

Border as a Place: workshop at Mizarai Practice and Recreation Centre in Lithuania

Border as a place is a workshop which focuses on borderlands and peripheries as manifest in built, natural, political and imagined spaces. The workshop will take place at Mizarai Practice and Recreation Centre in Lithuania, a residency belonging to the Vilnius Academy of Arts, close to the borders with Poland and Belarus. The week long workshop will bring students from across the KUNO network together where they will work in groups and individually, exploring topics that emerge from questions of what borders are and how they manifest in political realities, cultural history and in a variety of physical and intangible ways in spaces, bodies and narratives. The workshop will revolve around joint seminars, excursions and discussions with the possibility of realizing a process-focused exhibition at the end of the workshop. Students will be asked to present their work at the beginning of the workshop.

The workshop is funded under the Nordplus/KUNO framework.

Level: Bachelor&Master

Participating countries: Estonia, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway

Number of students: 25

Number of teachers: 6

Number of **ECTS:** 3

Duration in days: 7

Workshop dates: 14-20 March 2022 (7 days)

Eligible students:

5 fine art (and related fields) students from BA and MA levels at each of the following institutions:

VAA, Vilnius

EKA, Tallinn

KHiO, Oslo

IUA, Reykjavik

Additionally, 5 slots will be open across the KUNO network.

How to apply: please submit an [online application](#). The application must include a link to your portfolio and a short (max 400 words) letter of intention answering the question - Why is this workshop's theme and context relevant to your work or process?

Application deadline: 04.02.2022

More detailed description of the workshop

Border as a place: Lithuania-Poland-Belarus. The shift of borders in the 20th century left deep marks in Lithuania and the region. A particularly sensitive place is felt on the border of Lithuania, Poland and Belarus – in the space of the former Polish-Lithuania Commonwealth. Shared heritage, common history, the problem of choosing a nationality when borders change. These are just a few of the issues that are still relevant today. These problematic aspects, especially at the border, are

compounded by other social problems, such as the lack of an open and active civil society and civic initiatives, and a weak NGO sector.



Venue. Vilnius Academy of Arts invites in the practice center in Mizarai village, which is located at the intersection of three states – Lithuania, Poland and Belarus. The campus is the former summer residence of the ceramic factory “Jiesia”, located on the river Nemunas, drowned in lush forests, near the famous SPA resort Druskininkai.



Special trips (think tank). On the other side of the border of Lithuania there are former land of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, today's East Poland, with an important heritage for all neighboring countries. Therefore, a day visit will be paid to the most important think tank working on the borderland topic in the region – the *International Centre for Dialogue - Borderland Foundation*, which is based in the wooden manor house of Miłosz family and Jewish Synagogue in Sejny town. For a more stimulating discussion will be invited special guest from Lithuanian NGO institution – the *Open Lithuania Foundation*, which is the strongest non-governmental organization in Lithuania working in this field.

