



LEGROOM

Ona Juciūtė

Opening Saturday October the 12th at 6pm

Exhibition October the 15th – December the 21st 2024

Ona Juciūtė is interested in the memory embedded in objects and the traces of gestures left in the material of artifacts. As a sculptor, she pays particular attention to manual crafts in the fabrication process. Observing her close surroundings, she discovered traditional construction techniques at a young age, especially in carpentry. She realized that the skills and expertise needed were being lost in favor of abilities more aligned with the industrial production of utilitarian objects or mass-produced furniture. The connection to wood, its species and fibers, was disappearing as cuts and finishes became more precise with increasingly efficient machinery. Thus, the artist developed her own practice, balancing between disappearing processes and materials that were once common but are now precious. Collaborating with various specialists, she learned to reproduce the gestures of bygone crafts while metamorphosing the final forms. For instance, she strips domestic objects of their function and altered them to the point of forgetting their original model. Only the worked material seems to remain true to the reference process.

Ona Juciūtė draws from the manual labor of the past and keeps these rare practices alive today. However, she refuses to freeze these processes in a melancholic and idealized era; she surrounds herself with people who continue to sustain, adapt, refine, and perpetuate the trades and techniques of the past. She thus embraces forms of art and craftsmanship that are alive, though unusual. Her works are ephemeral traces of various ways of making, reacting and preserving themselves.

For La Halle, the artist is developing a specific project during her creative residency in September 2024. She will present new works that draw on the manufacturing activities historically established in the region (textiles, coal making...). She will revisit these practices in dialogue with Lithuanian tradition and bring them into resonance with techniques from the Far East. Her research focuses both on the production of forms and on the changes triggered by the materials and elements involved. Experimental, her exhibition will be marked by the physical transformations that fire and light imprint on the materials. The artist will offer works that crystallize a gesture and a practice but claim no symbolism or hierarchy of values. Neither "purist" nor "nostalgic," her work captures the present moment, fleeting and already obsolete.

The exhibition and residency are part of Ciconia Ciconia, a project organized as part of the 2024 Lithuanian Season in France, led by Studio Ganek, Lyon, and LIAA, in collaboration with La Halle, the contemporary art center of Pont-en-Royans, and Le Polaris in Corbas, in resonance with the 17th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art.

Before the exhibition: creative residency at La fabrique des luddites, Chatte.

The art center is supported by **Ministère de la Culture/DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Isère, Saint-Marcellin Vercors Isère Communauté** and **Pont-en-Royans**.

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