

Book as a Pocket-size Gallery and a Continuation of the Work of Art

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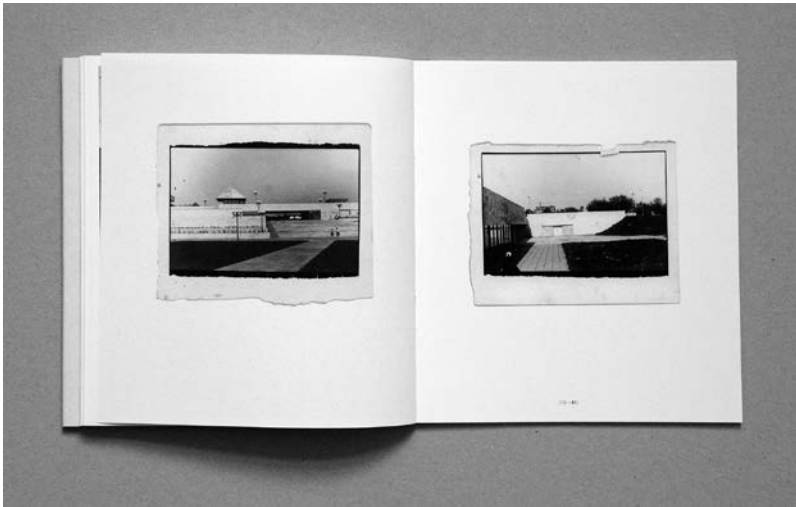
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———— NoRoutine Books is an artist-run publishing platform that combines the tradition of bespoke book publishing with artwork post-production and limited print runs. The article describes how a printed project gets converted into a continuation and a facsimile of the artwork while using the classic book format as a unique space of exposition.

NoRoutine Books is an independent publishing initiative dedicated to designing and printing unique fine arts books. All publications are strictly limited to 99 copies (+AP) which feature unique inserts such as original elements. Post-printing processes are finalized in the NoRoutine Books studio.

NoRoutine Books works closely with artists to conceptualize and produce their works in the book format. During the collaborative process, NoRoutine Books ask artists to push the boundaries of their practice and experiment with different printing and binding processes. Often the resulting book becomes an extension of the art piece.

NoRoutine Books was founded by two artists, Vilma Samulionytė and Gytis Skudžinskas, in summer 2014.



Algis Griškevičius, *TADA*. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2016

This book presents a series of photographs taken between 1985 and 1995 (the last decade of the communist regime in Lithuania and its immediate aftermath). The artist used them as an inspiration for his paintings. This series of images depict the surreal surroundings of the Soviet era. The artist's constructive gaze purifies the landscape of Soviet architecture with its distinct symmetry and turns its elements into sculptural compositions. In his introductory essay "Started and Unfinished Reality", the philosopher Leonidas Donskis offers another possible interpretation of this work: first, the photographs testify to the unfinished projects of a totalitarian system, and second, the remainders turn into pieces of art in their own right.

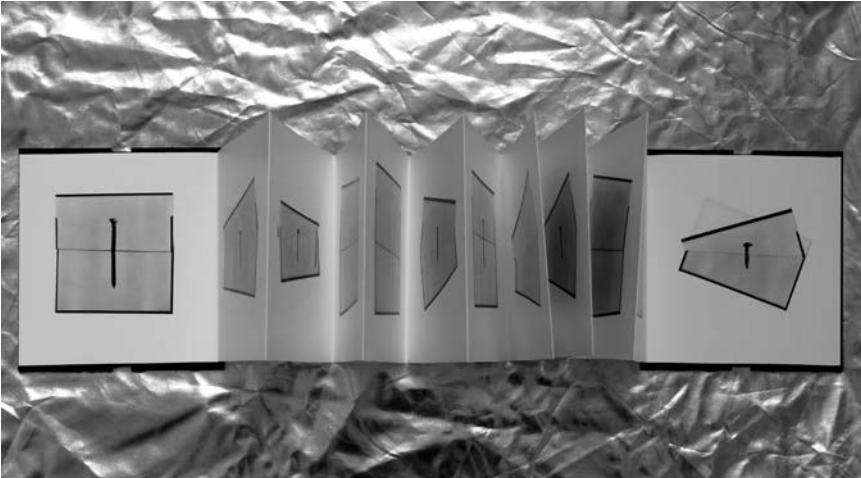
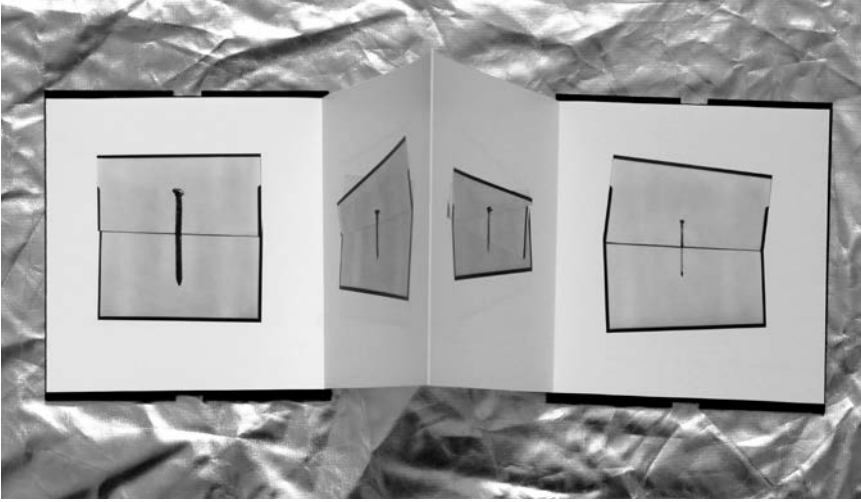
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Arūnas Kulikauskas, *PHOTOOBJECTS*. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2017

At first glance, the works of Arunas Kulikauskas seem like random notes and diary entries that document a variety of experiences. He creates an intimate picture of his surroundings by capturing the moments while at home, at work, or during travel. Later he Polaroid-transfers these images onto simple everyday objects found at home, in the yard, or wherever he happens to be at the time. In his work he refuses to assign any kind of importance to exaltations, events or subjects. Kulikauskas is always focused and respectful towards the photographer's craft. Both his book and his photography result from his dedication to the ideas of handcrafted work, the unique individuality of each piece, and authentic experiences of everyday life. The pages of the book are torn and shaped individually, and each cover is a uniquely created by the artist.



Evelina Kerpaitė, *NAILS*. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2015

The series of forty photos depicts a collection of bent and no longer useful nails; the folding photographic prints appear to give the nails their functionality back. By retaining the original size of the photographed objects and documenting the variety of their forms, the book represents an archive of useless things.

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Ieva Balode, *INVISIBLE IMAGES*. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2016

Combining the personal and archival material and referencing the experiments in social psychology carried out by Solomon Ash, Stanley Milgram and Philip Zimbardo, this book tells a tale of psychological reality experienced by an individual upon encountering and ultimately losing one's identity in the social environment.



Madara Gritāne, *LAYERS*. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2018

Layers is a story about ideas and dreams, and their materialisation in the physical world in the countryside of Latgalia, eastern Latvia. These are visions and plans that have clustered and ‘landed’ on the ground in the shape of extraordinary buildings. Such is the case with lakes in Latvian tales -- they fly in the sky until they find the right place to land. These buildings have often been built manually by their owners without the legal planning procedures. They are not rendered in any maps or plans, as if they still belong to the world above the ground, or in the visions of the minds that created them. These visions are still being affected by various circumstances, and even though they actually did reach the ground and acquire physical form, they still keep developing and transforming, thus constantly congregating into the layers not only in the landscape of the countryside but also in the mental map of Latgalia and Latvia.

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SCENOS/STAGES. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2017

This book takes a look at the typological photography of the 21st century Lithuania. The compilation is based on an exhibition at the A. Mončys House-Museum in Palanga and contains five single-bound books by the Lithuanian photographers and artists working in the field of contemporary visual art. The set includes a leporello with the documentation from the exhibition. Each book represents the series of works by an individual artist: “Spaces” by Dainius Liškevičius [2001], “Shelter for Painting” by Alvydas Lukys [2008/2014], “60 Monuments” by Vilma Samulionytė [2012-, ongoing], “Backgrounds” by Gytis Skudžinskas [2011-, ongoing], “Faces and Figures” by Darius Žiūra [2008-, ongoing].



Audrius Puipa, Gintautas Trimakas, *STAGED PICTURES*.

Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2018

Staged Pictures is a collaborative project, where the participants (Lithuanian artists) are ‘re-enacting’ the classical paintings, thus playing with new identities and turning into the well-known characters. Being one of the first photographic performances in Lithuanian art, this work analyses the relationship between painting and photography and changes the relationship between painting and reality. The photographs were created in the last decade of the 20th century.

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Ričardas Šileika, *NUOGIRDOS*. Vilnius: NoRoutine Books, 2017
A selection of everyday aphorisms.