

# kogo

Selected works by

**Kristina Õllek**

**by Kogo Gallery**

Kastani 42, Tartu, Estonia

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From 14 to 18 October, the third edition of the London-based art fair **Minor Attractions** will take place at a boutique hotel, The Mandrake (20-21 Newman St, London W1T 1PG), running in parallel with Frieze London. This year's edition features presentations from over 50 international galleries and art spaces, including Kogo Gallery presenting works by Kristina Õllek. The presentations are accompanied by an extensive programme of nightlife, performances and events.



Installation view to Drifting Through Waters, From Its Deep Past and Within Its Shallow Present. I'm Both at the group show Dryads of Cosquer curated by Merilin Talumaa and Justė Kostikovaite at La Traverse, Marseille, 2024.

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**Kogo Gallery will present works by Estonian artist Kristina Õllek**, which include inkjet prints cultivated with sea salt from Camargue, an inkjet print on aluminium. These pieces were first shown in the 2024 group exhibition *Dryads of Cosquer* at La Traverse in Marseille, curated by Merilin Talumaa and Justè Kostikovaitè. Her practice celebrates earth and water as potent life forces, drawing on ecological, hydrofeminist and more-than-human perspectives.

Õllek conducted the research for this project as part of a residency hosted by La Traverse in Marseille, where she engaged in dialogue with the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography. During this time, she visited the Salin-de-Giraud salt marshes in the Camargue region – an otherworldly pink ecosystem that supports a rich bird population, including a quarter of France’s flamingos. The marshes’ distinctive colouration is due to the presence of *Dunaliella salina*, a microalga known for its antioxidant properties and high concentrations of beta-carotene. This pigment-producing organism thrives in hypersaline environments and plays a vital role in primary production within such ecosystems worldwide. It is also used in cosmetics for its antioxidant and protective properties. The algae’s extract is known to help rejuvenate and moisturise skin and potentially even prevent premature ageing.

Through her work, Õllek explores the relationship between the natural and the synthetic, questioning our understanding of materiality and imbuing it with new, reconsidered meaning. She is particularly interested in pushing the boundaries of what can be perceived and used as image and space – especially in an era shaped by rapidly evolving and highly manipulative technologies.



Kristina Õllek at her studio in ARS Art Factory, Tallinn. Photo: Kert Viiart-Õllek

**Kristina Õllek** (b. 1989, Tallinn, Estonia) is a visual artist based in Tallinn, Estonia. She works in the fields of photography, video and installation, often making use of microbial and chemical processes, with a focus on investigating aquatic ecosystems, geological matter and human-altered environments. In particular, her work focuses on the marine habitat and the notion of new technologies, including the geopolitical and ecological conditions they are associated with.

Kristina Õllek holds a Bachelor's degree (2013) and a Master's degree (2016) from the Photography Department of the Estonian Academy of Arts. She furthered her studies at Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weissensee in 2012 and at the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam in 2016. Õllek was awarded the Estonian Academy of Arts Young Artist Prize in both 2013 and 2016. From 2013 to 2018, she was a co-founder and active member of the artist-run space Rundum. In 2023, she received a three-year artist grant from the Estonian Artists' Association and the Estonian Ministry of Culture.

Her work has been exhibited in numerous international solo and group exhibitions, including at Kai Art Center (Tallinn), Kumu Art Museum (Tallinn), the Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia (Tallinn), M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art (Kaunas), Henie Onstad Kunstsenter (Oslo), State of Concept (Athens), La Traverse (Marseille), Zeppelin Museum (Friedrichshafen), A Tale of A Tub (Rotterdam), Le Lieu Unique (Nantes), Screen City Biennial (Stavanger) and Fotomuseum Winterthur.

**Õllek is currently working on new pieces commissioned for the upcoming group exhibition For All At Last Return (08.11.2025–03.05.2026), curated by Emma Dean, at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art (Newcastle, Gateshead, UK), as well as for an exhibition alongside Estonian artist Konrad Mägi (24.03.2026–12.07.2026), curated by Kathleen Soriano, at Dulwich Picture Gallery (London, UK).**

The artist's works are part of the collections of the Art Museum of Estonia, Winterthur Fotomuseum, the European Central Bank Collection, the New York Public Library and various private collections in Europe.

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**Kristina Õllek**

*Dissolving and Seeing You,*

*Dunaliella Salina*, 2024

Inkjet prints with grown sea salt  
from Camargue

6 pieces, variable dimensions,

total size of 124 × 86 cm

with wooden panel, 134 × 96 cm

Edition of 1/3 + 2 AP (unique)

20 000 € (+VAT if applicable)





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**Kristina Õllek**

Evaporating Sea no. 1, 2024

Inkjet prints with grown sea salt  
from Camargue (pigments, transparent  
hose, sea salt), 40 × 33 cm

Edition of 1/3 + 2 AP

7000 € (+VAT if applicable)



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**Kristina Õllek**

Evaporating Sea no. 2, 2024

Inkjet prints with grown sea salt  
from Camargue (pigments, transparent  
hose, sea salt), 40 × 33 cm

Edition of 1/3 + 2 AP

7000 € (+VAT if applicable)







Installation view to Drifting Through Waters, From Its Deep Past and Within Its Shallow Present. I'm Both at the group show Dryads of Cosquer curated by Merilin Talumaa and Justė Kostikovaitė at La Traverse, Marseille, 2024.

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**Kristina Õllek**

Drifting Through Waters, From Its  
Deep Past and Within Its Shallow  
Present. I'm Both, 2024

Inkjet print on aluminium (museum  
glass, showcase frame with CNC  
engraving, silicone), 100 × 73 cm  
Edition of 1/3 + 2 AP  
7000 € (+VAT if applicable)





Installation view to Drifting Through Waters, From Its Deep Past and Within Its Shallow Present. I'm Both at the group show Dryads of Cosquer curated by Merilin Talumaa and Justė Kostikovaitė at La Traverse, Marseille, 2024.



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The work belongs to the artistic research Waters of Hypoxic Slime and Tropic Lime that centres on the study of the Baltic Sea area, with a focus on its marine ecology, cyanobacteria and sediments.

She's reflecting on the Baltic Sea through the presence of algal blooms, a speculative perspective and a sedimented past – through several-hundred-million-year-old marine sedimentary rocks, limestone.

## **Kristina Õllek**

Silurian Waters getting updates on  
Current Waters (Cephalopoda), 2023

Diasec, 37 × 27 cm

Edition of 1/3 + 2 AP (unique)

2500 € (+VAT if applicable)



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Within a wide range of different (approximately 100) limestone types in Estonia, formed between 472 and 416 million years ago, she's particularly interested in the Silurian period's Borealis limestone. Also known as shell limestone, it consists largely of the fossilised shells of the brachiopod *Borealis borealis*, and it's claimed that the world's biggest *Borealis* Bank deposit is located in Estonia. This sedimentary layer was formed approximately 440 million years ago, when the area of Estonia was at the equator, covered by a shallow tropical sea, and when various mollusks, trilobites, cephalopods, corals, and sea lilies were abundantly found.

## **Kristina Õllek**

Silurian Waters getting updates on  
Current Waters (Trilobite), 2023

Diasec, 29 × 20 cm

Edition of 1/3 + 2 AP (unique)

2500 € (+VAT if applicable)



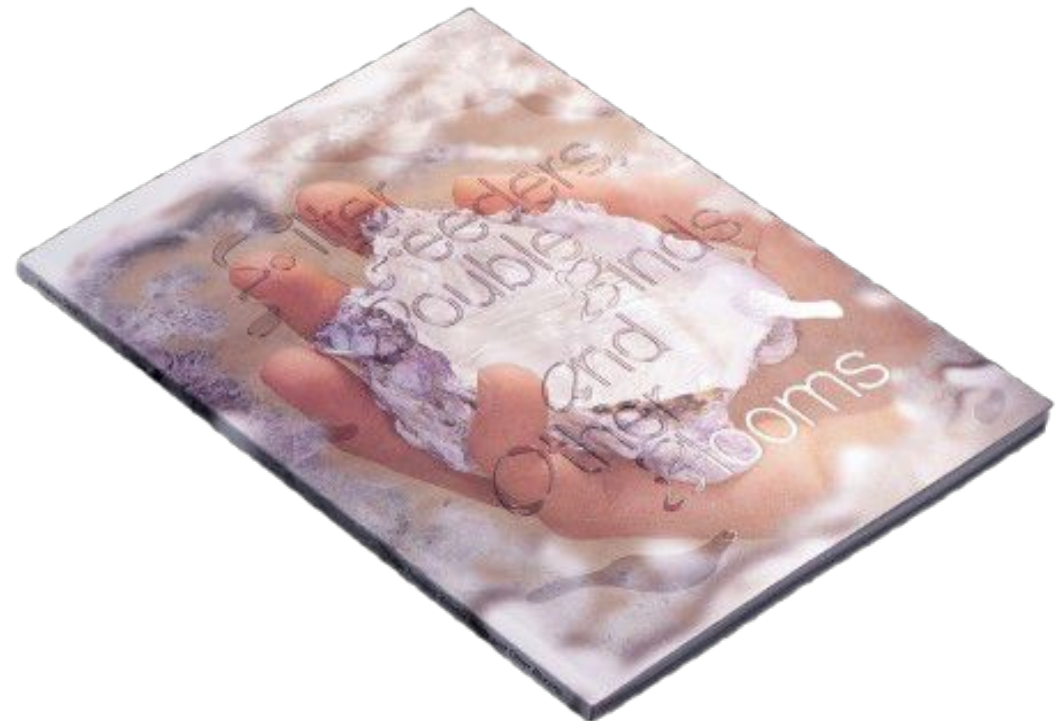
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## **Filter Feeders, Double Binds & Other Blooms** **Kristina Öllek**

Texts by Angeliki Tzortzakaki, Jeff Diamanti,  
Kristina Öllek

Exploring Kristina Öllek's marine and coastal ecological interest, the publication *Filter Feeders, Double Binds & Other Blooms* invites us to think with her four year long working process, based on research and personal observations around anthropocentric influences on marine ecology. Focusing on the North Sea and its filter feeders: blue mussels, oysters and the expanding jellyfish population; as well as on the Baltic Sea and its cyanobacteria, blue green algal blooms and dead zones.

[Read more about the book](#)





Duo exhibition As the Earliest Carrier Emerges, with Kert Viiart at Tartu Art House, Estonia, 2024



Duo exhibition Cyanoceans with Tuomas A. Laitinen at Kai Art Center, Tallinn, Estonia, 2024



Solo exhibition Waters of Hypoxic Slime & Tropic Lime at Kogo Gallery, 2023



Solo show Trade Winds in the Age of Under Water Currents at A Tale of A Tub, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Curator: Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk



Solo show Trade Winds in the Age of Under Water Currents at A Tale of A Tub, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Curator: Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk



Solo exhibition Filter Feeders, Doulbe Binds & Other Silicones at Draakoni gallery, Tallinn, Estonia, 2020



Group exhibition Tiger in Space, curators Vanina Saracino, Lea Vene & Marten Esko, EKKM, Tallinn, 2020  
Installation view to Powered By by Kristina Õllek, 2020



Installation view *Powered By* (2020/2021) at Biotoopia festival, curated Peeter Laurits  
Viinistu Art Museum, Viinistu, Estonia, 2021



Installation view to Nautilus New Era at the exhibition Ecologies - Lost, Found and Continued Screen City biennial, curated by Vanina Saracino & Daniela Arriado, Stavanger, Norway, 2019.



Nautilus New Era (extended) (2018/2023) at the exhibition Into the Deep. Mines of the Future  
Curated by Ina Neddermeyer at Zeppelin Museum, Friedrichshafen, Germany, 2023

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**Kristina Õllek**

On That Day, a Jellyfish Bloom Was  
Announced, I Saw, 2024

117 × 84 cm

Pigment ink print on aluminium,,  
showcase frame with cnc engravings,  
glass with cnc engravings  
8000 € (+VAT if applicable)



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**Kogo** was founded by Liina Raus in the spring of 2018 in Tartu, Estonia. From the beginning, the gallery has represented Estonian and Latvian artists and involved artists and curators from beyond. The gallery's program has been bold and experimental, aiming to encourage stimulating dialogues through contemporary art.

In 2020, curator Šelda Puķīte, program manager Stella Mõttus, and communication manager Karin Kahe joined the gallery and gave their kick to its success story. Since then Kogo Gallery's yearly programme is designed to capture a certain vibe that embodies the emotional undertone of the events and questions topical in that particular moment and which define the contemporary zeitgeist. For 2025, we have chosen to call this vibe Thrifters and Transformers.

From early on, Kogo has actively participated in art fairs, starting in 2018 with Art Vilnius and continuing with Liste Art Fair Basel, Art Brussels, viennacontemporary, Basel Social Club, Esther New York, and many more.



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## LOCATION

[Aparaaditehas](#)

Kastani 42, Tartu, Estonia

## OPEN

Wed-Fri 12-18

Sat 12-16, and by  
appointment

WWW [kogogallery.ee](http://kogogallery.ee)

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