

Lilia Luganskaia (1990, RU/NL) is a multidisciplinary artist and author. She graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in 2014. Over the last 10 years, Lilia developed her artistic practice and built experience as a gallery curator and educator. Her book 'Investigation of Love', an attempt to encounter love through photographic evidence, was awarded internationally. Lilia participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including Photo España, Museum Alcobendas, Madrid, PHOTO IS:RAEL, Tel-Aviv, Unseen, Amsterdam, Foam Gallery, Amsterdam. Her works were acquired by the Rijksmuseum collection, Amsterdam, and Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland. In her artistic practice, Lilia uses her background in documentary techniques to focus on what she calls 'investigating reality'. She decodes abstract notions as love, tourism, bureaucracy, politics and feminism through the use of constructed images, sculptures, video, and installations. One of the key elements of her work is to understand multiple aspects of the photographic image.



Lilia Luganskaia, photo Amie Galbraith

What are you currently working on?

At the moment I'm working on a new chapter (called 'Cosmodrome') of my ongoing project about mass tourism and travelling. The first part of this project called 'You Can Only Picture it with your Eyes' was shown at Art Rotterdam in July. Last year, our new reality brought us in limbo. This changed notion of travelling became the starting point for my new project: Cosmodrome. I would like to expand my visual research by focussing on space exploration as a metaphor for our current times. With space travel, unknown territories are being explored in almost complete isolation. For this work I'll interview employees (possibly astronauts) from European Space Agency to look into their experiences with space exploration, it will form the basis of new works. Part of the works will exist as photographs and it will be a combination between altered scientific photography and still lives, which I will create in my studio. Part of the works will be virtual reality works (digital sculptures); those will be abstract, pattern-based works. The project will provide a new space for exploration; a mental way of travelling.



'Hortus' book, 24 x 33 cm, 40 pages, edition 365, self-published, 2020, Amsterdam

How did you use the loan of Fonds Kwadraat?

I used the loan for the partial coverage of printing and production costs of my latest book Hortus. The Hortus book is referring to the multifaceted roles of flowers discovered with Floriography, cryptological communication through the use or arrangement of flowers, and the history of female rights. Hortus was inspired by urban gardens in Amsterdam-West and created with its plants. I was working on the Hortus project for the last couple of years and I'm very grateful for the loan, which helped to realize this work as an artist book.



'Hortus' book, 24 x 33 cm, 40 pages, edition 365, self-published, 2020, Amsterdam

What did the loan mean to you? And what was the result?

With this loan, it became possible for me to finance the collaboration with talented creatives such as graphic designer Timo Kuilder and contributed writer Joanna Cresswell.

As a result the Hortus book was finalised and 365 copies of the book was published at the beginning of November. The loan allowed me to bring my practice further, present the book during Paris Photo and share my ideas with a wider audience.



'Sourness of temper', from 'Hortus' project, 2019, 65 x 80 cm, giclée print

Where can we see your work (online / offline)?

In November the *Hortus* book was launched at Polycopies during Paris Photo in Paris. On the 25th of November at 18:00 the Hortus book was presented at the FOAM museum in Amsterdam. As a part of the presentation, I built an installation and had a public talk with curator Daria Tuminas. Further, you can follow my work via my [website](#) and my [instagram](#).

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/lilialuganskaia/?hl=nl>. The Hortus book is available via my [website](#).



'Sourness of temper', from 'Hortus' project, 2019, 65 x 80 cm, giclée print

What are your plans for the future?

The idea and concept determine my choice of medium. Therefore my medium is constantly changing. At this moment I'm experimenting with hybrid concepts; I would like to create some works in virtual reality (as digital sculptures). This works will be part of the Cosmodrome project. Recently I was shortlisted for a Lucie Foundation Scholarship and I hope to continue my experiments with this grant.



Lilia Luganskaia, photo Victoria Hume

Do you have an advice for other (young) artists?

I think it's important to keep experimenting and share your process/progress with an audience. Don't be afraid to make mistakes or get a rejection and follow your intuition.



'You can only picture it with your eyes', 2020, 50 x 80 cm, ceramic mosaics. From 'You can only picture it with your eyes' project, Art Rotterdam, 2021

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