

Relation 2024

Installation.

Juozas Laivys



Foto Jokūbas Laivys



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Juozas Laivys

Non-practising artist

Lives in Narvaišiai Lithuania

During his active years as an artist, Juozas Laivys primarily worked with conceptual art—until, at some point, he was done with it. He describes it as having outgrown that part of art. I ask him where he is now. "Nowhere and everywhere," he replies. Since 2015, he has seen himself more as a kind of helper, drawn to various collaborations, both within and beyond the (often imposed) labels of art.

Juozas Laivys came to Näsby as a tree priest, and when he heard the cry of one of the trees, he felt compelled to bless a pine. He collaborated with the site and with leftover materials from the other participants' wooden blanks. Wood chips were turned into charcoal, and various herbs were gathered to create a fermented, nutrient-rich water. The charcoal was enriched and absorbed this water.

At the end of the week, the charcoal was placed beneath the chosen pine tree. The material thus returned to the soil and to the living tree. The remnants slowly decay, given back with respect to the earth's older inhabitants—the trees.

Text Sara Hemmingson