio of artists using the footage from the Isis attacks on museums and monuments. They are three artists from the Middle East, though living in Dubai at the minute. \\\

They got all the footage and scratched it and painted over each frame, and made an animation over the top of the footage. For example a temple got blown up and they turn the dust cloud into a sort of animal. But anyway, it seems like they got this footage and managed to turn what is really traumatic imagery, and event, and turned it into something even more powerful somehow. The way they have dealt with it is sensitive and really powerful at the same time.

But not too like beautiful?

No no no, not at all, you can really still see what it is underneath and they have just dealt with it really well. Almost perfectly.

We were also taken to the Sonsbeek Park, and went to the festival.

The biennale?

Well, it's not really like a biennale.

No, but kind of  
It's just called Sonsbeek.

Yeah, like an art festival thing.

Most of the pieces were somewhat architectural. There were lots of constructions, and pieces kind of designed to different things. Many hands, I'm kind of into it at the minute. There was one I didn't like very much. Made of the pieces from the refugee crisis. I think there is so much of this kind of stuff, and so little of it is really working, really succeed. It was made of the vests. And things happening inside. And I just thought that they could really do something more useful with these vests. Surely they are needed??

I heard they have a real problem with these things. Strewn all over the beaches.

Yes, but there are still things you can do with them. I heard about this project, someone made a pattern where you can use pieces of the boat, the inflatable boat, because sometimes they are broken when they arrive. So when they have some pieces, she showed how they can simply make it into a bag.

And the rest there was also something they could do.

And in zacheta there was a piece, made of the shoes and umbrellas. It was horrible piece actually.

There was this piece made from the life rings, made out of marble. By Ai Wei Wei. Some part of the exhibition was just things made of marble. When I saw this show I lost a lot of respect for him somehow.

Yeah, when I read about him opening this studio on the island... I was alike..... ACCCHHHH. It just doesn't work.

Yes, in the past I saw a show that was really funny and worked. Perspective studies, together with the title it had many aspects that were appealing. And some of his early sculptures that were great. But now I don't know.

Yeah, I think now he chases notoriety.

So maybe it's not such a good thing to become a successful artist.

You just have to deal with it in the right way, and I think he doesn't. Like what does he think? 'I'm gonna do good so I'll open a studio on Lesbos...' ... what?!? Like, what?!?! Ok, bring gentrification to the frontline of the refugee crisis... come on...!!

Please... eat some.

So what is this?

I'll show you the box. So that, tahini, parsley lemon and zahtar.  
Zahtar? What's that?

It's this like... I don't know actually.



It's from, from... um, the Middle East, Arabic, Israel.

Are you sure you don't want wine?  
Yeah yeah.

Tell us your news.

My news is that I'm applying for a residency and I've been running around with that like crazy. I need to send it tomorrow.  
Do you want to tell us where?

It's called Pioneer Works in New York, Redhook?

Red hook? Is that in New York?

When I lived there red hook was a town across the river.

I think it's just a part of Brooklyn, one of the docks. I have been there already, I was giving a project there. It's the worst connected part of the city.

If you get it you should visit the town of Redhook.

Where is that?

Like 2.5 hours away.

Oh ok, so no, red hook is where IKEA is at. You take the boat and IKEA is there, Redhook is IKEA.

There's no bridge, no tunnel, no subway. This pocket of not being part of the....

A transport void.

How long are you applying for?

For 6 months? Or 3 months is the shorter one.

How does that work with the visa? Because the visa is 3 months no?

No, because the UK is part of the waiver program so you just get 3 months. For us it's harder to get a visa in the first place, but when you do you get 6 months.

Ah ok. Good.

Just be careful, I had a friend who was going to do a residency, she was going to New York too, from Scotland. And she arrived there and they didn't believe that she wasn't going to look for work whilst in the states, they didn't believe she was going to go back, so they just put her back on a plane and sent her home, she didn't even leave the airport. Just because some guy didn't believe her intentions. She wasn't getting paid for the residency or anything. She was doing it all by herself. And then just back on the plane. Totally fucked it all up for her. Just because they didn't believe her.

I was super stressed when I was going, and I had a ticket to return after 3 months. I had a bunch of lies in my head just in case. I was going to work a bit too, so I needed to delete everything from my emails that referred to it. So I just said I just graduated and this was a graduation present from my parents. He asked me as well, looked me right in the eyes, and asked, are you going to work. I was sweating of course.

When I went, with the DAI, the only time I've been in America, I went with hand luggage only. We were going for nearly a month, but they had washing stuff at the place we were going to be staying, so I decided I didn't want to carry around all this stuff with me when I was there, so I just took hand luggage. This caused a problem, not in America, but Amsterdam, because they kind of 'pre-question' you when you're in Amsterdam airport. This woman started asking me all these questions, where am I going, what am I doing, and then 'what luggage are you taking?'. And I showed her my bag, and she said 'you're going to America for nearly a month with just that??', and I said yes, I pack light. She was super suspicious, went and spoke to another guy, had to show my ID card and stuff. Eventually they were fine with it, but when I told someone later they said that 'Terrorists don't tend to carry much luggage with them...' which is probably quite true! But then arriving in America, it was nothing, scanned my fingers and thumbs. The guy was like, 'hey, how are you doing?, what are you gonna do?'. I was like 'going to Marfa'. He's like 'where?' and I'm like, it's this place in the middle of the desert. 'Why are you going there?' 'It's like this art mecca thing'. 'Oh yeah,



my aunt is an art teacher.' 'Great! She'd love it, it's full of concrete sculptures made by this guy called Donald Judd'. 'Great, have a good time!' 'Thanks, bye!!!' They didn't question me at all, like nothing.

You never know. When I went to Chile for my sister's wedding I had to transfer in Atlanta. I was just there for 3 hours but they questioned me like crazy – 'why is your sister getting married in Chile', what are you going to do there'. Properly interrogating me. I was like WOW! 3 hours I'm staying at the airport.

I think legally even if you fly over the US you're technically in USA, so they do question you. Why Chile, why through the US.

We landed and were transferring to another flight to go to El Paso, and we had to offload all our luggage and check it back in again. El Paso airport is tiny, it's like Modlin. But maan, this flight from Houston to Modlin was like...

Houston to El Paso you mean?

Haha, yeah, Houston to El Paso. It was the tiniest plane ever. 2 seats, the aisle and one seat. I think there were maximum 50 people on the plane. It was so small I couldn't even stand up straight. It was like a kite. You could feel every gust of wind.

I had it once in Berlin.

To Berlin?

Yes, I was flying to Berlin on the first leg of a flight to America, and then I changed into this huge double decker thing with like 15 rows.

I'm applying for a residency in the states too.

But I thought you thought Europe was so great now? You were saying how great Europe is. What's wrong with Europe now?

Did I?

Yeah, you were saying how great Europe is now, and for the next couple of years you want to stay in Europe.

Haha. Are you jealous? Do you want to be the only one to apply for a residency in the states? Hahaha. But, no seriously. I have had this residency in my mind for a while now. This is actually the third time I'm applying for it. And I really, really miss people there. If I get this residency they will cover travel.

Where is it?

In the middle of nowhere. It's an island on Lake Superior. So it's pretty remote. So if I get it I'll spend some time there then fly to New York and Massachusetts see friends and family.

How long is it?

Its 2-4 weeks. It's so remote and disconnected so they don't do it too long. But we'll see.

Would you do a specific project?

Yeah, it's quite specific. That's why I like it. They only take 4 people, only in the summer season and they are very much research projects. Of all sorts. They had one guy writing an opera there, a painter. And one girl who used the opportunity to totally disconnect. To experience complete solitude.

You guys too?

You get the choice, you can have internet if you like.

But from you guys, did she separate from the other people on the residency too?

No no, she was completely away. But I don't know what she created from that. Let's say it was more like preparation. But there are others that are more like concrete. And they ask for a lot. Normally you might just write 500 words, but for this they ask for 1300 words.

And you would go next summer then?

Yes, yes.

And you, when would you go?

Pretty soon, in the spring. Sometime in the spring, they don't say. And they only allow 4000 characters in the application.

Characters?!?! Just the opposite, just the opposite then. Yesterday I got an email from Apex art, and they have a very particular process, and I just looked at it, they have a very particular process, interesting. Totally anonymous. You can't reveal any of your personal details. Otherwise it is deleted before it's sent to the jury. They get so many applications, they have like 150 people reviewing.

So, you don't send a portfolio then?

No, I don't think so. You send images to support your proposal. You send a concept for a show actually. Artists send stuff too, but it's more about curating actually.

Where's that one?

It's in New York City.

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I keep feeling like I should get back into applying. But it feels hard to start again, for me.

I mean for me I've had enough things to interest me. Sometimes I send things that don't take too much work, send and forget. But this one, for Rabbit Island, I've been preparing for ages. Last year I got on the shortlist. When I was on the list I was asking if they wanted help with building because they were constructing. But they were like 'that's very nice, but no thank you'.

But you're on their radar though. That's good.

Yeah, last time they sent me an email saying thanks and apply next year.

Yeah, so apply for sure.

Yeah.

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Applying for project for YUTRA.

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