

CANAL PROJECTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CANAL PROJECTS PREMIERES LITHUANIAN ARTIST EGLĖ BUDVYTYTĖ'S FILM
SONGS FROM THE COMPOST FOCUSING ON ENVIRONMENTAL AESTHETICS AND
CLIMATE JUSTICE**

**PRESS PREVIEW, FEBRUARY 2, 11AM
PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION FEBRUARY 3, 6-8PM**



Eglė Budvytytė in collaboration with Marija Olšauskaitė and Julija Lukas Steponaitytė. Still from *Songs from the compost: mutating bodies, imploding stars*, 2020, 4K video, 28 min. Image courtesy of the artist.

New York, January 23, 2023, Canal Projects is pleased to announce the New York premiere of Lithuanian artist Eglė Budvytytė's film *Songs from the compost: mutating bodies, imploding stars* (2020). Made in collaboration with Marija Olšauskaitė and Julija Lukas Steponaitytė, the video work offers an exploration of consciousness, human and non-human entanglements, symbiosis, decay, and renewal.

The film, shot in the pine forests and dunes of the Curonian Spit, features a cast comprised mostly of local youth. The work unfolds through a specially conceived song, choreography, and costumes. A hypnotic voice sings lyrics that draw on the writings of biologist Lynn Margulis and science-fiction author Octavia Butler. The choreography undoes the verticality of the human figure, unfurling it into the landscape so that the performers' bodies are constantly pulled toward the earth and toward each other, moving through the forest, along the dunes, and the water.

Supported by: Nida Art Colony, 4Cs -From conflict to conviviality through culture, Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (RIBOCA2), Mondriaan Fund, Netherlands Film Fund, Lithuanian Council for Culture.

Based in Vilnius and Amsterdam, **Eglė Budvytė** (b. 1981) works at the intersection between visual and performing arts. She approaches movement and gesture as technologies for a possible subversion of normativity, gender and social roles, and the dominant narratives governing public spaces. Spanning song, poetry, video, and performance, her practice explores the persuasive power of collectivity, vulnerability, and the permeable relationships between bodies, audiences, and environments. Her work has been shown at Whitechapel Gallery, London (2022); Venice Biennale (2022); Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Latvia (2020); Renaissance Society, Chicago (2018); South London Gallery (2018); and 19th Biennale of Sydney (2014); among others.

Lower-level gallery

Feb 3 - April 29

Songs from the compost: mutating bodies, imploding stars

4K video, 30:00 min, 2020.

About Canal Projects

Canal Projects is a nonprofit contemporary arts organization dedicated to supporting forward-thinking local and international artists at pivotal moments in their careers. Through production, exhibition, research, and interpretation of this work, Canal Projects intends to foster artistic practices that challenge and reflect on the current moment. Visit canalprojects.org for further details.

Canal Projects is generously supported by the [YS Kim Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides general support grants and implements innovative programs to help underrepresented and emerging artists and their communities thrive. YS Kim Foundation envisions a world where people and communities grow and flourish with culture, creativity, opportunities, and connection. Its mission is to support, mobilize, and open new pathways of success for artists, children, young leaders, communities, and organizations. It does this by starting new initiatives and providing grants and scholarships to organizations and students.

For press questions contact us at:

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Instagram

[@canalprojectsny](https://www.instagram.com/canalprojectsny)

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday: 12–6pm

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