

Esterházy Art Award 2021

Tünde Mézes

My concept for the Short List 2021 in Ludwig Museum Budapest is an extended, reconsidered version of my last solo show entitled On the first page at ISBN books + gallery.

In my application, I present an installation of 4 artworks that all contribute to one concept. One of them is very crisp - I'm showing 3D renders of it.



Micropædia



Micropædia – plaster cast, painted MDF board,
(12 pcs., 30*30*38 cm) installed on oakwood shelves
2020

Concept

Micropædia is the proof that there was another endeavour before or at one time with the internet. Its aim was also to find a new way of communication but with a divergent approach. The theory was the following: Relying on the recipient's knowledge and affinity, it is possible to transfer massive data only by sending short, encoded messages. As though after reading an epigraph, we knew the content of the whole book.

The scene where the volumes of this useless encyclopedia are found is an abandoned laboratory around halfway from a library to a server room. Other remaining objects tell us many details about their previous owner and their mindset. They help to place Micropædia in time and space, but also indirectly or misleadingly.

As far as Micropædia is considered to be an artwork, the whole concept reflects on the reception of art. It questions that art is indeed an (in)effective form of communication.

Short description

Micropædia is a set of 12 objects - books or computers/servers. On the upper side of each piece is a sentence. They are short inscriptions taken from everyday contexts but referring to much more.

Installation

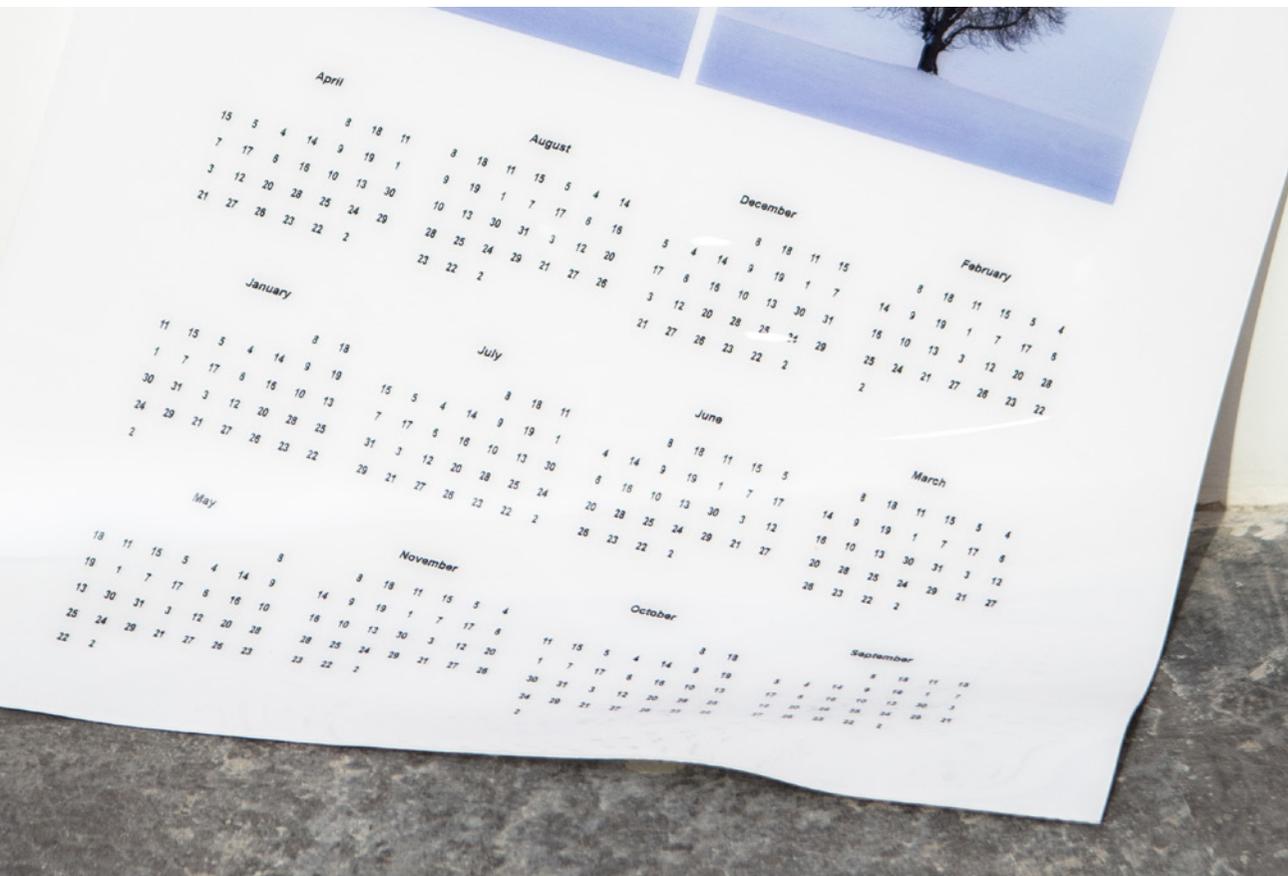
The works are displayed sparsely on oakwood shelves and on the floor. One of the 4 shelves is turned over. All 4 of the exhibited works connect tightly, their layout – which evolves according to space – is essential. A small or narrow separated room would fit the concept the best.



Librarian's calendar



Librarian's Calendar –
digital print, plexiglass 70*50 cm,
2020



Short description

Librarian's calendar is a manipulated calendar in which the months and days (numbers written by letters) follow each other in alphabetical order. Alphabetization applied to natural circulation disperses its system. The adaptation to the new order of months mixes up the photos depicting a chestnut tree in changing seasons. The year refers to the first website published in 1991, which resulted in a new way of access to information.

Installation

The work is simply installed on the floor. The bent plexiglass is leaning against the wall and stays in place without any support.

Lo



Lo – wood object on acrylic rods, ca. 25 x 20 x 15 cm, 2020



Short description

The work refers to the first message transmitted on the Internet (1969), which instead of LOGIN, simply became LO due to a system crash. These two letters are cut into the trunk of a dead bonsai tree.

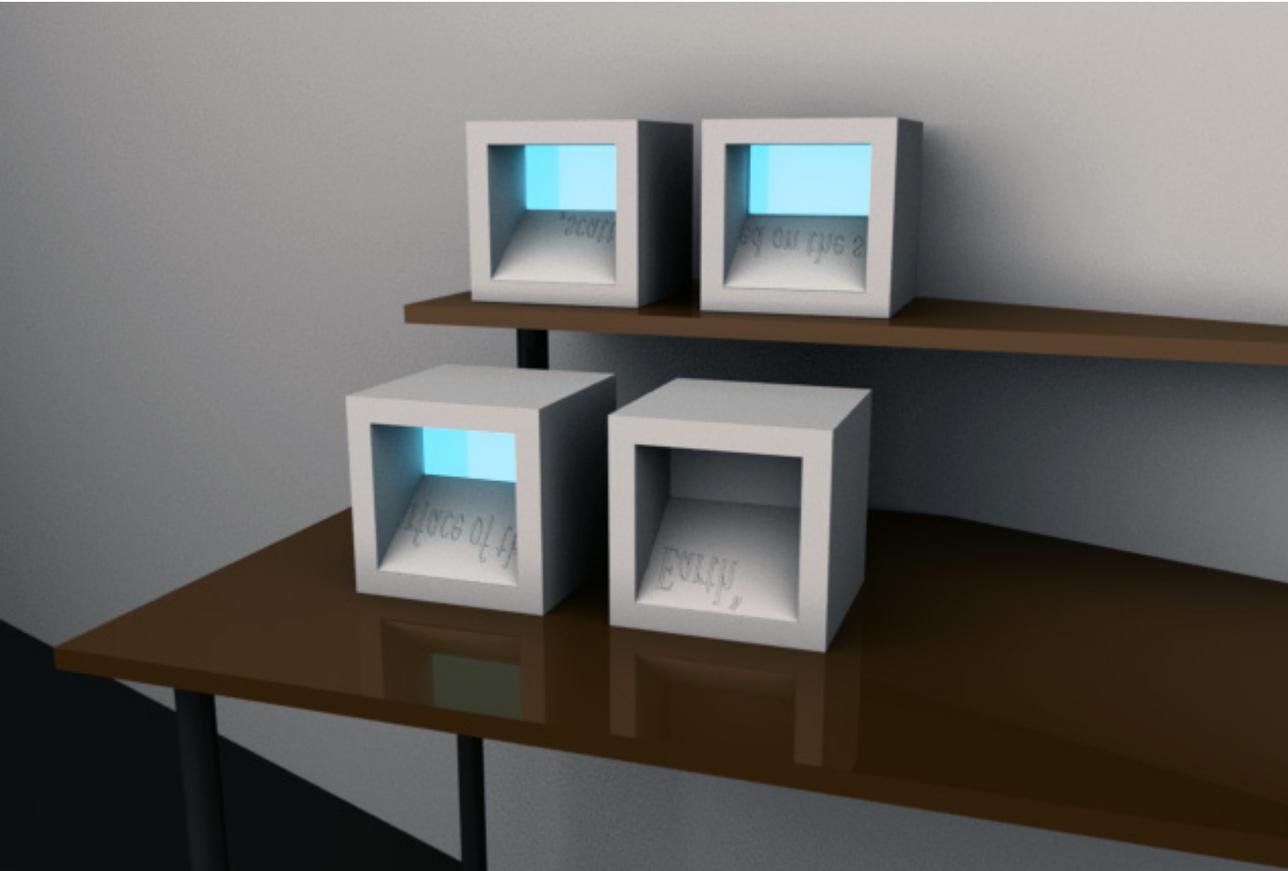
Installation

The tree is installed on two pieces of acrylic rods, which make it look like levitating, and also stand in sharp contrast with the natural material.

Unknown error



Unknown error – installation consisting of plaster casts (15*15*15 cm), led lights, frosted glass, plywood, metal table-legs, mouse mat (150*120*80cm)
2021



Short description

„Assemble all knowledge scattered on the surface of the Earth.“ Denis Diderot defines on this wise the aim of the encyclopedia. The second half of the sentence is written on the four castings, which sounds like an error message – the attempt failed, the knowledge is still lying unassembled on the surface of the Earth. Sit down, lean back and look through the window at the blue sky. You may find an answer out there.

Installation

The plaster casts are installed on a desk, partly disappearing in the wall. An old mouse mat depicting palm trees is pinned above it.

Photo credit: Mátyás Gyuricza

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