



Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania

December 16, 2016 — April 22, 2017

**THE
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CENTER**

Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania

Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania has been organized by the Lithuanian Photographers' Association (LPA) as part of an ongoing partnership between the cultural community of Lithuania and The Print Center. The exhibition was selected by artist and Chairman of the LPA Gintaras Česonis. The show provides an overview of some of the most significant photographic works created in Lithuania during the past fifty years. Each of the twelve artists presented uses the camera to observe and capture the routines of everyday life, which are both stable and simultaneously subject to constant change, replacement and erasure. As the writer Milda Kiaušaitė put it, "Daily routine is where we are, and as everything that is the closest, it becomes virtually invisible."

The exhibition features artists from two generations, one worked under the repression and censorship of Soviet occupation and another since independence in 1990. In these images, we see their commonplace existence, which often borders on the absurd, complete with the grime and pain accumulated in the corners of history and of individual lives.

The older generation, active in the 1960s and 70s, is comprised of a group of artists considered the masters of Lithuanian photography including Romualdas Augūnas, Aleksandras Macijauskas, Antanas Miežanskas, Romualdas Požerskis, Romualdas Rakauskas and Antanas Sutkus. These photographers did not work to provoke social conflict, but rather publicized and highlighted the universal problems of being during the Soviet era. Other photographers from that time, such as Vitas Luckus and Algirdas Šeškus, subscribed to avant-garde style, communicating in a different visual language.

The more recent generation of photographers, which has emerged since 2000, includes Gintaras Česonis, Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, Donatas Stankevičius and Arturas Valiauga, speak to us in the language of today. Their work is characterized by an analysis of varied surroundings, groups of people and phenomena. They



Vitas Luckus, from *Relatives*, 1958-1986

schematize and inventory experiences and life events, often with an almost clinical quality. Their photography is not impulsive; instead it is calculated and carefully plotted.

About the Lithuanian Photographers' Association

Established in 1933, the Lithuanian Photographers' Association is the central organization for photography in Lithuania. Originally established as an amateur photographers' association, early activities were suspended at the onset of Soviet occupation following World War II. In 1969, after a hard fought struggle with the Soviet bureaucracy, the organization was established as the Association of Lithuanian Art Photographers. It was the only such organization in the Soviet Union, and initially it functioned as a union. Membership provided exclusive access to professional work. The first Chairman of the new incarnation was the renowned photographer Antanas Sutkus, and its activities united artists like Sutkus, Algimantas Kunčius, Vitas Luckus, Aleksandras Macijauskas, Romualdas Rakauskas and Liudvikas Ruikas, who represented the classical Lithuanian School of Photography, with a younger generation. Today the influential and robust nonprofit arranges exhibitions, publishes books and provides educational activities. The organization runs gallery spaces in three cities and remains the only organization in Lithuania dedicated solely to photography.

This exhibition is the most recent activity resulting from The Print Center's partnership with Lithuania. Earlier this fall, an exhibition created by The Print Center, *Streets of Philadelphia: 1970-1985*, traveled to the Prospekto Gallery, the Lithuanian Photographers' Association's gallery in Vilnius.

Checklist of the Exhibition

Romualdas Augūnas, from *In Lithuania*, 1963-1986

Gintaras Česonis, from *Next Day in EU*, 2004

Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, from *Portrait of Kražiai*, 2002

Vitas Luckus, from *Relatives*, 1958-1986

Aleksandras Macijauskas, from *In Lithuania Rural Markets*, 1970

Antanas Miežanskas, from *Redounds*, 1970-1975

Romualdas Požerskis, from *Old Towns of Lithuania*, 1976-1982

Romualdas Rakauskas, from *Weekdays*, 1963-1967

Algirdas Šeškus, from *Lyrics of Love*, 1975-1977

Donatas Stankevičius, from *On the Bus Stop*, 2011

Antanas Sutkus, from *People of Lithuania*, 1967-1975

Artūras Valiauga, from *I dropped in on Stepas, we talked about life*, 2002

All the works in the show were printed in Philadelphia by Jeffrey Stockbridge of Stockbridge Fine Art Printing.

Gallery notes are generously provided by Brilliant Studios. The exhibition is sponsored by Stockbridge Fine Art Printing.



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Union of the Lithuanian art photographers

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Front: Arturas Valiauga, *I dropped in on Stepas, we talked about life*, 2002