

LATE NIGHT



KULGU

issue N°2022

yesterday, today, tomorrow

page 1



How it started

Kulgu began spontaneously – wooden sheds and hanging bridges were built here and there along the canals. Over time, the canals grew full of piers and garages. At the peak of its popularity, Kulgu had about 2,000 fishermen, and hundreds of boats would sail out every weekend. With 1140 garage boxes and piers, the cooperative was known for its grandeur throughout the Soviet Union. Since then, the number of active members has dropped to 542, and the activity of the cooperative has subsided, but Kulgu still remains the largest garage cooperative in Estonia and the only boat-garage complex in the area.

The 90s also partly affected the activity of the region. The high level of crime throughout the post-Soviet countries after the collapse of the USSR was quite noticeable – many garages were broken into and looted, and some were partially destroyed, with the walls between the garages having been crushed through.

But over time, life fell into its place again, and the cooperative took up the restoration of garages and reorganization with renewed vigor. Some boxes have grown into mini-dachas, where people come to relax, sunbathe and grill in the summer, whereas before, almost every garage had a boat. The children and even grandchildren have grown up, some of whom also visit Kulgu with great pleasure on their own initiative.

Outside of Narva, and even outside of Kulgu, garages and canal houses are also known as the Narva Venice. The origins of this name are still argued over. Some attribute the authorship to journalists, others to the locals.

The name first appeared at a time when Narva began to work on claiming the title of the cultural capital.



Opinions about the alternative name vary. Some think that using a new name is a mistake, for some, it simply does not correspond to the "real Kulgu", and some are sincerely happy to see Kulgu having such a romantic name attached to it. And there are even those who have not heard this name at all.

But no matter the name, behind it hides an undoubtedly unique atmosphere.



Special Issue

Dear readers! Before you is no ordinary newspaper or a leaflet. Before you are the accounts of time travel through the centuries-old history of Kulgu.

"Late Night Kulgu" brings together memories, dreams, and plans for the future. Although this issue is compiled from real stories, not all announcements are real. Some of them reflect the history of Kulgu and the memories of local residents. If there is no distinguishable contact information in the ad, then it is a decorative entry.

If contact details are indicated (for example, for collecting photos or solving the crossword puzzle), you are welcome to forward your materials and letters.



Kulgu Cooperative

The Kulgu Cooperative, once called the "Kulgu Boat-Garage Union", or LGT "Kulgu", and now registered as HÜ Kulgu Pardigaraazid, has been operating for over 50 years since the time of its inception.



ЭНМО - "Estonian Narva Motor (-boat)"

On May 13, 1969, the executive committee of the Narva City Council of Workers' Deputies adopted decision No. 134 to allocate a land plot for the construction of boat garages in Kulgu. This day is considered the founding date of the Kulgu boat-garage cooperative.

Today, the cooperative has about 547 active garage owners and about a thousand regulars – friends, wives, husbands, children, and grandchildren. Since 2007, the land on which the garages stand has been privatized by the owners.

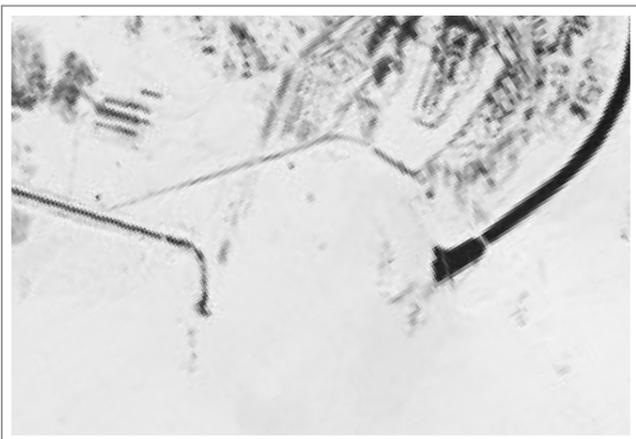
The history before Kulgu

The history of the Kulgu region began long before the inception of the boat-garage cooperative. Since tsarist times, piers and moorings covered the banks of Narva river near the Krenholm factory, collectively referred to as Port Kulgu. At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, a lot of raw materials mined and produced locally, – wood, fabrics, bricks, – passed through the port. In the photo below is a boat pier, circa 1956, against the backdrop of the newly erected water pumping facility. The building still stands to the left of the turn to Kulgu from Joala Street.



Narva Sea

The Narva Reservoir, more romantically known as the "Narva Sea", on which shore lies Kulgu, is beloved by fishermen and sailors. It was once just a part of the Narva river stream, full of low-lying islands, hills, and swampy plains. Until 1956, 40% of the current Narva reservoir area was filled with swamps, several villages, and 4,030 hectares of agricultural land. Between the years of 1950 and 1955, a nine-meter spillway dam with a height of 206 m was erected, blocking the flow of the Narva river. The water level rose by 5 meters, and during the year 1956, the Narva Reservoir basin was filled, hiding lower islands underneath the waters, and even flooding the once-functioning brick factory (in the lower left corner). The water canals that laid the foundation for the Kuglu garage cooperative soon followed.



In the aerial photograph circa 1965 (on the left), the Kulgu canals are barely distinguishable. At that time, there was no talk of any brick garages. Few photographs of that time exist in the public domain. Kulgu was not yet written about in the newspapers, as there was nothing to write about yet. The area developed off the back of the enthusiasm and active work of the fishermen.

Kulgu grew organically, without external planning or intervention. The thing modern city architects and planners write and dream about, the thing urban artists study has become a natural way for the development of the Kulgu region. Going off of the land's potential and their own needs, the locals transformed a bare piece of land with their ideas and many years of work, creating a community unique in its kind.

Экспорт кирпича.

Въ началъ текущей недѣли въ Нарву прибыло финское моторное судно „Эге“, которое повезетъ отсюда въ Финляндію 50.000 кирпичей.

Residents of Kulgu have always been united by pressing problems - roads, bridges, and the support of the city government. Today, the port road and Remmelga Street, as well as the humpbacked bridge, require repair.

Поправьте дорогу.

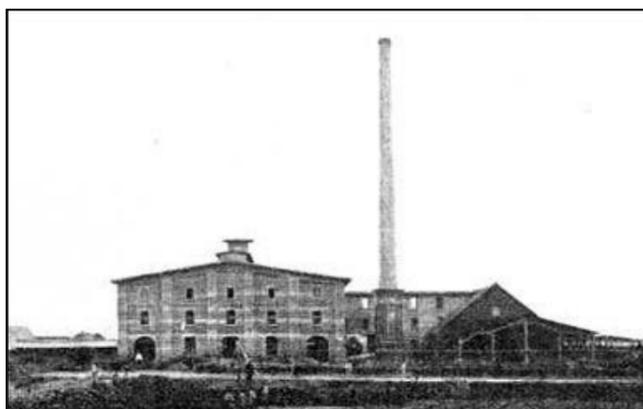
Дорога отъ желѣзнодорожнаго моста до Кренгольмской покойницкой, въ связи съ непогодой, стоявшей въ послѣднее время, испортилась, и по ней очень трудно ходить. Большія ямы и лужи послѣ дождя затрудняютъ хождение пѣшеходовъ, особенно по вечерамъ.

Такъ какъ на Ивангородскомъ форштадтѣ проживаетъ большая часть кренгольмскихъ рабочихъ, и многіе съ Суконной и Лѣнопрядильной мануфактуръ пользуются Кренгольмскимъ рынкомъ, кажется, не мѣшало-бы администраціи фабрики привести дорогу въ порядокъ, тѣмъ болѣе, что рядомъ находятся такъ называемыя Шуваловскія казармы, въ которыхъ живутъ рабочіе той же фабрики.

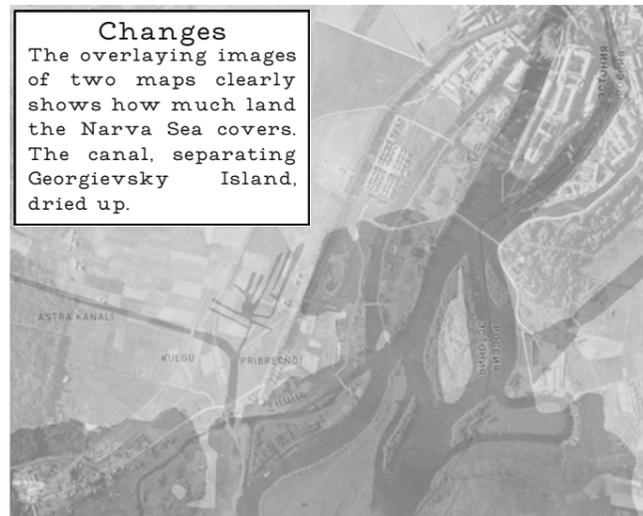
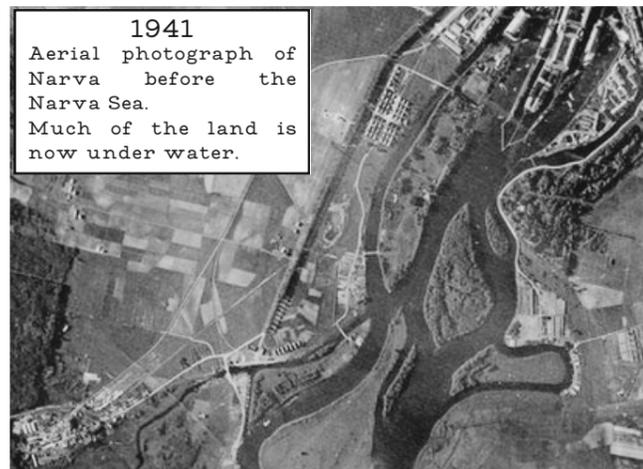
140 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRICK FACTORY

A fully industrialized factory was constructed in 1882.

In 1886, "Kulga" factory won a bronze medal for the quality of its bricks at an exhibition in Nizhny Novgorod.



A significant part of brick was exported through the Kulgu port. The Factory stopped its work completely in 1930 due to lack of export. During WW2, it was completely destroyed and later rebuilt by 1949. However, in 1956 the factory was flooded due to the filling of the Narva reservoir.

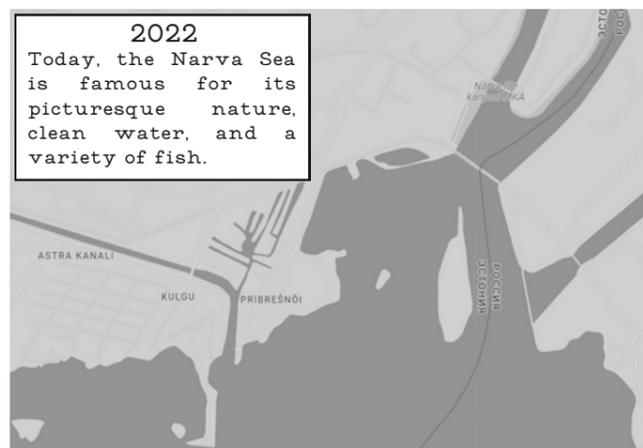


Changes

The overlaying images of two maps clearly shows how much land the Narva Sea covers. The canal, separating Georgievsky Island, dried up.



A reader submitted to us a photograph of Nina Shcherbakova, whose father worked in Kulgu in the 1930s laying pavements. Her family lived in the village of Kukin Bereg, on the other side of the Narva River, North or Kulgu.



2022

Today, the Narva Sea is famous for its picturesque nature, clean water, and a variety of fish.

На кирпичномъ заводѣ „КУЛГА“
продается

ПОЛОВИНЧАТЫЙ КИРПИЧЪ
по удешевленнымъ цѣнамъ.

Подробныя справки можно получать въ **Хозяйственномъ Отдѣлѣ Кренгольмской Мануфактуры.**

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

We thank all the participants of the project "Narva Venice Embassy"!

We would like to express special gratitude to the people of Kulgu, without whose participation this project would not have taken place, and without whose care for Kulgu, this unique corner of Narva would not have been preserved.

To the "Kulgu" cooperative and its chairman Alexander Mairov for their help in accommodating artists, establishing contacts, helping to organize events, translating, and helping with the issue of "Late Night Kulgu"; members of the "Kulgu" cooperative for technical and moral assistance to the artists and organizers of the project (Vladimir Naumov, Sergey Rusakov, Valentin Bauman);

To Tatyana Boitsova and Kristina Boitsova for the wonderful fish soup and help in compiling "Late Night Kulgu".

And to all garage owners, their friends, families, and others for their hospitality!

To the former chairman and current member of the "Kulgu" cooperative, Vladimir Matveev, for his active participation in the project and compilation of the newspaper, in particular, for his help in organizing a boat tour along the canals, helping the residents.

We are equally grateful to everyone who took part in this summer's events! The NART project included several major events open to both local residents and the general public, such as the Open Day of the NART Embassy in Kulgu and the Community Day. The guests were able to get acquainted with the projects of the "Embassy" residents, as well as enjoy the atmosphere and hospitality of the local residents. Other events also took place this summer – presentations of projects by Maurin and Elisabeth, as well as one of the parts of the Station Narva music and urban culture festival.

For the provided photo materials, illustrations and postcards, we thank:

Anna Markova, Enrique Roura, Vladimir Matveev, Kristina Boitsova, Tatiana Boitsova, Mohar Kalra, Ellie Guerrera, Lotta Carmelino, Alexander Openenko, Maria Kopytova, HÜ Kulgu Paardigaraazid, Tellis (<http://tellis.ucoz.ru/>),

We thank the organizers of this project:

Johanna Rannula, director of NART, Alexei Ivanov, project coordinator, Lotta Carmelino; NART resident Christina Guber.

The research team from Tallinn University, Valeria Ermakova and her supervisor Tarmo Pikner, and Yana Levitina, editor of the "Late Night Kulgu" special issue.

FROM BRITISH COUNCIL

British Council is interested in supporting projects that are community-centered and express diversity in an inspirational way, and support belonging. Projects that give people a sense of relatedness, being a part of something, and being a creator of the community as well.

Hence the interest in NART and its project at Narva Venice!

It is an exciting experiment to mix international artists and the local community.

It is a thought-provoking and conversation-starting examination of the internal workings of the community.

NART is especially inspiring for really listening to Narva and working together with Narvians.

Its focus on extending local audience and impact is of great importance for British Council.

Another important aspect is that NART has offered content that is relevant to Narvians and not just to art professionals without compromising the quality of the art practice itself.

It is exciting to see how this project will further contribute to the development of the overall area to give it more life and variety.

Hopefully, there will be even more projects in Ida-Virumaa that get the local people involved and art surely is a very appropriate method for that! Intercultural mediation and understanding of the other require a good imagination as well. Imagination and curiosity that are inherent in artists are hopefully transferred to the local community as well for them to imagine their future and themselves in a new and meaningful way.



A MESSAGE FOR VISITORS!

A message from the residents of Kulgu.

Dear guests of Kulgu! For many of us, Kulgu is a place of family vacations, celebrations, and a resting place in the hectic city life. Together we maintain cleanliness and order and oversee compliance with regulations and safety. We kindly ask you to keep cleanliness and order in the territory of Kulgu and its surroundings. Please do not pour dirty water into the canals or on the ground!

The territory of Kulgu is home to many fish, birds, and wild animals, and the cleanliness of the nature around them directly affects their well-being. Staying on the territory of Kulgu, please respect the requirements of the cooperative, and also respect those who come after you, leaving behind cleanliness and order!



Narva
art
residency

Narva Art Residency
(Kulgu Embassy)

LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL

Playground

"Many people come to Kulgu with their families, with children. It's like a kindergarten here in the summer. I would like to see a play area or a playground in Kulgu so that children have a safe space to play and socialize. So that they can play together safely. There is plenty of space, for example, near the plum trees. The most important thing is to have a proper fence so that they don't accidentally run away to the water. I am sure people would be willing to invest if it provides convenience and comfort. And dacha residents would probably also take their children to this playground since they don't have a common play area themselves.

And fun activities for children would be very welcome - for example, joint drawing under the guidance of artists. Children could even be involved in painting the walls of garages, it would be very interesting for them." Christina B.

Fisherman's day

"I would love to have another Fisherman's Day! About 4 years ago we organized an event like that. We came up with fun contests, competitions, and prizes.

We bought food, made fish soup for everybody. We had a wonderful time! It would be wonderful to have more events like that together. For us, Kulgu is the unity of cultures. It doesn't matter what nationality you are. The main thing is to be a decent person.

We accept everyone here - if you are Estonian, Russian, Ukrainian, Finnish, it doesn't matter. And with such events, we could attract young people, and just get to know each other better." Tatyana. B.

Stamp

"Our cooperative has a seal - with the name, Kulgu Paardigaraazid, and a sailboat in the middle. It would be nice to update the sign on the round iron sheet, where the old name is now, Kulgu Boat-Garage Union. We need to remove the old layer of paint and redraw the seal. It could be put up at the foot of the hill so that you can immediately see that it is Kulgu." Vladimir M.

WOW!

"Before visiting Kulgu this summer, I didn't even know that there is such a busy life here! It seemed that it's just garages, you know, like the ones for guys to hang out and drink. But there are family gatherings, fishing, and holidays. I was quite pleasantly surprised! I would like to visit this place many more times if a good reason comes along." Peter S.

Boat base

"I always dreamed of making a two-story boat base on the site of the empty 4th pier. Demolish everything, level the ground. It would have a foyer, a watchman, and a boat repair shop. You could raise the vessel and repair it right there. And on the second floor - a hotel. Fishermen could come from all over the world. You just go downstairs, rent a boat, check in with the border guard - and go fishing. We even offered the Young Sailors Club to take the territory, to have their base there. But the water is too shallow for their yachts here." Vladimir. M.

Unique place

"In Estonia, there is no place like ours - everyone keeps boats on the water. And neither in Finland. People are always very surprised." Alexander M.

Water sports

"I would like to see more water activities near the renovated port. Boat rental, catamarans, kayaks, an artificial wave for surfing - so that it would be interesting for us and younger people to spend time here. For example, there could be a special "fenced" zone so that no one accidentally sails out too far. Tourists from Finland are already coming here to kayak along the canals. And after cleaning the canals, sailing along them will become even easier." Tatyana B.

Common language

"It may seem that it is impossible to communicate without a common language. But you don't need any special words to show that the fish is done and the drinks are served. Everyone understands." Alexey I.

More information!

"More information about the ongoing events would be well appreciated. And even something about what the artists were doing in Kulgu this summer - not everyone met them in person." Tatyana B.

Kulgu in a new light

"Until this summer, I didn't know that there were this ma-a-a-any "subcultures" in Kulgu. I thought it was just fishermen, but they have hen parties there, and disco lights in the garage!" Aleksey I.

Bus stop

"We want the Pribrezny bus stop to be returned to its original place. Throughout my time in Kulgu, there were no accidents here because of this bus stop. The extra 300 meters is a great difficulty for the elderly and many others. Vladimir M.

New garages

"New garages could be built on empty ground. People could move there during the repair of their old garages, it would be very convenient. And it would be nice to have a sewer system if that is possible here." Vladimir M.

Benches

"It would be nice to develop some pathways for hiking and install benches. Sometimes art school students from other cities come to draw, and they have to sit on stones, on the ground. And elderly people could also hike, having the opportunity to sit down and rest along the way." Tatyana B.



ADVERTS

GARAGE FOR SALE

A garage for sale on the Kuglu canals. Electricity, tools, boat (requires repair). Free to rent ASAP. 1500 euros. tel. +372 xxxxxxxx

KULGU CAT

A fluffy, rather old cat has been seen walking along the Kulgu canals. Black and white coat, pointed ears. Often seen near the humpbacked bridge and by the Fishermen's Club. We are feeding him, but if the owner recognizes their pet, you know where to find him. Responds to "Barsik" and "kss-kss". Friendly with dogs.

Fresh milk

Please come to the Sillamäe milkman's truck with your own cans or bottles for milk, boxes for cheeses, etc.

Do not forget to take cash with you - small bills. If possible - take the exact amount! Delivery days are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

CANAL CLEARING

Attention! The long-awaited canal clearing is finally underway! Tractors and excavators are working on the site. Please be careful and do not interfere with the work.

The work is scheduled to go on for 60 days. In the course of the work planned a year ago, the canals will be cleared of overgrowth, which will help increase their depth.

For the subsequent maintenance of the cleanliness of the canals, we ask all owners of garages and boxes to clear their own berths regularly from overgrowth.

MECHANIC WANTED

The Krenholm Manufactory is looking for a mechanic. Night shifts. Monthly salary, optional pid overtime.

Prior work experience (1 year) or special education tel. +372 xxxxxxxx

SHARE YOUR STORY

Anthropological artist Kevin Molloy is looking for volunteers to share their personal stories about Kulgu.

Kevin spent some time this summer, between July 6th and 19th, in Kulgu. Now, you can contact him through NART. Kevin will also possibly continue his work in Kulgu in January.

The "Kulgu" cooperative is also collecting photos for the Kulgu Garage history archive. You can send your photos to kulgunarva@rambler.ru. Donated photos will be published on the website:

<https://kulgunarva.wixsite.com>

SEAMSTRESS WANTED

The manufactory is looking for a seamstress.

Monthly salary, paid overtime.

No prior experience required, on-site training. tel. +372 xxxxxxxx

EVENTS

Sound journey

The audio tours "Summer day in Kulgu" continue! Created by NART resident Elisabeth Guerrero Molina, the audio tour combines locals' stories with the sounds of nature recorded in the Kulgu area. The natural symphony, interwoven with intimate memories, creates a kind of ode to this unique place. The tours are held on a quiet boat, allowing the listener to absorb every rustle of a "Summer day in Kulgu". Read more about the creator of the tour and the impressions of first "travelers" on the "Chronicles" page.



Fisherman's Day

The date and schedule of the next Fishermen's Day are being actively discussed. Share your ideas!

The previous Fisherman's Day took place in honor of the 50-year anniversary of the boat and garage cooperative in 2019.

Young Sailor Club camp

The Young Sailors Club invites young sailing enthusiasts to begin their sea journey, acquire necessary sailing skills, and prepare for local competitions!

The course includes sailing the "Optimists" regattas at the Kulgr port, children aged 7 and above are welcome to join. Cadets will learn the basics of sailing and ship construction, will get rowing skills, and learn to rig.

They will master knitting sea knots, and learn the semaphore system.

Community Day

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, Narva Art Residence invites everyone to a community day, which will be held near the Fishermen's Club. Let's celebrate the Restoration of Independence Day together, share a special meal and enjoy fresh bread, baked in the new Kulgu oven. The oven has already passed the baptism of fire, having baked 9 loaves of bread. We thank Enrique Roura, one of the residents of NART, for his work on the oven. Read about the process of building, baking, and daily life of Enrique in Kulgu on the "food and nature" page.

Regular subbotnik

Plans for the next community work day: raking leaves, collecting garbage on and around the premises, repairing garage walls, painting graffitied walls, and clearing the canals from floating debris.

Subbotnik starts at 10:00. We gather at the Fishermen's Club. It might rain, so wear rubber boots and raincoats. Work gloves and garbage bags will be provided. The penalty for non-attendance is 5 euros.

During the upcoming Subbotnik, we will also have an opportunity to meet the temporary inhabitants of Kulgu - the artists Kevin, Elizabeth, Mohar, Maurin, and Enrique.



Bread Oven made from brick

Bread is the staff of life. In all cultures, for all nations. That is why bread can serve as a point of intersection of different cultural contexts. So says Enrique Roura, an artist and architect from Mexico. Enrique's project during his residency in Kulgu was the design and construction of a brick bread oven.

"I spent 6 weeks in Kulgu. First, I studied the area for some time, just walked around, explored, and when the materials arrived, I started working on the oven itself. People often walked passed, as I was working right next to the Fishermen's Club. Everyone said hello, and sometimes asked something, but because of the language, it was often not possible to communicate properly. But when the bricks were brought, for example, the chairman, Alexander, was nearby, and he speaks English. He asked one of the locals to help me - and we carried the bricks together.

With Alexander, since he speaks English, I managed to communicate the most. I met many members of his family, he showed me where they spend their free time.

Once, we even had a nice culture-mixing moment - we grilled shashlik together, I made Mexican salsa, and we made shashlik tacos. It was a great combination and a great cultural connection. I found that Mexicans and Russians have a lot in common. This hospitality was a very nice aspect of staying in Kulgu.

And once, a woman, seeing me at work, treated me to some watermelon. And another time, one dude just came with a beer to watch me work."



Work day

"My day in Kulgu started with coffee and breakfast. The first thing I did afterward was going to the canals to get a couple of buckets of water, because a lot of the work required water, like kneading clay and mortar. Plus, it's quite dirty and dusty work, so I needed water to wash my hands, clothes, and tools. Most often I worked alone, but sometimes the locals helped, like with carrying bricks. And many of the tools that I needed during the work were borrowed from the locals.

Every day I worked until I got tired, and then I usually went to the far end of Kulgu, to the pier to bathe and wash off all the dust. The work was physically quite exhausting, so at the end of the day I usually ate, sometimes had some beer, and just relaxed. Some evening I also spent socializing with the other NART residents."



"In Mexico, I got a bachelor's degree in architecture, and after that, I also studied high art. I try to combine both directions in my work," says Enrique.

"In art, I have always been interested in the context, giving direction to my work. I have mixed roots and dual nationality, and now I am living in Norway. This duality also influenced my perception of culture. I am interested in how different concepts coexist together, where their boundaries lie, where they become more blurred, and where the definitions of boundaries are completely absent. Where is the line that defines the object? Where, from what line or point does it begin?

I am interested in structures - both physical, subject to gravity, and more abstract. For example, how ideas and concepts are formed, where they come from, and what the structure of their definition is.

Enrique Roura

Architect, artist
Mexico/Norway



The Idea

"When I saw the open call for the residency and read about the place where the artists would live and work, I got the idea to build an oven. Kulgu is a place where people spend a lot of time together, where boat garages coexist with garages converted into residential houses. And since I've been into baking bread for a while myself and have always wanted to try building an oven, this idea naturally came to me when I saw the description of the project.

Bread exists in all cultures - and it doesn't have to be rye or wheat bread. In Mexico, for example, we make corn tortillas, which are our bread. Bread unites. And the kitchen itself is often a meeting place, a point of contact where different people and different cultures can be brought together. So my goal was not just to bake bread for bread's sake, but to bring people together and share this bread with them. And to create an object that can unite people around it. I wanted this object to retain its function even without me. Whether the oven will be used in the future, and how people's interaction with the oven will develop, is also part of this experiment."



Oven manual and tips

If you look at Kulgu from above, the piece of land that was allocated for the construction of the oven seemed kind of abandoned - this is the area between one of the garages and the warehouse.



The stove itself is a small brick igloo with a pipe, and sits on a cement table, which makes it easier to use, helps retain heat, and protects against possible fires. The pipe is covered with cement mortar. Under the "dome" of the furnace itself, there is an empty space for the firewood, closed by a steel door. The door was cut and soldered according to Enrique's design at a local laser-cut metal shop, with the help of one of Kulgu residents.

The oven, of course, is a nice thing - but you should remember that it is not some magical bread machine, you can't just wave your hands and get things done - you have to work.

To ignite the oven, you will need dry firewood (stored under the oven). Lay the firewood deep into the oven, kindle. The airflow is regulated by a steel door. The oven will heat up in an hour or two, depending on the wood.

Having used firewood from under the oven, please fill the woodpile back up so that you and other bread lovers do not have to run for firewood every time before kindling the oven.

For baking pizza or tortillas, an open fire is suitable, as they are baked quickly, but require a high temperature.

If bread is to be baked, you need to heat up the oven and wait until most of the open fire goes out and more space is freed up. By this time, the temperature in the oven will be more or less stable, which will help the bread to rise and bake through evenly.

How to cook in Kulgu

The easiest way to cook food is on fire (grill) or in the oven (near the Fishermen's Club), if you need to cook for multiple people. Cooking on skewers or grills can also make dishwashing easier. When lighting a fire, be sure to follow safety precautions. Pickles and other products that do not require a refrigerator are also useful.

The oven is also suitable for other dishes - fish, meat, potatoes, etc. After use, make sure that the oven door is closed and that no active fire is burning. **DO NOT EXTINGUISH THE OVEN WITH WATER** so that the next bakers do not have to deal with wet firewood - try to stir the burning wood to spread it out and close the door. This will help the fire to die out.

By design, the oven is supposed to be waterproof. Everything is made from materials intended for outdoor use. But how it will withstand temperature extremes remains to be seen.

Despite the careful study of materials and techniques before construction, Enrique notes that in reality it often turns out that some things do not go according to plan. And, of course, any buildings tend to wear out. Enrique continues to follow the news from Kulgu about how the oven is used and whether it will be in demand among the Kuglovites. Of course, its use will greatly depend on the time of year - in autumn and winter, most likely, its activity will drop, because people practically do not spend time outside. But Enrique hopes that the oven will bring a lot of benefits and pleasure during the summer season.



How to wash dishes

If possible, it is better to wash dishes more than one plate at a time to save effort and water. You will need 2 buckets or basins, detergent, a sponge, and clean water. In the first bowl, take water from the canal, pour a little detergent. Soak the dishes, wipe with a sponge. Dispose of the water into the toilet (NOT INTO THE CHANNEL!). Then draw water from the canal into the same basin, this time without the detergent, and rinse the soapy dishes in it. Dispose of the water into the toilet (NOT INTO THE CHANNEL!). In the second, clean basin, pour clean water and rinse the dishes in it. Dispose of the water into the toilet (NOT INTO THE CHANNEL!).

Locals take the water at the dispensary at their dachas, bringing it to the garages in five-liter bottles. To thoroughly rinse off grease or detergent, water can also be boiled in a kettle or over a fire.

Smoky fish soup



Ingredients

Fish (grayling).....	1 kg
Potato.....	800 g
Carrot.....	150 g
Onion.....	150 g
Whole black pepper.....	to taste
Bay leaf.....	4 pc
Salt.....	to taste
Ground black pepper.....	to taste
Greens.....	to taste
Parsnip.....	20 g
Vodka.....	100g
Birch firewood.....	1 pc

Clean the fish (preferably grayling), remove the eyes (the broth will turn cloudy otherwise). Pour water over fish heads and tails, cook for 25-30 minutes. Then take out the fish parts (we won't need them anymore). Cut the rest of the fish, first carefully removing the internal organs (if they are damaged, bile will get on the fish, and the soup will be bitter). Immerse a smoldering log into the broth for a few seconds. Take out the log.

Cut potatoes into cubes. Add salt and pepper to the boiling broth. Add potatoes. After a couple of minutes, add the fish. Cook for 15 minutes. Finely chop the onion. Grate carrots on a medium grater. Add the carrots. Then add the onions (you can also pre-fry the onions and carrots). Cook for 5-7 minutes. Add bay leaf, parsnip (or celery root), peppercorns. Add vodka. Let it brew over low heat for 25-30 minutes. Sprinkle with herbs before serving.



Community Day



On Community Day, the grand opening of the oven took place. Enrique baked 19 loaves of bread in the oven. He brought homemade rye sourdough with him to Kulgu, and for the dough itself, he used various mixes of locally produced rye and wholegrain wheat flour. It took a lot of time, a whole day in total since the dough must be kneaded, let rise, and kneaded again. The spacious kitchen of NART came in very handy, as it is much more convenient to work with the dough and there is a better system for washing hands in the process than in the garages.



Pizza and fish soup

The oven also came in handy at the Station Narva music and urban culture festival, where it was used to cook pizza for 200 people, and the locals treated everyone to fish soup, having cooked as much as 50 liters of traditional fish soup, the recipe of which can be found on the "food and nature" page.



New canopy

Maurin Bisig from Switzerland also spent a month in Kulgu. For his project in Narva in Kulgu, Maurin planned to make a large wooden sculpture. Sculptures, in addition to aesthetic pleasure, should also have a practical function and all local residents should be able to use them.

As a result, Maurin built a wooden shed next to Enrique's oven. And at night and in the early morning hours, Maurin photographed the light and colors of Narva. At the end of his residency, he compiled a small photography exhibition.



Maurin's passion for joinery led him to the idea of building a canopy out of real wood. The canopy is made in traditional carpentry ways using Japanese techniques. On the same evening, Maurin will open a pop-up photo exhibition of the Narva nights in one of the boat garages.

Moreover, a new graffiti on Kulgu garages was made by artist Kedrin and friends.



Maurin Bisig
Sculptor. Switzerland

About the
"Narva Venice" project

"I already knew about Kulgu before I started working at the Narva residence," says Johanna Rannula, director of NART.



"Buses full of tourists used to pass by Kulgu as part of excursions around Narva, and I have always been bothered by this relationship between Kulgu and the outside world.

This unpenetrable physical barrier between them, the glass, as if one side was an aquarium, viewed from afar by those passing by. With this project, I wanted, first of all, to create a point of contact through which new people can get to know the Kulgu community personally, which could benefit Kulgu itself, bringing new ideas, means, and active, enthusiastic people.

Time will tell what will come out of this project because it is a kind of experiment.

The clash of different cultures and different communities is perceived and tolerated by everyone in their own way. Some immerse themselves with great interest in the very heart of these differences, and for others, it turns out to be exhausting work. But diversity and new horizons are always a source of inspiration and impetus for new beginnings.

As we withdraw into ourselves, close up our communities, we grow wary of strangers and new ideas. Just by being next to each other, in the field of view of people different from us, we expand our horizons, creating for ourselves and for those around us an atmosphere of trust and new opportunities.

We are grateful to have received funding for the implementation of the project from the British Council. This allowed individual dedicated artists to be brought in to work directly in and with the Kulgu context. But in any case, we planned to build a closer relationship with Kulgu - maybe hold small events there in the summer, or use one of the garages as a "dach" for NART residents."

Sound journey

“A Summer Day in Kulgu”

During her residency, Elizabeth Guerrero tried to capture the soundscape of Kulgu's summer atmosphere. Having recorded the sounds of nature and stories of local residents, she compiled an audio tour through the Kulgu canals, immersing listeners in the atmosphere of the past summer.

"One of my activities is audio installations and sound art, mostly related to memory and stories," says Elizabeth. "So I suggested talking to people who spend their time here. Finding out what they do, what they like best here. I had general, open-ended questions. For example, what does this place mean to you? What is your fondest memory of it?"

And then I just let them say what they wanted to say. From all these interviews and audio landscapes, I put together an audio tour to listen to while on the water. The idea was to sail slowly on a boat through the canals. This also requires a quiet boat, without a motor, or, for example, a canoe, which turned out to be not so easy to organize.

The idea was to watch the slowly passing by garages from the water, listen to the sounds and stories, and thereby travel back in time to a summer day in Kulgu."



"I was pleasantly surprised that people openly made contact. Many were very hospitable - I was invited many times for tea, sweets, or a drink. Of course, it helped that I speak a little Russian. Besides, it is probably curious and pleasant to see a Mexican girl who somehow speaks Russian.

It's nice to see that a person makes an effort and tries to speak your language."

Ellie's residency took place during 15.08.22-05.09.22.

You can listen to the finished tour by using the QR code on the stamp or by going to <https://www.nart.ee/ru>



Silent disco and a story collage

"I've been doing similar projects in Mexico with different communities. The methods are different. Usually, we make stationary audio points, but this time I wanted to add a "silent disco" aspect because it creates a special feeling. In a "silent disco" everyone has their headphones and their own music, and the space itself is not filled with these same sounds.

My idea was to make a collage of stories - and I was also wondering whether my level of Russian would be enough, whether I would be able to communicate with people. I studied Russian a little at school and a little over the following years. Most of all, probably, at the university in Mexico. I really like the Russian language, Russian cinema, and literature, and they have always inspired me.

I chose fairly open questions so that people could just tell their stories, and deliberately chose to talk to people one on one, without an interpreter because it's a completely different atmosphere. People are more open. Therefore, I decided to first try to cope on my own, and if it would have been too hard, to ask for help. But in fact, everything turned out to be alright. I studied the questions, and sometimes I wrote them down. And after a while, I got used to it. Sometimes, of course, there was some kind of misunderstanding, and I had to explain or repeat something, but only a couple of times.

Of course, sometimes people didn't want to be recorded, and that's perfectly normal. Surely someone had a bad experience with reporters, journalists - so I always tried to explain that I am not a reporter and that the results of my work can be in audio form, and also explain what kind of a project I am working on."



Elizabeth Guerrero
Audio artist
Mexico/Netherlands

On the other side

Coming in the early morning hours, in clear weather, to the Kulgu watch tower, one can catch a stunning sight - on the other side, on Parusinka, the snow-white, blue-roofed Church of the Life-Giving Trinity is clearly visible. The ringing of church bells can be heard across the surface of the water, and the domes shine under the first rays of the sun. Such sight cannot be expressed in words and is rarely found in the city.



Lost Postcards

Lost postcards found! If you recognize yourself as the sender or addressee, please contact your local postal office!

The postcards depict boats at the Kulgu port as well as residential buildings for the workers of the manufactory. Until 1910.



FOREST FRIENDS

There are more and more birds in Kulgu each year. This summer was full of white herons, and regular ducks and geese. A family of waterhens has already nested twice. Their first nest with laid eggs was blown away by the wind, together with the branch, but the birds managed to vow a new one, new eggs appeared, and then the chicks.

The water hen is a rare bird in our latitudes, and it happens here only to make nests and feed the chicks.

A reader of Late Night Kulgu shared with the editors a photo of a gray heron from their personal archive. The gray heron is also considered a sign of an ecological environment.



Also, recently, a beaver has settled on a floating island that has washed up near the shore. The Kulgovites have already found a common language with him and now cohabit amicably, side by side. Having a beaver around is a good sign since the activity of a beaver has a positive effect on the quality of water, the internal processes of a reservoir, and the population of fish and birds.

While moose Grisha, first seen running around Kulgu, hangs out eating apples on the Krenholm territory, other animals also visit the area. Last winter, a surveillance camera filmed a raccoon, a fox, and the cat Barsik eating the fish and pigfat left for them together. Just like in a fairy tale!

The Narva Sea also boasts a rich fauna, being a permanent or temporary home for 27 fish species, 7 of which are a good catch for the fishermen. There are roach, bream, asp, burbot, perch, ide, ruff, rudd, and crucian carp. There are also huge pikes, and, of course, grayling - the best fish for cooking soup, according to the advise of experienced fishermen.

The forests and swamps in the vicinity are also rich in edible plants and mushrooms. At the end of summer, you can pick cranberries in the swamps, and chanterelles and other mushrooms in the forests.



The canals freeze over in winter, and some residents of Kulgu, taking advantage of natural conditions, fashion skating rinks for the winter. People also ride sleds. However, when going out on the ice in winter, one should be careful: a reader shared with us a story of an accident, driving her sled into the reeds and falling through the ice. Due to thickets, the ice there remains thin for the longest time. Luckily, the heater was warmed up!

WOODEN ANIMALS



Many Kulgovites have also noticed wooden animals that have recently appeared near the canals. Two birds and a frog, located at different points, make sounds and even talk. We are pleased to tell you that the wooden sculptures are the work of an artist from the United States of America, Mohar Kalra. The young artist spent about a month in Kulgu to recreate the species typical of the surroundings of Kulgu and fill the soundscape with the singing of birds and the croaking of frogs. This thought came to Mohar when he heard the humming of the powerlines over Kulgu. Filling the space with mechanical sounds, people change the natural soundscape, depriving some animals of the ability to communicate with each other, to hear each other from afar. "It's strange," say the Kulgovites, "the powerlines are humming and buzzing, even though there should be no electricity coming from Russia."

"Would be nice to have this bird on Petrovskaya Square!" chuckled one of our readers in his letter. Where would you like to see devices like these? To whom would you like to convey your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions? With whom would you like to share your sorrows and joys?

Repel a beaver

If a beaver is chewing on young trees - do not rush to set traps or plan a hunt. Let the beaver live in peace. And to keep him away from the trees, leave freshly chopped wood or useless branches near his lair - he will be happy to treat himself to your gift and will no longer want to chase after your apple trees. Tested!"



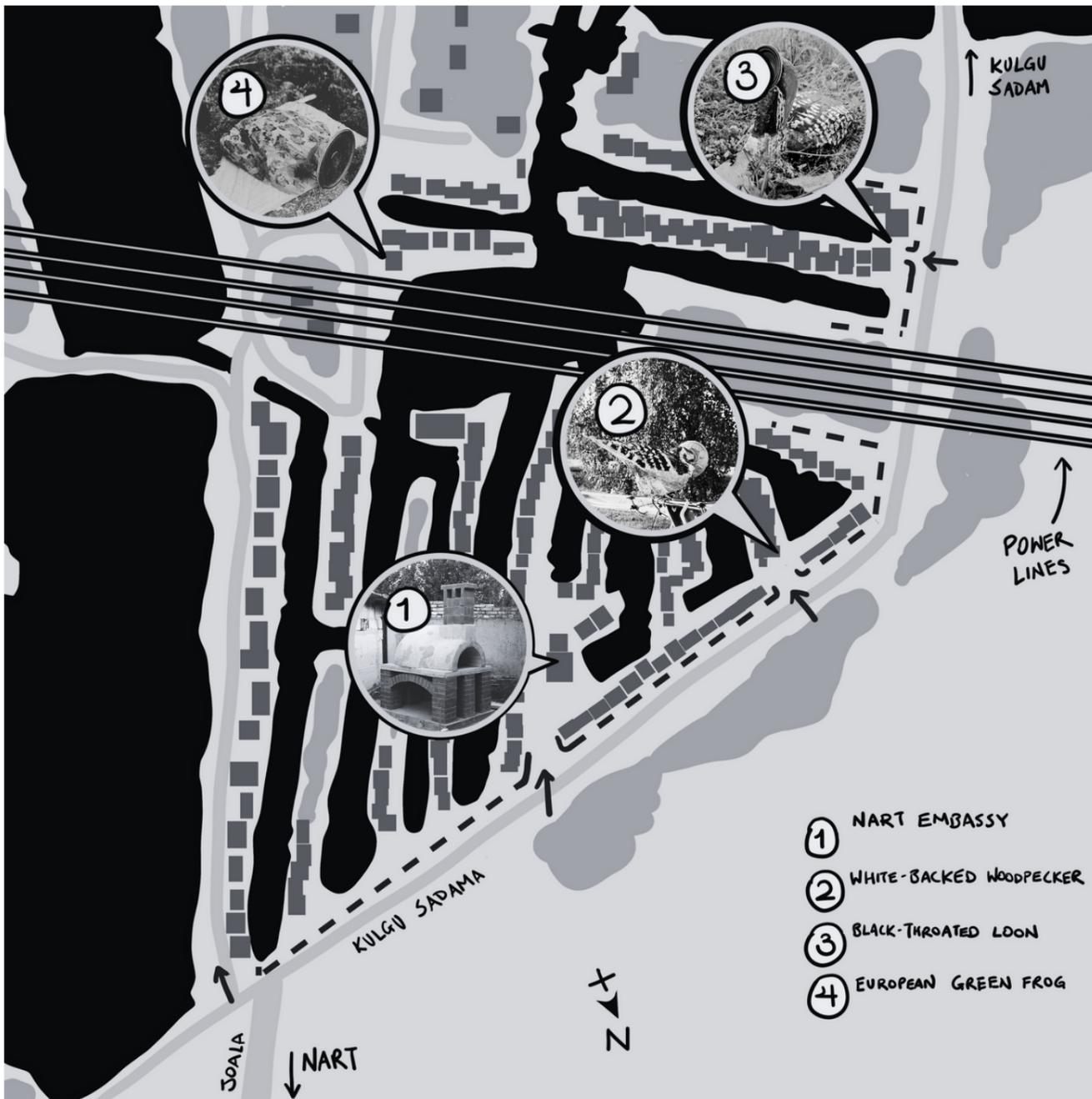
As residents of Kulgu note, frogs are an indicator of a clean environment. Frogs do not like polluted waters, but in Kuglu there are a lot of them! It's amazing how differently the same place appears to the "locals" and "guests". One person, hearing the humming wires, dreams of the croaking frogs, perceiving the sounds of human creations as an invasion of the natural soundscape. And another, during every summer night spent on Kulga, falls asleep to the croaking of actual frogs and their entire brood, barely noticing the humming wires.



Wooden animals, however, have one more interesting feature. Attached to each statue is a small mechanism that allows you to record a 15-second message. This message will be played for the next day, after which it will be automatically deleted, and the animal will go back to its own sound, remaining in wait for its next human voice.



ANIMAL MAP



Near the totems, sound recording receivers are installed, accompanied by instructions. In case the instructions get damaged or lost, we publish them here. To record your message, press the red button on the microphone. The device records messages with a maximum length of 15 seconds. Your message will be repeated for 24 hours, after which it will be deleted, and the totem will go back to its solo voice. Together, for a day, you will become the common voice of Kulgu, filled with life, just like the garages that are located here.



Mohar became interested in the project when he visited Narva in early 2022. After studying the typical fauna of the region, he selected the animals whose habitat or abundance may have changed due to human activity.

Mohar Kalra

Artist, researcher. USA

Peculiarities of fishing in Kulgu



A lot has changed in Kulga in 50 years, but one of the most noticeable changes for fishermen is the Narva river border, restored after the collapse of the USSR. Fishermen remember a time when they used to go to distant islands to relax, sunbathe, and go fishing. Some, working the night shifts, even on a weekday could afford to spend the morning with the whole family on a quiet island under the sun. All summer weekends were spent in Kulgu or on the water.



Mushrooming and berry picking was done on the Russian side. Some took vacations in August and September during the cranberry season. Berries were handed over to a collection point organized by the Tartu cannery on Kulga in exchange for money. Some collected so much that they could afford expensive boat parts with the money they earned.

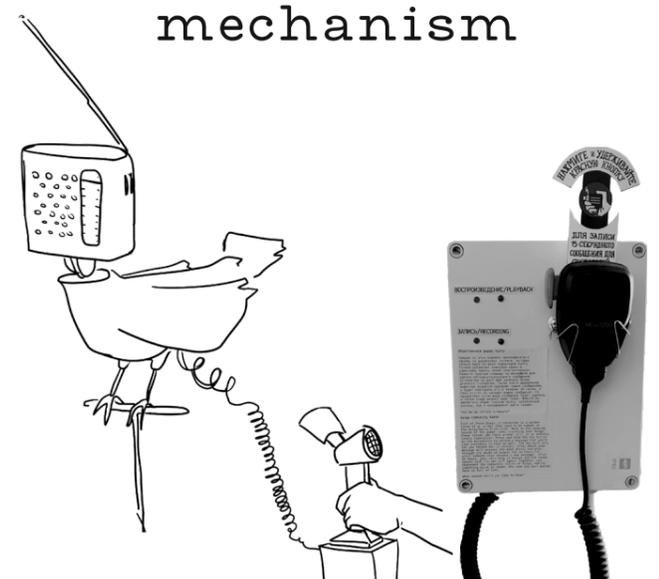
Many stayed overnight in the swamps, especially those who wanted to earn extra money. In the morning they would go to the swamps to pick berries, and by noon - onto the water, fishing. To the rapids and to Lake Peipus. Now it's difficult to even get to the lake, in order not to fall into the restricted zone (closer than 50 m. from the border), you have to sail close to the shore, through thickets and underwater stones. If you run into something like that, you can break the propeller and pierce the boat.



It is also necessary to check in with the border guard to sail out. People who work there are all different, but most of them are understanding, and even call an hour in advance to warn when the allotted time is running out.

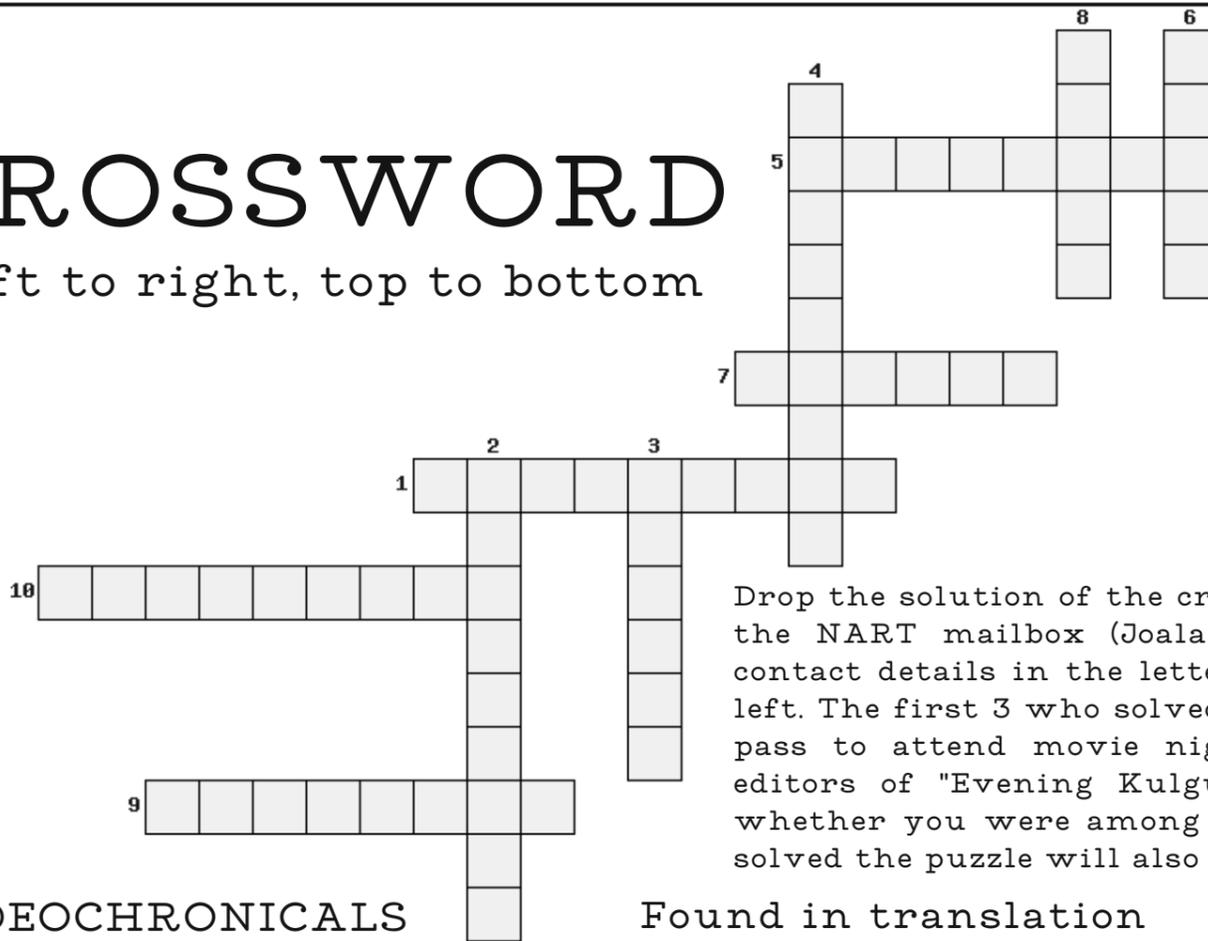


Recording mechanism



CROSSWORD

Left to right, top to bottom



1. Ivangorod area opposite Kulgu
2. Name of the chairman
3. Fish family of the fish from 9.
4. Area on Vitamini Street
5. Street on the shore of Narva Sea
6. Previously 'Lenin Street'
7. Name of the Krenholm moose
8. "Laughter" in Uzbek
9. Best fish for fish soup
10. Other name for "water chicken"

Drop the solution of the crossword puzzle on a separate sheet in the NART mailbox (Joala 18). Please include your name and contact details in the letter, as well as the date the letter was left. The first 3 who solved the crossword puzzle will get a free pass to attend movie nights at NART until 01/01/2024. The editors of "Evening Kulgu" will contact you, informing you whether you were among the first ones. The list of those who solved the puzzle will also be published on the NART website.

VIDEOCHRONICALS

Kevin Molloy, an anthropologist from Ireland, who has been living in Estonia for 9 years, shared with us his experience of staying in Kulgu.

"I've been wanting to visit Narva for a long time, but I put the trip off because I wanted to get to know the city from the inside, which is not possible within the framework of a short visit and visits to bars and restaurants. When I saw the photos of Kulgu, I immediately realized that this is exactly what I was waiting for. Even though I wasn't really part of this community, I felt the urge to say hello to everyone. On regular streets in Narva I wouldn't do that, but the people in Kulgu were so friendly and hospitable.

When I first arrived, on the first day I met Alexander, the chairman, and he invited me into his garage. We were chatting inside when suddenly, someone moored to his pier, and we went together on a boat tour. To the disco music of the 90s, we drove past garages, he told me what was around. I was pleasantly surprised, I expected something completely different. It was the best crazy experience of my life. With Alexander, we still sometimes talk on the phone. I will definitely be returning to Narva, and more than once."



Kevin Molloy
Anthropologist. Ireland/Estonia

Found in translation

"I approached my work with an open mind - I did not have a goal or a topic that I wanted to explore, because I was not at all familiar with this place and the locals. I was sure that the topic would arise by itself in the course of communication with people.

Since I know, at best, 12 Russian words, and Alexander did not always have the opportunity to help with the translation, I am only getting to translating some of the footage now, and only now will I find out what people were saying. But the lack of a common language did not become an insurmountable obstacle. We talked with one man for more than an hour through a translator on my phone. He invited me to his garage, we drank beer, he talked about Afghanistan, showed photos and videos. Maybe the lack of a common language even helped in some way because it was easier for people to show me photos and videos or take me to the place they were trying to tell me about. It was also interesting to film with Vladimir, the former chairman.

He knew what I was doing, so he just told me things in Russian, showed me his garages, his garden. He introduced me to his family. It was a very interesting experience. I listened a lot, and I had to get used to the fact that I do not understand what they are telling me, and I cannot answer or ask specifying questions again.

Pleasant acquaintances

"On the day I first arrived, there was a broken door in the garage. Then I met Sergey - he just walked by and noticed that something was wrong, so returned with a younger guy. They removed the door, repaired it, and put it in place. And 20 minutes later they returned, Sergei gave me some smoked fish, and the younger guy brought cookies from his car. I was invited to barbecues, people gave me fresh tomatoes, sweets."

The result of Kevin's work will be a film made up of footage shot in Kulgu. The exact release date of the film is still unknown, as additional filming is planned for at least January 2023, after which editing and consultation with people captured on camera will follow so that the frames included in the footage are approved by the people depicted in them.

When the film is complete, a free screening will be held at NART, and information about this will appear on the website:

<https://www.nart.ee/en>



publisher's imprint
The issue in electronic format is available on the NART website or via a QR code.
See more photos from the project on the NART website.

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