

YARD GALLERY

E. OŽEŠKIENĖS G. 21

It's the only gallery open 24/7 – and always under construction! Vytenis Jakas, an artist who moved into a house in this courtyard more than a decade ago, noticed that neighbours are alienated – they had forgotten the collective past of the yard. Jakas received great support when he started transferring photographs of the Jewish families – who had previously lived here – on the walls. One after another, new objects continue to appear in the yard. New artists leave their traces here, neighbours' festivities take place in the yard which is also habitually visited by tourists. Just don't forget that people live there and they have their right to peace and quiet.

NYKOKA

NYKOKA.LT

The first Nykoka Street Art Festival was born in 2014 to colour the city, address the issues of public spaces and help understand the role of each one of us in the city's developing process. During the first year, the festival was dominated by the implementation of drawings, lectures and art shows, but now, it seems like it's taking place constantly. Sometimes louder, sometimes quieter, but it keeps reminding us that Kaunas is not that grey anymore.



KAUNAS ** HIGHLIGHTS

#kaunastic #visitkaunas #kaunas2022

HIGHLIGHTS.KAUNAS.LT

The competition initiated by Kaunas City Municipality is taking place since 2015. Everyone with artistic ideas for public spaces in Kaunas is periodically invited to provide sketches on a wide range of topics and in doing so give sense to the history of the city, revive abandoned spaces or provide good vibes. Almost every month a new highlight appears in the city – a sculpture, a drawing an object. All you need to do is keep track!



HI

There's no such word as "wallographer" you say? True, but how else should we call the observer of street art, graffiti, neo-frescoes, site-specific artwork and other traces of art that can be found outside museum or gallery walls? We invite you to become the wallographers of Kaunas and to embark on a never-ending tour — by the time you reach the final point of your walk, new detail will have emerged, and you will definitely want to snap a picture. It is also likely that one of the artworks included in the guide will have run its course. That's why the walls and streets of Kaunas (in addition to drawings, the guide contains a few sculptures and other objects that are integral to the city) are remarkable — they never sleep, they don't complain, demand or declare. They simply live.

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MORFAI

THE SQUARE / SMALININKU G.

words - I came, I gave a turn, I left.

DONELAIČIO G. 64

12 TOWARDS THE GOAL /

University. The only way is up!

E. OŽEŠKIENĖS G. 18A

ARTISTS' HOUSE /

V. PUTVINSKIO G. 56 - 60

15 CABIN / V. PUTVINSKIO G. 36

16 THE FIGHT / AUŠROS TAKAS 2

Vytenis Jakas, 2014

THE DINK ELEPHANT /

PERKŪNO AL. 3A

Marius Skrupskis 2015

The subtle and minimalist work reveals yet another

part of the universal and imaginative artist Morfai.

This symbolic touch can be interpreted in a couple of

In 2008 Morfai illegally added a site-specific artistic

detail to the sculpture of Bernardas Bučas, and

because of that illegality aspect, the stars were soon

painted over. But the artwork that gains meaning

after dark was so loved by the locals and visitors tha

after winning the Kaunas Highlights competition it

Located near the S. Darius and S. Girènas stadium

and Kaunas sports hall, the cosmic athlete is also an

inspiration for the students of Lithuanian Sports

The birth of this elephant was inspired by the writing

on the wall - Deima + Arūnas. Love conquers all -

even the attitude towards wall "pollution" or tags -

SQUARE NEXT TO THE KAUNAS

The sculptures of two important Kaunas sculptors -

father and son Antinis – have been a delight for V

Putvinskis street residents and visitors for severa

decades. The drawing Happy Children by brothers

Algirdas and Algimantas Gataveckas brings the

attention to kids growing up in the children's home.

Nearby, you can see Vytenis Jakas curtsey to

Morfai, Tomas Dėžutė, Vytenis Jakas, 2017

The artists coming together at the invitation of

Kaunas Artists' House drew the attention to the

invisible and abandoned wooden house. Chairs on

Two magnets that can't stay away from each other

but wish to be individual. Each day The Fight

motivates the pedestrians climbing up the Žaliakalnis

The unexpected detail you see while looking at the

Christ's Resurrection Basilica is a part of Small Walls

Proiect. The author of The Palm Tree is also a talented

hill. The artwork is a part of Small Walls Project.

THE PALM TREE / AUŠROS G. 4

Rokas Krilavičius, 2016

the roof are the highlight of the colourful artwork.

Morfai 9015

STAR SEEDER /

Morfai, 2008-2017

YOUNG MAN / PILIES G. 13

Tadas Šimkus and Žygimantas Amelynas ("Gyva Grafika"), 2015

The Young Man – having decorated several publications that wrote about the new street art era of Kaunas – created during Nykoka Festival fascinates with its classical features and skillfully masks the abandoned building.

UNDERGROUND PASSAGE

A passage near Nemunas quay was decorated with a glimmering city and the crouching dragon in 2009. This action was a part of the event Non-Secure

THE ROUTINE OF ART IUITINĖS G. 2

Ramunė Barkauskaitė 2014

The first and therefore iconic work of Nykoka Festival appeared on the cover of the first Kaunas Street Art Guide, Trust me, the drawing in a narrow little street creates a powerful impression

THE WISE OLD MAN / JONAVOS G. 3 "Gyva Grafika", 2013

> Formerly a footwear factory. For a few years, it functioned as a creative space called Ministry of Fluxus, Now the factory's - and Kaunas' - central point of attraction is the 440 m2 drawing: a dedication to the father of Fluxus Jurgis Mačiūnas

5 UNTITLED / ŠV. GERTRŪDOS G. 58 Ernest Zacharevič 2016

> At the invitation of Nykoka Festival, the mos well-known Lithuanian street artist in the world left his only (for now) mark in Kaunas, which, by the way delicately covered the previous graffiti.

6 WINDOWS / VEIVERIŲ G. 50A Linas Kaziulionis, 2015

> Sometimes all you need is an attentive look and some colours for an inconspicuous house - on the way to Aleksotas - to become a point of attraction for photographers, camera operators and music

7 UNICORN / BALTU PR. 125

Vytenis Jakas, 2018

Artist's idea, which lightens up the grey setting of the largest neighbourhood in Kaunas – Šilainiai – was implemented by his regular companions Goda Skėrytė and Ieva Voroneckaitė.

8 YARD / VARNIŲ G. 51

Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, 2017

Vilijampolė neighbourhood is perfect for implement ing concepts that don't fit into traditional art galleries One of such ideas, nurtured in the artist's head for several years, was unanimously favoured by all the residents of the apartment building.

PRINCESS ON A HORSE / IEMUNO G. 30

Gabiia Menkevičiūtė, 2015

Back then, Gabiia was only seven years old, but he drawing was so cool that it won the special Nykoka Festival competition. The Princess was transferred onto the 14 meters high wall by Tadas Šimkus.

B CUPID / SAVANORIŲ PR. 39

On your way up to Žaliakalnis give in to the magic of art spread by The Cupid. When you stop next to it, look back, slightly to the right – yes, that's a Courtyard Gallery you're seeing.

19 LITUANICA / V. KRĖVĖS PR. 19 Paparazzi, 2018

> Invited by Morfai, a street artist called Paparazzi travelled all the way from Cyprus to leave his trace in Kaunas. "Lituanica" is dedicated to the legendary pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas that, after taking off in the US, didn't make it to Kaunas in 1933.

CHILDREN AND BOOKS KAMPO G. 7A

"Gyva grafika", 2017

Žygimantas Amelynas and Tadas Šimkus decorated the old building of the printing house. The colourful highlight is related to the company's work.

THE DIALOGUE / TAIKOS PR. 51

Tadas Šimkus ("Gyva Grafika"), 2016 The drawing that represents close connection and tolerance decorated the wall of Kaunas Vyturys Catholic Highschool. Hopefully, this isn't the last dialogue between street artists and educational

22 RAILWAY STATION / PRAMONĖS PR. 16

> Jūratė Kluonė, Antonas Kaliužka, Edgaras Grušnys, Kšyštofas Četyrkovskis, Tadas Šimkus, Žygimantas Amelynas, Ieva Voroneckytė, Vytenis Jakas, 2015

The largest artwork in Kaunas, in terms of its size – 634 m² – and the number of artists, was developed for three years and then selected as the best artwork of 2015 in the city. It calls us to imagine how would things be if the market wouldn't be a market, but... a railway station. If you look closely, you will recognise several people who have become the symbols of Kaunas.

DADAIST MONA LISA IN THE 21ST CENTURY / STUDENTU G.

Linas Kaziulionis, Tomas Stasiukaitis, 2017

500 hours of drawing, 40 colours and 1000 LEDs were necessary to transfer the mystery of Leonardo da Vinci to the 21st century and to make her communicate with the environment. Yes - the drawing is interactive.

POSITIVE DOG / KĘSTUČIO G. 36 Morfai, 2018

> Located in downtown Kaunas, the first contemporary co-living project in the city, SoloSociety, is the number one choice for international students and other travellers for many reasons. We believe the colourful puppy is one of them! Morfai did the mural

95 KAUNAS DRAMA THEATER COURTYARD / KESTUČIO G. 62A

On your way to the temporary Kaunas Cinema Center Romuva, you will discover a variety of artworks by many artists. They differ in technique, easons for their implementation and even legality.

NEOFRESCO FOR THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL RADIO /

S. DAUKANTO G. 28A Tadas Vincaitis-Plūaas, 2016

When celebrating its anniversary, Lithuanian National Radio was not afraid of contemporary highlights. It entrusted one of the currently most productive street artists of Kaunas with their development, based on the archival shots. The effect was successful!

27 POSTAL SERVICES / LAISVĖS AL. 51A Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, 2015

A postcard connecting Lithuanian and Indonesian street artists can be seen from the POST gallery's balcony. You can visit the contemporary art gallery daily from noon to 7 pm, except Sundays and Mondays.

CONTEMPORARY LADIES / A. MICKEVIČIAUS G. 37

Linas Kaziulionis, 2015

Kaunas University of Technology community is very fond of colourful walls. Two characters from Leonardo da Vinci's paintings – Lady with an Ermine and The Beauty of ferronnière - met on this wall and decided to listen to some music.

MURAL OF KAUNAS PICTURE GALLERY / K. DONELAIČIO G. 16 "Os Gemeos", 2007

> We can view the arrival of internationally well-known Brazilian brothers (who have Lithuanian origins) to Kaunas Biennial as the beginning of the new era in Kaunas street art. Their mural gives meaning to the impressions they gained while travelling around Lithuania and nicely contrasts with the grey facade. The brothers were back in 2011. and they left more traces in the city!

KEKTO / K. DONELAIČIO G. 16

Tadas Vincaitis-Plūaas, 2017

The artist living in Petrašiūnai was dreaming about a drawing of an aquatic animal near the lagoon, but the constellation of acquaintances brought him to the first tentacle at the very heart of Kaunas. Kekto animal is the part of Kaunas 2022 project and will undoubtedly remain until 2022.

GII CULTURAL PERKUNAS / K. DONELAIČIO G. 16

Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, Tomas Dėžutė, 2016

The idea implemented under the Nykoka Festival flag, like the thunder had woken up a completely uninteresting transformer station and enriched the Kaunas Picture Gallery environment with a new hiahliaht.

NEBEPRISIKIŠKIAKOPŪSTELIAU-JANTIESIEMS MEETS DAVID / KESTUČIO G. 26

Morfai, 2015-2016

The longest Lithuanian word (meaning something like "particularly for those who never pick up enough shamrocks for themselves") can be found on the eeriest building in Kaunas – hotel-ghost Britanika which is still waiting for a decision on its future. In May 2018, a naughty David appeared on another ghost building nearby, and he's aiming at Britanika!

MOOSE / PARODOS G. 8

Asta Vilminskaitė, 2017

The employees of the clinic operating under this address didn't like the white wall, so they contacted the artists. The two moose, trying to taste an apple is loved by both medical staff and the curious

34 A BICYCLIST WITH A ROSE / M. K. ČIURLIONIO G. 17

Tadas Šimkus, 2016

The legend says that the cyclist in a rush bought the rose

iust around the corner, at the Station Market famous for

35 WALL / NEMUNAS QUAY NEAR THE M. K. ČIURLIONIS BRIDGE

> Many Kaunas, Lithuanian and international street artists have left their mark here, for example, a giant bear or a number of smaller symbols. At the moment, it is no longer possible to draw legally in the quay.

36 HE AND SHE / A. JUOZAPAVIČIAUS PR. 62 Gražvyda Andrijauskaitė, 2016

It's impressive that the 10 x 10 cm graphic artwork was transferred to the wall and became a fresco. Two pigeons perched in the heart of Šančiai neighbourhood symbolise friendship and community.

TIRES IN THE SKY / VAIDOTO G. 36 Žygimantas Amelynas ("Gyva Grafika"), 2018

The author of the swing that decorates a wall in Panemunė says that he wanted to remind everyone that we don't need much to achieve complete 44 OWLS / PELĖDŲ KALNAS (OWL

OBJECTS

Vincas Grybas, 1924

Kaunas Art School was opened in Žaliakalnis in 1922. The owls were made and put on the fence a bit later by sculptor Vincas Grybas. In doing so, he became the godfather of the mountain. In a hundred years the number of owls has diminished, but the surviving ones were recently restored.

45 A. MARTINAITIS ART SCHOOL

Before moving further into the Old Town, it's always nice to stop by this historic building – an art school the students of which continuously surprise with new art installations.

MONUMENT FOR ROUTINE 46 SUNDIAL TUDENTU G. 48A

38 SMILING SUNDIAL / MUITINES G

Audrys Karalius 2014

THE GOLDEN FACADE

Collective work, 2003

wishes from Birštono street.

Gunter Demnig, 2017

41 COMMEMORATIVE STONES

42 PIANO / J. GRUODŽIO G. 6

Bliujus - the director of the conservatory

STAREVICH / ROTUŠĖS A. 15

43 INSECTS OF LADISLAS

Zenonas Baranauskas, 2014

remember him by.

Antanas Balkė, Ričardas Krištapavičius, 1986

The recently renovated Vilnius University, Kaunas

Faculty sundial smiles for the passersby day and night

The artists who created the sundial during the years of

Russian occupation made sure that it shows the

precise time of Kaunas. Could this be an actual heart

The monument was revealed during the Design

Week, under Nykoka Festival flag. It is a modest

attempt by the well-known Kaunas architect to

guess the ambiguous nature of routine and to

In September 2003, the Lithuanian basketball team

brought home the European gold. It was a celebra-

tion to remember, to say the least. A collective of

artists of all kinds even signed a postcard for the

golden team – the canvas turned out to be a facade

of a building. It's best to view and decipher the

The author behind the idea of memorial stones

(stolpersteine) is a German artist who has already

laid over 50 thousand Holocaust remembrance

symbols throughout Europe. In Kaunas, they mark

the place where the first Lithuanian Olympian Isakas

Anolikas used to train, the house and studio of

painters Černė Percikovičiūtė and Jakovas Lipšicas

and the house of doctor Vladimiras Lazersonas and

The piano started "broadcasting" the classical music

to passersby after it became too old to play for the

conservatory students and was taken outside. The

author of this Fluxus-inspired idea is Kęstutis

Stag-beetle, ant and a grasshopper behind the

Kaunas Town Hall are Vladislavas Starevičius

characters - the pioneer of puppet animation who

began his career here. The insects are the symbols to

measure the routine temperature of Kaunas.

Collective work, 2006

The largest vertical sundial in Lithuania - where history meets modern technology. The maximum length of its gnomon – the bar that casts a shadow – is 8.597 m. The total radius of the sundial is 81 m2.

Incidentally, a sundial in the shape of a human shadow - dedicated to commemoration of the millennium of the name of Lithuania – can be found

47 SCULPTURE MAN / NEPRIKLAU-

Detras Mazūras 1986

This guide was not intended to overview the landscape of Kaunas sculptures and monuments, but this nude put on then newly-built M. Žilinskas Gallery has become one of the most prominent and boldes symbols of Kaunas; therefore, we simply must recommend you get acquainted with it.

48 SCULPTURE DREAM / NEDRIKLAU-

Leonas Strioga, 1987

The sculpture - which seems to be levitating - next to the Man, receives less attention than its stark-naked neighbour, but it is definitely as

49 BUSINESS CENTER 1000

"RA studija", 2008

Architektūrine prasme netikėčiausias 2008 m. Kauno statinys didžiuojasi didžiausiu Lietuvos vitražu. Pastato fasadas atkartoja susukta 1926-1941 m. apyvartoje buvusio 1000 litų banknoto piešinį, kurio autorius – Adomas Galdikas.

50 VALUES / GREED / LAISVES AL. 86 Donatas Dovidavičius 2006

One of the highlights of the former sculpture avenue is also fascinating because of its name change. It was renamed to Greed after the bankers moved into the adiacent building.

KULTŪRA / K. DONELAIČIO G. 16

The cafe located in the Kaunas Picture Gallery is not only surrounded by street art but is itself character-ised by the artistic interior. Posters from historical exhibitions and unexpected interior details will nourish your brain and the fantastic kitchen – your

KUHNE / ŽEMAIČIŲ G. 29

Jonas Jablonskis is winking at you from the walls of the hunger killers' abode, and his bust can be seen through the eatery's window. The Palm Tree of Žaliakalnis is also nearby!

PELĖDINĖ / ŠV. GERTRŪDOS G. 22

While stuffing yourself with these special burgers, you can observe Kaunas rushing by and the eatery's interior design which symbolises experience and

54 GALERIA URBANA / VILNIAUS G. 22

After visiting the street art objects in the Old Town, you should sit down in this urban taverna. Its menu is subtly architectural, and the bathroom hides the entire Soviet apartment building – a separate work

55 YZY / VILNIAUS G. 19

FOR LEISURE

The nourishing stop will shelter the art lovers for a lazy afternoon or evening. Their interior is full of

56 CAIF CAFÉ / K. DONELAIČIO G. 22

One of the most charming intersections in central Kaunas is that of Gedimino and K. Donelaičio streets. We recommend starting your busy day in the city with a nice cup of joe, watching cars and people rushing through the enormous glass windows of Caif Café. The historical building was designed by Arnas Funkas, one of the most prominent architects of interwar Kaunas – his portrait and architectural drawings of the house have been used to decorate the interior. Smart!

