

## About The Birds

Curated by Bob Bicknell-Knight

Anastasiia Krapivina, Kroplya, Denis Kudrjasov, Olev Kuma, Bob Bicknell-Knight, Rosa-Maria Nuutinen, Kertu Rannula, Nora Schmelter, Aidan Timmer and Edvard Vellevoog

11th - 22nd June 2025

Uus Rada, Raja tn 11a, 12616 Tallinn, Estonia

The curatorial platform *isthisit?* is excited to present About The Birds, an exhibition at Uus Rada that explores house sparrows, their ubiquity and resilience, alongside their status as invasive pests. Stemming from an interest in how pervasive and common this species of bird has become, and how they have spread all over the world, About The Birds is an exhibition exploring ideas surrounding the home, transformation and change.

Each of the ten international artists in the exhibition was provided with a custom-built wooden bird house, made specifically for house sparrows. They were given free reign with what to do with the structure, enabling the artists to produce a new work of art that echoes their ongoing practice whilst asking them to reflect on their own relationship to this common bird.

Due to the project and initial prompt, many of the participants took the opportunity to reflect on what home means to them. Anastasiia Krapivina decided to coat her bird house, A hut, in natural gesso, evoking the whitewashed surfaces of traditional Ukrainian clay houses, whilst Edvard Vellevoog's Heap of a home takes the form of a cover-dress made from found objects, picked up and discovered during daily flight paths to and from his familial home. Reflecting on the ephemeral nature of homes, Kroplya used antiseptics to



About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View

create ʘ:~: ʘ:~:~:~: ʘ:~:~: ʘ:~:~:~:, a bird house embellished with temporary spots which will fade over time.

Although house sparrows have lived with and around human beings for many centuries, they are known to be aggressive and territorial, especially around nesting season. After being attacked by sparrows on two separate occasions, Kertu Rannula decided to create the bird fatale, a stiletto-heeled bird house that evidently doesn't fuck around. Decorated with broken tree branches and covered in a thick layer of black industrial paint, Olev Kuma's Invader appears to be the nest of an ancient, omen-esque creature, having supplanted the original homeowner.

Within Europe bird houses traditionally functioned as traps to capture birds for their eggs and meat, but in contemporary times they are used to support bird conservation. Inspired by his parent's bird house being attacked by a woodpecker, Denis Kudrjašov reinforced his bird house, Beak mirror, with a perforated metal sheet, protecting it against future agitators. In contrast, Bob Bicknell-Knight's Vault resembles a concrete mausoleum, distorting the houses' original purpose, whilst Aidan Timmer trapped his bird house, Glass is an indiscriminate killer, within a clear acrylic cuboid adorned with the silhouettes of different birds, deterring any potential collisions.

Many articles stress that a bird house should blend in with its natural environment, making it harder for predators to find. Nora Schmelter took this idea literally for the installation In Plain Sight. A video recording within the gallery shows Schmelter's bird house installed on a tree directly opposite Uus Rada, subtly blending into the background, imagining a future where the tree continues to grow and absorbs the house altogether. Utilising the bird house as a mould and disregarding the original wooden structure,



About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View



Rosa-Maria Nuutinen's Feeding and pumping, feeding and pumping is the result of blowing molten glass into the centre of her bird house. What's left is a glass organ inhabiting a limbo-like state of existence, unsure of its intended function.

The exhibition at Uus Rada is the first piece of a three-part curatorial project. Once the exhibition ends the bird houses will be installed in and around Tallinn on different trees and buildings, for the public to visit and discover. The different locations will be accessed via a map published on the [isthisit?](http://isthisit?) website. Once installed, the works will be left to live outside in the natural environment, decaying and transforming with time. The final part of the project will be a book published in late 2025, featuring documentation of the different works, both at Uus Rada and in their locations around the city, as well as a series of short texts reflecting on the project and its themes.



About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View



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Installation View



Kuaraatoriplatvorm isthiat? esitab põnevusega Uus Rada galeris näitus *About The Birds*, mis ürib koduvarblasi, nende levikut ja vastupidavust ning staatust invasiivsete kahjuritena. Lähtudes huvi, kui laialt levinud ja tavapärane on see inimlikult ning kuidas varblasi leidub üle kogu maailma, ürib *About The Birds* kodu, ümberkujundamist ja muutusi ümbritsevad ideid.

Lähtudes algset ülesandest, kasutasid paljud kunstnikud võimalust, et mõtestada oma arusaama kodust. Teoses A.H. Krabap Anastasia Krapiņa oma linnumaatusele loomisele keskendub, viidates traditsioonilistele välgale lubatud üheksajärgsele. Edvard Vellevoop teos *Heap of a home* kujutab endast kattena vormiumet klienti, mis koosneb kunstniku koduteel kogitud leidesemest. Kropija teos "I.I." [I.I.] [I.I.] [I.I.] [I.I.] mõtleb kolmele kadunud ühele. Kasutades antipodiale ained, on talinnamaine kaunistatud täppidega, mille jäljed ajapiiku valguse mõjul tuhmuvad.

Euroopas kasutati linnumajade kunagi linnude puudmiseks, ent tänapäeval on neist saanud vahendid linnude kaitseks. Inspireerituna rähni poolt hävitatud linnumajast, tugevdas Denis Kudrjašov oma teose *Beak mirror* metallplaadiga, et seda tulevaste kallaletungijate eest kaitsta. Bob Bicknell-Knight'i *Vault* mõjub sellele vastandlikult – tema betoonis

Pajulid allitakse rõhutatav, elu- ja liikumisvõime suurendamiseks keskkonda sulaandumise. Nõu sooritamise režiim *on* *Harjo* ja selle mõtte otsustamis elu- ja liikumisvõime suurendamiseks on näha Schmitteri linnuma, mis on paigaldatud Ju Rada vastas asuvala puule, peasegü märkamatult, sulandudes taustaga. Teos kujutab ette tulevikku, kus puu kaalal endis ja neelab majale talleleikimise endasse. Nõu-Maria Nulandus jätab kõrvale algse puitkonstruktsiooni ning kasutab selle hõlpsa vormina. Teos *Feeding and pumping, feeding and pumping* on linnuma sisse puhatud sulaklaasist org, mis hõlpsa teadmatust. Et ole selge, mis funktsiooni ta kannab või kas üldse.

4-

LEWIS & CLARK

The curatorial platform isth197 is excited to present *About The Birds*, an exhibition at Uus Rada that explores house sparrows, their ubiquity and resilience, alongside their status as invasive pests. Stemming from an interest in how pervasive and common this species of bird has become, and how they have spread all over the world, *About The Birds* is an exhibition exploring ideas surrounding the home, transformation and change.

Due to the project and initial prompt, many of the participants took the opportunity to reflect on what home means to them. Anastasiya Kravpina decided to cover her bird house, a *hut*, in natural grass, evoking the whitewashed surfaces of traditional Ukrainian clay houses, whilst Edward Velievsky's *Heap of a home* takes the form of a cover-dress made from found objects, picked up and discovered during daily flight paths to and from his familial home. Reflecting on the ephemeral nature of homes, Kroply used antiseptics to create "Лі! Лі!д-ж!-і!- " "Л-і-і!", a bird house embellished with temporary spots which will fade over time.

Within Europe bird houses traditionally functioned as traps to capture birds for their eggs and meat, but in contemporary times they are used to support bird conservation. Inspired by his parent's bird house being attacked by a woodpecker, Denis Kudrjasov reinforced his bird house, *Beak mirror*, with a perforated metal sheet, protecting it against future agitators. In contrast, Bob Bicknell-Knight's *Vault* resembles a concrete mausoleum, distorting the houses' original purpose, whilst Aidan Timmer trapped his bird house, *Glass* in an indiscriminate killer, within a clear acrylic cuboid adorned with the silhouettes of different birds, deterring any potential collisions.

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4

isthisit? is a platform for contemporary art, exhibiting hundreds of artists since its creation in May 2016, founded by artist and curator Bob Bicknell-Knight. The platform organises online and offline exhibitions, hosts an infrequent residence programme and has published a series of books, focusing on broad themes from contemporary modes of surveillance to fake news and video game culture.

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About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View





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Installation View



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Installation View





About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View



Aidan Timmer  
Glass is an indiscriminate killer, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, plexiglass, glue, vinyl  
45 x 31 x 31 cm





Aidan Timmer  
Glass is an indiscriminate killer, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, plexiglass, glue, vinyl  
45 x 31 x 31 cm



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Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, plexiglass, glue, vinyl  
45 x 31 x 31 cm



Bob Bicknell-Knight

Vault, 2025

Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, cement mix, PVA, water

36 x 30.5 x 16.5 cm





Bob Bicknell-Knight

Vault, 2025

Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, cement mix, PVA, water

36 x 30.5 x 16.5 cm



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Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, cement mix, PVA, water

36 x 30.5 x 16.5 cm





Nora Schmelter  
In Plain Sight, 2025  
second tree from the left, out of uus Rada gallery  
35 x 21 x 16 cm





Nora Schmelter  
In Plain Sight, 2025  
second tree from the left, out of uus Rada gallery  
35 x 21 x 16 cm





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Nora Schmelter  
In Plain Sight, 2025  
second tree from the left, out of uus Rada gallery  
35 x 21 x 16 cm





Denis Kudrjašov  
Beak mirror  
Wood, nails, screw, silicone, metal, self-drilling screws  
37 x 20 x 16 cm





Denis Kudrjašov

Beak mirror

Wood, nails, screw, silicone, metal, self-drilling screws

37 x 20 x 16 cm



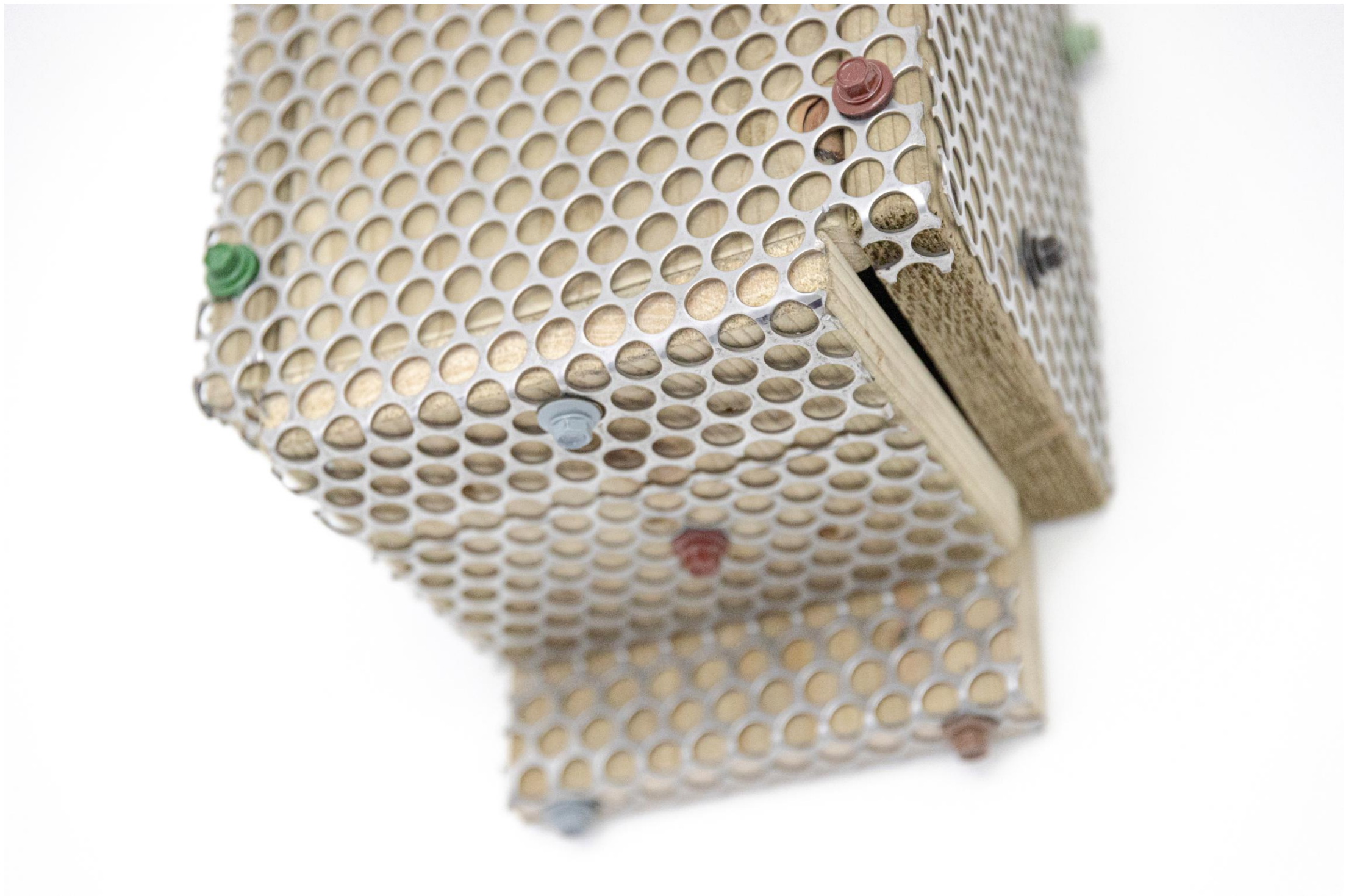
Denis Kudrjašov

Beak mirror

Wood, nails, screw, silicone, metal, self-drilling screws

37 x 20 x 16 cm





Denis Kudrjašov

Beak mirror

Wood, nails, screw, silicone, metal, self-drilling screws

37 x 20 x 16 cm





About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View





Kertu Rannula  
the bird fatale, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, metal  
90 x 27 x 34 cm





Kertu Rannula  
the bird fatale, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, metal  
90 x 27 x 34 cm





Kertu Rannula  
the bird fatale, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, metal  
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the bird fatale, 2025  
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Kertu Rannula  
the bird fatale, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, metal  
90 x 27 x 34 cm





About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View





Rosa-Maria Nuutinen  
Feeding and pumping, feeding and pumping, 2024  
Glass, rubber tubes  
172.5 x 37 x 32 cm



Rosa-Maria Nuutinen  
Feeding and pumping, feeding and pumping, 2024  
Glass, rubber tubes  
172.5 x 37 x 32 cm





Rosa-Maria Nuutinen  
Feeding and pumping, feeding and pumping, 2024  
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Rosa-Maria Nuutinen  
Feeding and pumping, feeding and pumping, 2024  
Glass, rubber tubes  
172.5 x 37 x 32 cm



Anastasiia Krapivina

A hut, 2025

Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, gauze, natural gesso

35 x 21 x 16 cm





Anastasiia Krapivina

A hut, 2025

Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, gauze, natural gesso

35 x 21 x 16 cm



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Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, gauze, natural gesso

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Anastasiia Krapivina

A hut, 2025

Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, gauze, natural gesso

35 x 21 x 16 cm



Edvard Vellevoog  
Heap of a home, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, canvas, acrylic paint, aluminium, found objects  
100 x 70 x 17 cm





Edvard Vellevoog  
Heap of a home, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, canvas, acrylic paint, aluminium, found objects  
100 x 70 x 17 cm



Edvard Vellevoog  
Heap of a home, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, canvas, acrylic paint, aluminium, found objects  
100 x 70 x 17 cm

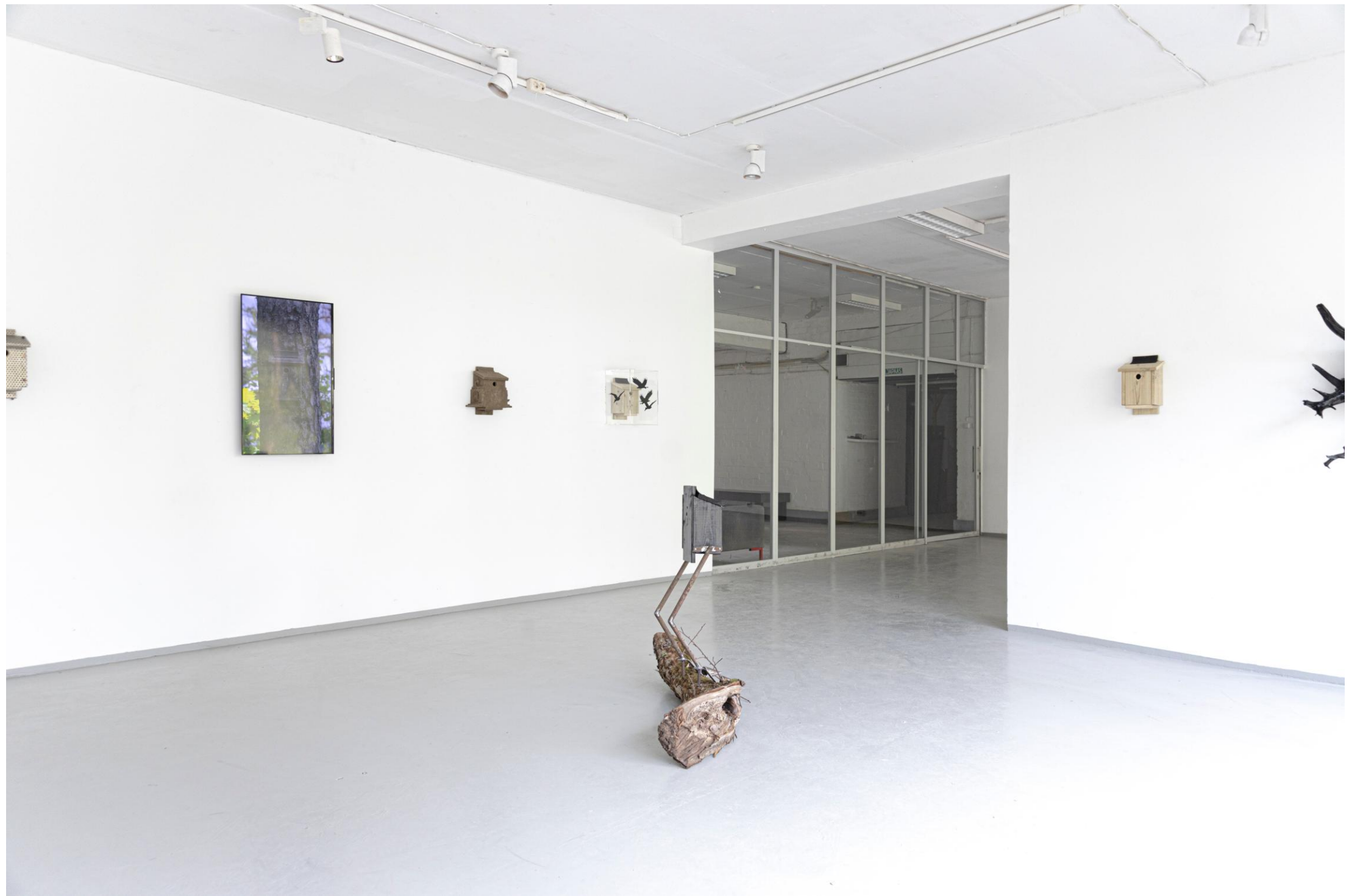






Edvard Vellevoog  
Heap of a home, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, rubber matting, canvas, acrylic paint, aluminium, found objects  
100 x 70 x 17 cm





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Installation View



About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View





Olev Kuma  
Invader, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, moss, plaster, industrial paint  
90 x 45 x 40 cm

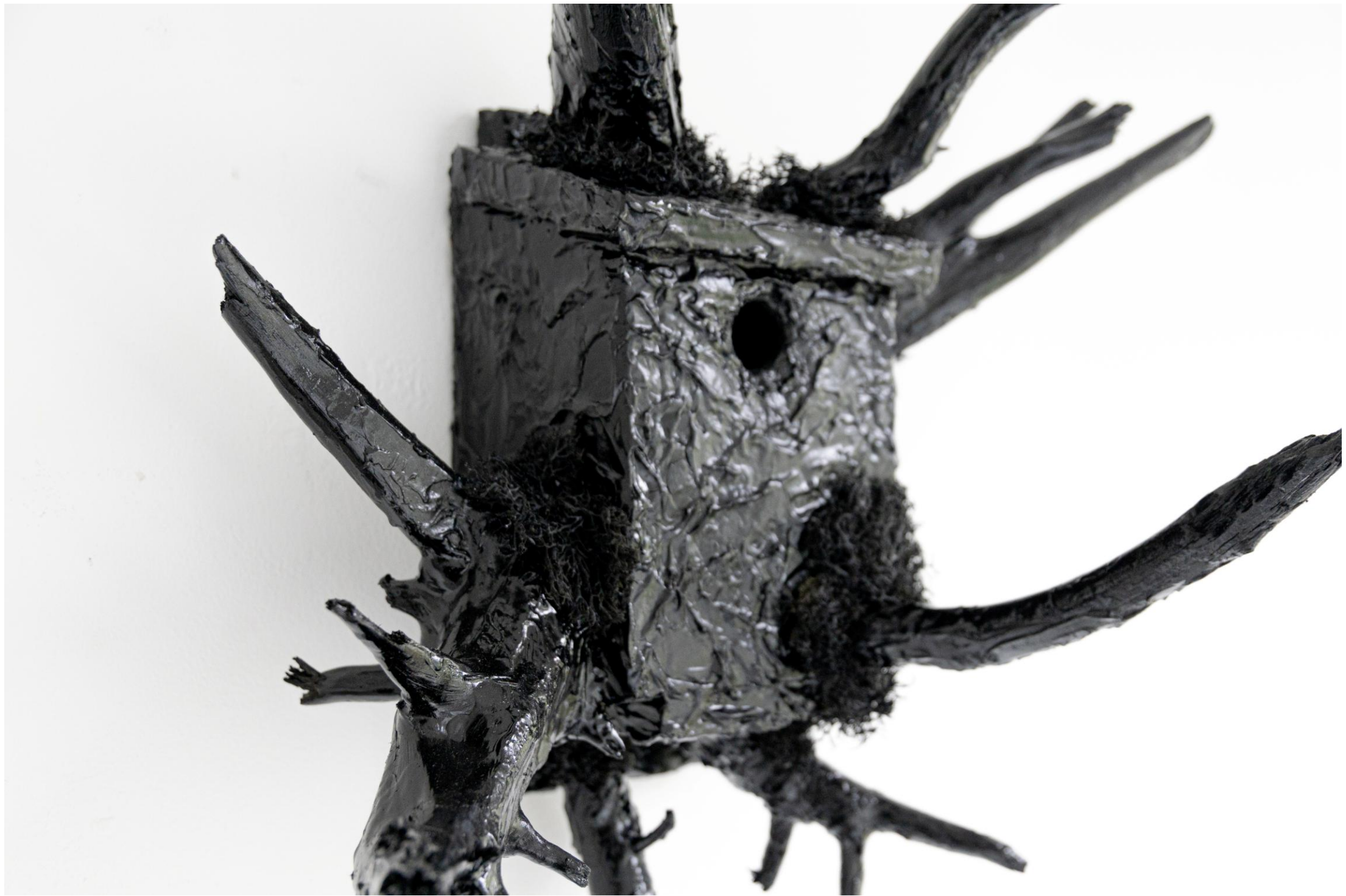


Olev Kuma  
Invader, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, moss, plaster, industrial paint  
90 x 45 x 40 cm





Olev Kuma  
Invader, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, moss, plaster, industrial paint  
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Olev Kuma  
Invader, 2025  
Wood, nails, screw, moss, plaster, industrial paint  
90 x 45 x 40 cm





About The Birds, 2025  
Installation View



Kroplya  
а first-time life, permanent fallibility, self-disinfection  
35 x 21 x 16 cm







Kroplya  
a first-time life, permanent fallibility, self-disinfection  
35 x 21 x 16 cm









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Installation View





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