

OTO HUDEC

*1981, Czechoslovakia. Lives and works in Košice (Slovakia).



Life after my Life, 2018

Wood, paper, acrylic paint, 130 x 110 x 40 cm

Courtesy Gandy gallery

When man enters the forest, he perceives it often as a space built of separate trees and species, consisting of "individuals". The tall and healthy ones, the young and promising, the old and dying, the dead wood. From the industrial perspective the dead wood is a debris. A hazard for spreading illnesses and pests. It is also a material with a certain economic value. Unless we see the forest as one living organism. Mushrooms, beetles, rotten wood and hummus are basis for a future forest, not sign of a decay, but a beginning of a new cycle. This view over the value of the rotten wood in the forest is an important argument in a long lasted battle between Slovak ecological activists and foresters about whether it is right to clear the entire areas of forest to stop spruce bark beetle calamity. While it could be also a reflection about life, death and new life after. The part of Lime-tree trunk I used for the work was laying on the ground of the communal yard after a tree trimming. I took it to the studio and recreated on it different organisms that grow on a rotten wood.

Slovak multi-media artist Oto Hudec (1981, Slovakia) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, in Bratislava, Slovakia. He is member of creative team of „Make Art with Purpose“, an international platform for art that creates change. Hudec created his recent work in USA, South Korea, Cabo Verde, Portugal and Slovakia. His oeuvre consists of videos, murals, animations, sculptures and works for public spaces which deal with topics as immigration, refugees and the impact of globalisation on the environment. His projects often involve utopic perspective as a way to shed a light on food production, industrial landscape, or decline of bees. While interested in ecological living, food production and sustainability, instead of searching for new scientific solutions, he is looking into how nomadic and indigenous people achieved this. He often cooperates on projects with children and youth from disadvantaged communities. Since 2013 he works on on the participative project with Roma children in Slovakia *Projekt Karavan* together with artist Daniela Krajčová.