

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

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

#kaunastic #visitkaunas #kaunas2022

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.

More of the "Wallographers notes" and other kaunastic routes you can find in the digital version on www.kaunastika.lt.

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Morfai, 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

Located near the S. Darius and S. Girėnas 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 -

The sculptures of two important Kaunas sculptors –

father and son Antinis - have been a delight for V.

Putvinskis street residents and visitors for several

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 spring – The Lilac Shall Bloom Again.

Morfai, Tomas Dėžutė, Vytenis Jakas, 2017

Kaunas Artists' House drew the attention to the

invisible and abandoned wooden house. Chairs on

the roof are the highlight of the colourful artwork.

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

A former textile factory in Žemieji Šančiai microdis-

trict has recently been converted into a creative

business hub. Its red-brick facade received a major

facelift, too - as of 2020, it's one of the largest

murals in Kaunas, covering an area of 1100 sq. m. Its

authors Žygimantas Amelynas and Tadas Šimkus

interpret their work as a dialogue between two

people; the past and the current intertwining and

creating a paradoxical atmosphere that was never

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

THE FIGHT / AUŠROS TAKAS 2

Morfai 2016

felt before.

7 P. S. / DROBĖS G. 62

"Gyva grafika", 2020

14 SQUARE NEXT TO THE KAUNAS

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

K. DONELAIČIO G. 64

TOWARDS THE GOAL /

University. The only way is up!

THE PINK ELEPHANT

ARTISTS' HOUSE /

V. PUTVINSKIO G. 56 - 60

15 CABIN / V. PUTVINSKIO G. 36

Vytenis Jakas 2014

ERKŪNO AL. 3A

Marius Skrupskis, 2015

Morfai, 2008-2017

was revived.

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 /

Morfai, 2009

In 2008 Morfai illegally added a site-specific artistic detail to the sculpture of Bernardas Bučas, and A passage near Nemunas quay was decorated with because of that illegality aspect, the stars were soon a glimmering city and the crouching dragon in 2009. painted over. But the artwork that gains meaning This action was a part of the event Non-Secure after dark was so loved by the locals and visitors that after winning the Kaunas Highlights competition it

FAREWELL HENRY PARLAND ALL SOULS' DAY 1956 / RAMYBĖS PARK

"Gyva Grafika", 2019

A bohemian Finnish-Swedish writer that lived in Kaunas before WW2. The Hungarian Revolution of 1956. The ancient Lithuanian art of cutting patterns. What's common between these things? The answer hides in the Kaunas Old Cemetery also called the Ramybės park. Gyva Grafika collective created three new murals here during the first-ever CityTelling festival, initiated by Kaunas 2022.

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.

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

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

WINDOWS / VEIVERIU 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 nplemented by his regular companions Goda Skėrytė and Ieva Voroneckaitė.

8 YARD / VARNIŲ G. 51

Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, 2017

Vilijampolė neighbourhood is perfect for implementing 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

Gabija Menkevičiūtė, 2015

Back then, Gabija was only seven years old, but her 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.

18 CUPID / SAVANORIŲ PR. 51 Vytenis Jakas, 2016

> 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 DR. 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 UNDERGROUND **PASSAGE/ SAVANORIU PR.**

"Gyva Grafika", 2020

Errors can be fixed with a brush and some paint! Dedicated city servants cleaned the legally painted walls of an underground passage by mistake, but instead of a reprehension, the team received copies of Kaunas street art auides. Later in 2020, the Gyva Grafika artist team act back to business and redecorated the walls with even more passion.

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. 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.

23 DADAIST MONA LISA IN THE 21ST CENTURY / STUDENTU G. 71

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 as his idea was voted #1 in an open call.

25 ART FOR THE CENTENARY COURTYARD OF THE NATIONAL DDAMA THEATDE

Various authors

was successful!

On the occasion of the anniversary, the courtyard of the National Kaunas Drama Theatre – more precisely, the labyrinth of courtyards between Laisves Avenue and Kestucio Street - is bustling with new art. Artworks by Vytenis Jakas, Tadas Vosylius, Dainius Šciuka. And do you see, there, a little bit further, the faces of Sofija Ciurlioniene, Juozas Vaickus, and Petras Kubertavicius showing on the wall? It is a work of vegetation and street art that was started by Tadas Vincaitis.

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

> S. DAUKANTO G. 28A Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, 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

27 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

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

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 arey facade. The brothers were back in 2011. and they left more traces in the city!

KEKTO / K. DONELAIČIO G. 16

Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, 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.

3) 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 highlight.

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!

CARRIER OF LIGHT / KESTUČIO G. 53

Vytenis Jakas, 2019

Vytenis Jakas, the founder of the renowned Yard Gallery, incrusted the figure constructed of painting and mirror pieces into an empty niche of a building in central Kaunas - usually, such slots are inhabited by sculptures, right? The character by Jakas holds a palette and a brush and looks its best on a sunny day.

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

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.

VILNIUS-KAUNAS-KLAIPĖDA-NIDA / ISLANDIJOS PL. 217 Tadas Vincaitis-Plūgas, 2018-2019

and occupies a total of 1650 sq. m.

The aurochs statue from Ąžuolynas, the Žaliakalnis funicular, the lion from Vytautas the Great War Museum and many more symbols of Kaunas and Lithuania easily fit on the gigantic facade of business centre A1, easily observed by those passing by Kaunas. The mural is currently the largest in Kaunas

OBJECTS

38 SMILING SUNDIAL / MUITINES G. 8

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 of

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 measure the

Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat that

resided in Kaunas from 1939 to 1940 as a vice-consul

of the Japanese Empire. During World War II, he

helped thousands of Jews to escape Holocaust by

issuing them transit Japanese visas. The 4-meter-high

sculpture "In Memory of Chiune Sugihara" by

sculptor Martynas Gaubas was made from

origami-shaped winches made of platinum bronze

spinning into the sky in a circle. The base of the

sculpture depicts the seal of Sugihara and words

"Whoever saves a life, saves an entire world"

engraved in Lithuanian, Japanese, English and

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 Anolika

used to train, the house and studio of painters Černė

Percikovičiūtė and Jakovas Lipšicas and the house of

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 Bliujus—

Stag-beetle, ant and a grasshopper behind the

Kaunas Town Hall are Vladislavas Starevičius charac-

ters – the pioneer of puppet animation who began his

career here. The insects are the symbols to remember

doctor Vladimiras Lazersonas and his wife, Regina.

41 COMMEMORATIVE STONES

42 PIANO / J. GRUODŽIO G. 6

the director of the conservatory.

Zenonas Baranauskas 2014

him by.

43 INSECTS OF VLADISLAVAS

STAREVIČIUS / ROTUŠĖS A. 15

Gunter Demnig, 2017

40 IN MEMORY OF CHIUNE SUGI-

MONUMENT FOR ROUTINE

Audrys Karalius, 2014

routine temperature of Kaunas.

HARA / KURPIU G. 29

Martynas Gaubas, 2020

PELĖDU KALNAS (OWL HILL)

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

The monument was revealed during the Design 46 SUNDIAL

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 in the KTU student campus.

47 SCULPTURE MAN NEPRIKLAUSOMYBĖS A. 12

Petras 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 boldest symbols of Kaunas; therefore, we simply must recommend you get acquainted with it.

48 SCULPTURE DREAM NEPRIKLAUSOMYBĖS A.

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 interesting.

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 / LAISVĖS 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 adjacent building.

FOR LEISURE

5) 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

59 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 funicular of Žaliakalnis is also nearby!

53 HOTEL MOXY / MAIRONIO G. 19

Being part of a hotel chain does not mean copying standard interior decisions – certainly not in Moxy Kaunas. The interior of the hotel features lively, fun interior solutions for young souls. Spacious common areas decorated with graffiti, drawings and photos, modern minimalist furniture, unique lighting and other interior details create the impression of a modern, lively, fashionable space. Very, very

54 GALERIA URBANA / VILNIAUS G. 99

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 PELĖDINĖ / ŠV. GERTRŪDOS G. 22

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

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

