

NICOLAS PROKOP

PORTFOLIO

Swamp Paradise

Installation

@ Studio Bubec, Prague 2025

In my diploma project, *Encounters On An Empty Field*, I intricately examine the symbiotic relationship between a mole's tunnel-like habitat and a garden-like environment. Within this narrative, the spirits, inhabitants, and their intricate connections act as mediators, facilitating the visual representation of complex (eco) systems. The primary objective of the project is to provide commentary on the deteriorating quality of our soil, a consequence of our mishandled and industrialized agricultural practices.

This environment is not merely inhabited by non-human entities; it is also actively tended to by humans, creating a dynamic interplay between nature and culture. This unique setting offers a distinctive opportunity for deliberate and unhurried observation, fostering a platform for experiential learning. *Encounters On An Empty Field* thus becomes a multi-layered exploration, not only addressing environmental concerns but also encouraging a thoughtful reflection on the intricate relationships that exist within ecosystems shaped by both natural and human influences.

Materials: spruce wood, glazed ceramics, hay, coconut fibre, red foil, 2x 18' min video, mulit-channel sound
dimensions variable



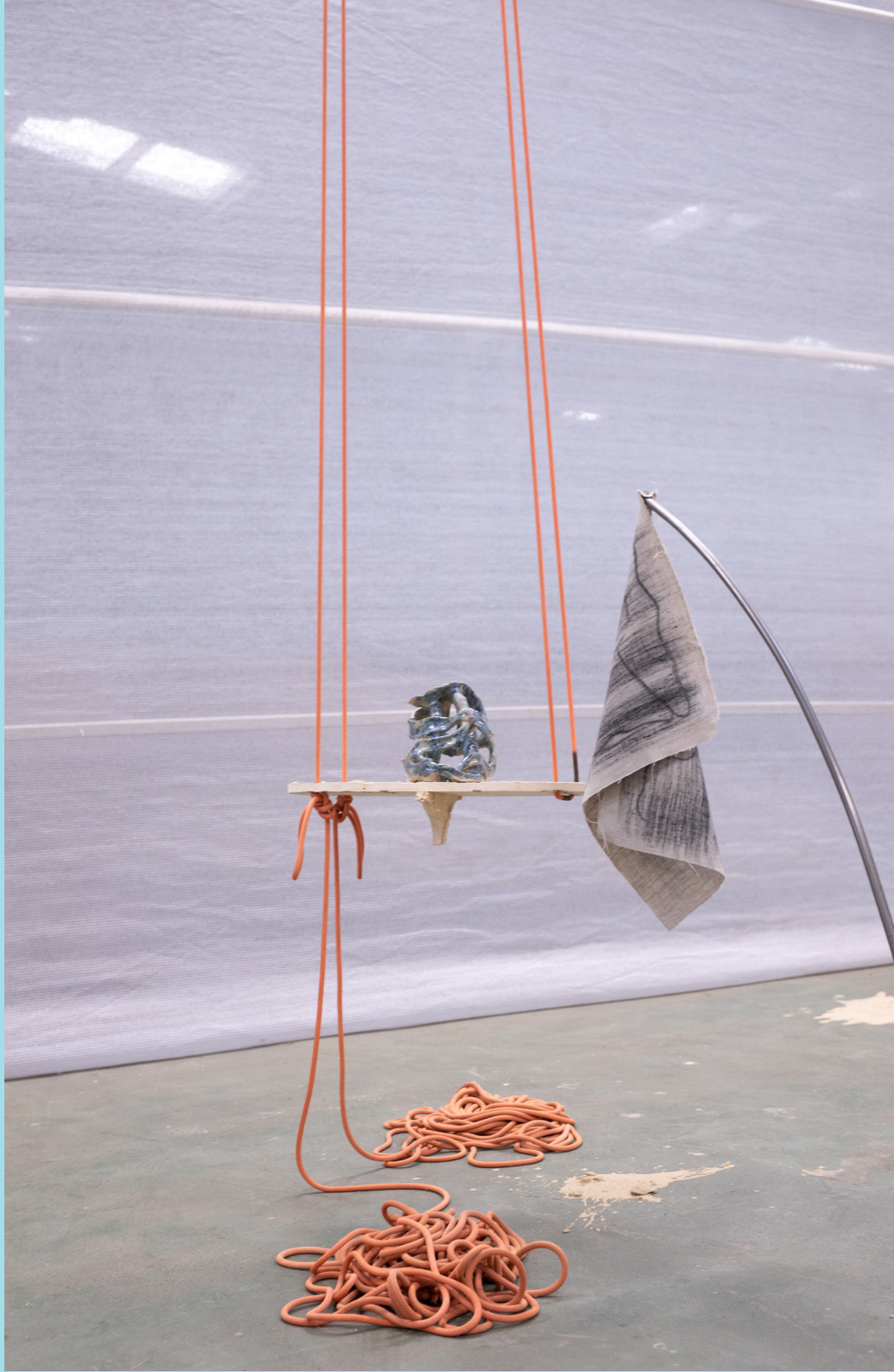


















Encounters On An Empty Field

Audio Visual Installation
@ Umprum, Prague 2023

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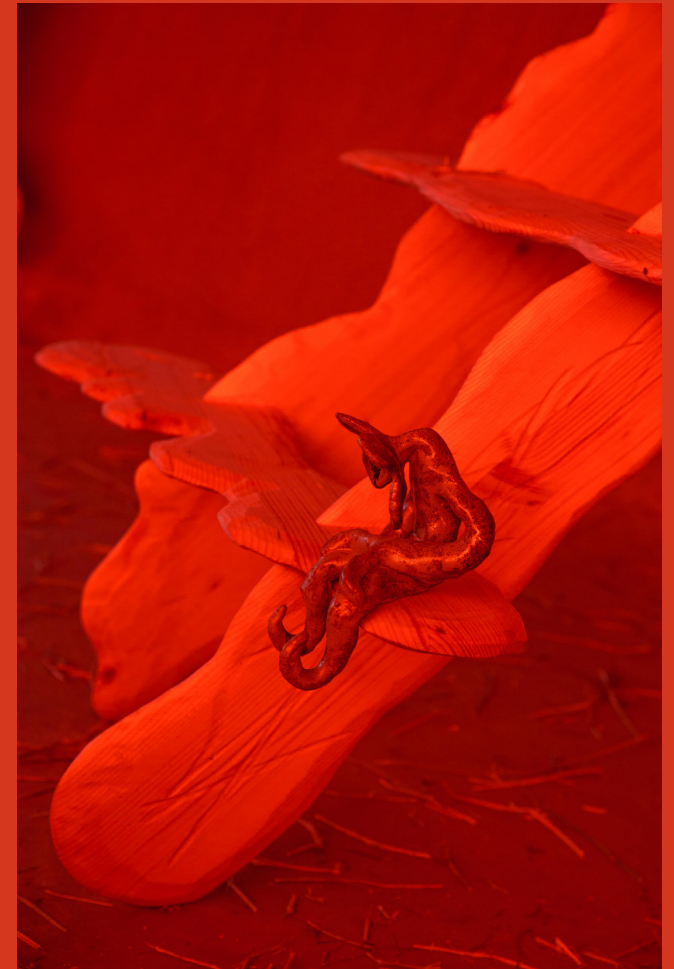
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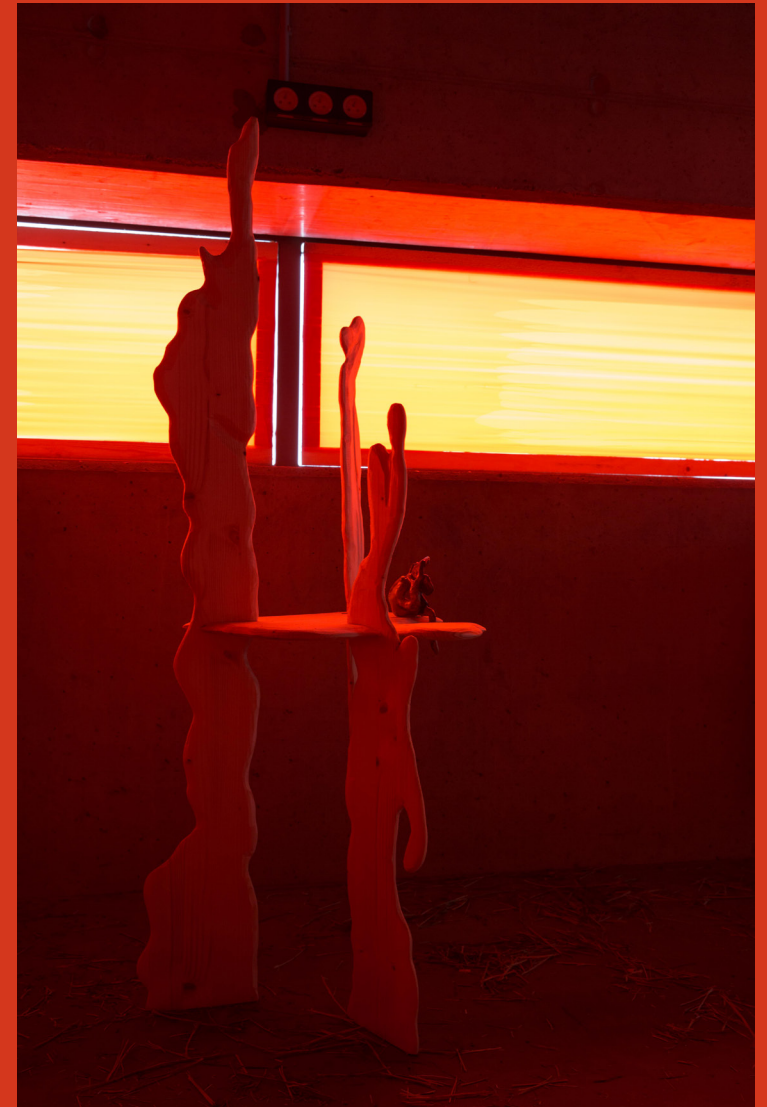
Materials: spruce wood, glazed ceramics, hay, coconut fibre, red foil, 2x 18' min video, mulit-channel sound
dimensions variable



















Daisies

Objects

@ Centre for Art and Ecology, Umprum, Prague 2023

The collection *Daisies* from *Encounters On An Empty Field* portrays humanoid flowers engaging in observation and commentary, highlighting their vulnerable position as they simultaneously express concern for and contribute to the deterioration of their surroundings.

Materials: glazed ceramics
dimensions variable







If you feed me, than I feed you & Tenated by €. Fetidas

Installation

@ MUD, Benešov 2023

If you feed me, than I feed you & Tenanted by €. Fetidas constitutes a prolonged venture rooted in a Vermicular system, featuring numerous modular Vermicomposts. Each compartment fulfills a specific function, providing a habitat for worms, collecting leachate, and accumulating organic waste to produce liquid fertilizer or enriching soil. This project exemplifies an organic ecosystem, showcasing a consortium of invasive worm species that infiltrate and reclaim cultural symbols. The structure, serving as a refuge for the worms, embodies a symbiotic relationship, navigating the intersection between nature and culture within the realms of vermicomposting and environmental studies.

Materials: paper pulp, Y-tong, PVC vermicompost, worm species €. Fetidas
dimensions variable







I blindly followed my desires..

Installation

@ Umprum, Prague 2022

I blindly followed my desires intricately explores the dire state of our soil ecosystems. Through the portrayal of an abstract model depicting a mole's habitat and its intricate relationship with earthworms, the artwork underscores the pivotal role these organisms play in our environment. The emphasis is on their significance and the concerning surge in their extinction within landscapes marred by mismanagement.

Delving into the biology and environmental intricacies, the piece illuminates the underground activities of moles and earthworms. By meticulously digging intricate tunnel systems, these creatures not only create shelter but also contribute significantly to the ecosystem. Earthworms, in particular, play a vital role in the production of natural fertilizers. Their activities bring essential nutrients from deeper layers to the surface, enriching the soil and fostering a more fertile environment.

Furthermore, this symbiotic relationship serves as a natural mechanism to combat environmental challenges. The tunneling activities of moles and the presence of earthworms help prevent flooding and erosion by enhancing soil structure and water absorption capacity. *I blindly followed my desires* thus serves as a nuanced exploration, drawing attention to the intricate biology and ecological importance of these organisms in the context of a landscape facing increasing threats and challenges.

Materials: wood, ceramics, pastel chalk, soil
approx. 150x250x120cm











Breeding Acari: Meet My Mate Mite, When The Moon Shines

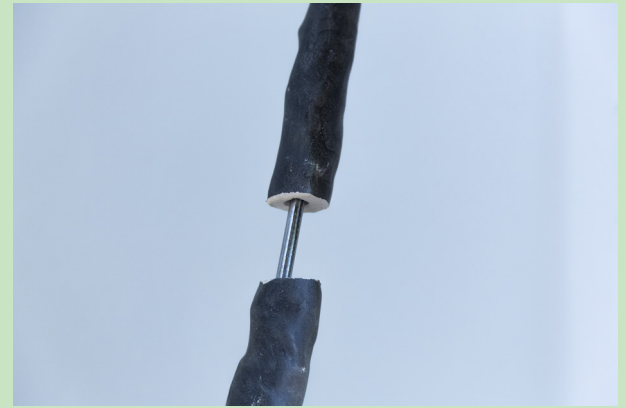
Site-specific Installation
@ Gallery Nika, Prague 2021

The work *Meet My Mate Mite, When The Moon Shines* is part of the *Breeding Acari* series, exploring subtle influences in the immediate surroundings of both humans and other living entities. This collection illustrates how overlooked triggers impact our collective emotional states, mental conditions, and overall physical well-being.

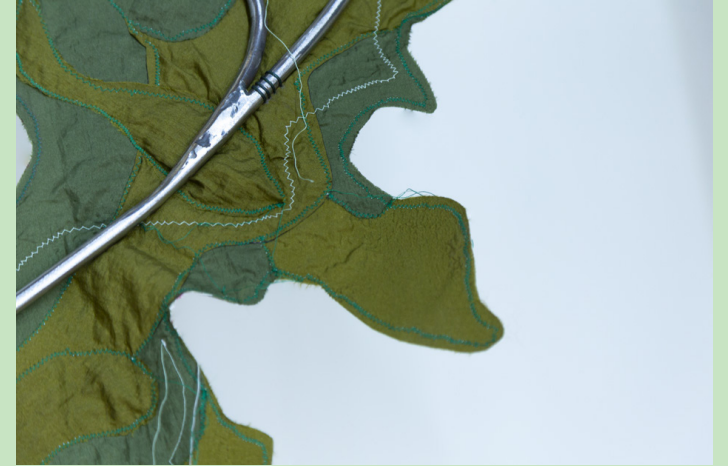
Through a thoughtful examination of environmental dynamics, the artwork visually dissects the connections between unseen forces and their profound effects on the ecosystems of humans and other living beings. The series provides a nuanced perspective on the relationship between our environment and the well-being of all entities, highlighting the interconnectedness within the intricate web of life.

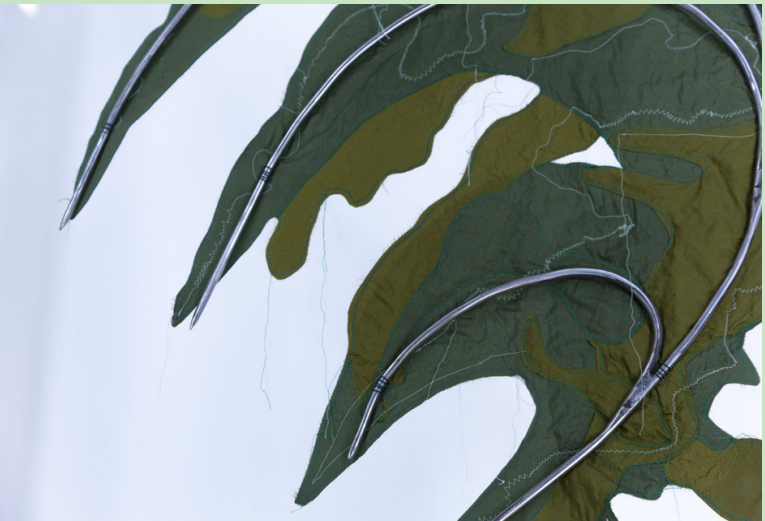
Materials: ceramics, recycled textile, metal
dimensions variable











LUCA

Site-specific Installation

@ Umprum & Ďankali, Prague 2020/2021

The bachelor work *LUCA (the last universal common ancestor)* is a culmination of diverse practices intricately woven through participatory workshops, symbolizing a communal body. The resulting structure forms a collaborative and multifaceted “cell” that symbolizes collective creativity. Within this innovative composition, two fictional bio-machines and hovering sondes take center stage, representing fictive and futuristic organic machines intricately connected to the human body.

The integration of participatory workshops adds a layer of communal engagement, turning the artwork into a reflection of shared creative endeavors. The symbiotic relationship between the communal body and the fictive organic machines further explores the intricate dynamics between human agency and technological elements, providing a glimpse into a futuristic narrative.

Materials: synthetic textile, paper pulp, wire, cotton thread, coconut fibre, sheep wool
dimensions variable











Breeding Acari: Incidental Encounters

Installation

@ MEME Gallery, Athens 2019

Incidental Encounters marks the inception of the *Breeding Acari* series, delving into imperceptible and sub-conscious stimuli within the immediate environment of both human and non-human entities. The series aims to unravel the impact of these triggers on collective mood, mental well-being, and overall physical health. Through the amplification of microscopic and broader landscapes, filtered through the lens of imagination and fantasies, the artwork seeks to emphasize the importance of these processes for individual well-being, ecological balance, and biodiversity. This exploration delves into the intricate connections between unseen forces in our surroundings and their profound effects on diverse ecosystems.

Materials: recycled textile, paper pulp, Y-tong, glazed ceramics, aloi, synthetic clay, cotton thread
dimensions variable







Invalid Body Parts

Installation

@ Invalidovna, Prague 2019

The work *Invalid Body Parts* responds to its immediate surroundings and the utilization of the exhibition space within Invalidovna, a building with a historical legacy dating back to the 18th century. Originally intended to accommodate disabled war veterans, including the renowned Czech photographer Josef Sudek, the space holds a rich history. As a distinctive element, the hay incorporated into the plaster casts was intentionally allowed to decay throughout the exhibition.

Materials: plaster, hay, silicon, nylon
approx. 20x15x18cm; 40x30x150cm; 18x25x2cm
dimensions variable







PICARO

Short film & Performance (18'min)

@ Display Gallery, Limestone Fabric & Late- Night Karpuchina Gallery, Czech Republic 2019

The short video *Picaro* narrates a fictional tale centered around the protagonist, Picaro, exploring the impact of a polluted environment on the human body and its behaviors. The narrative unfolds as a human character finds himself stranded in a contaminated setting. Faced with the challenge of survival in this unfamiliar environment, Picaro must develop novel behaviors and adjust to his surroundings. His objective is to reconstruct a fresh map of consciousness in response to the enigmatic nature of his surroundings and the loss of his memories.

Materials: metal, coconut fibre, wood, glass, cotton, plastic, wire, foam
dimensions variable







Trumpets Of Revelation

Sound Installation

@ Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, Prague 2018

The piece *Trumpets Of Revelation* draws inspiration from the myth of the seven trumpets wielded by archangels, foretelling impending apocalyptic events and providing warnings through the sound of their trumpets. Set within an vacant apartment, visitors unwittingly trigger the trumpet's sound by stepping on concealed contact microphones beneath the floor surface. This action results in an unforeseen sound collage generated by the audience. Another exhibited object within the installation depicts a stylized human figure bowing down with raised arms, embodying the posture of a demoralized individual.

Materials: plaster, wire, contact microphones, amplifier
approx. 30x60x20cm; 25x160x15; 28x50x15cm
dimensions variable



115 Souls

Installation

@ Ārtsemester, Umprum, Prague 2016

115 Souls is a commemorative installation paying tribute to the refugees who undertook the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea in 2016, shedding light on the inherent imbalance within prevailing power systems. The memorial seeks to capture the profound human experiences and challenges faced by those compelled to seek safety and refuge amidst the treacherous waters. Through a detailed exploration of the events, the installation endeavors to convey the complex dynamics of power, highlighting the disparities that shape the narratives of migration and displacement.

Materials: bicycle tubes, wire, rope, metal, wood
approx. 60x170x50cm; 40x30x65cm
dimensions variable



Black Skin, White Masks

Intervention in public space

@ Churchill Square, Prague 2016

The intervention draws inspiration from Franz Fanon's book "Black Skin, White Masks" and expresses solidarity with the Kikuyu ethnic tribe, known for their resistance against British colonial rule in Kenya. The artwork involves the transformation of a memorial dedicated to W. Churchill in Prague, reimagining the figure as a symbol of the Kikuyu tribe's resilience and struggle against colonial oppression.

Materials: α-crystal, paper-mache, metal, wood
approx. 35x450x10cm; 150x45cm
dimensions variable

