

## **Mari Saarepera & Tauri Mae** **EQUAL, NOT EQUAL!**

Mari Saarepera and Tauri Mae's tandem exhibition "Võrdne, mitte võrdne!" (Equal, Not Equal!) deals with the topic of social equality, which is about as old as humanity itself. The exhibition is open in the windows of Gallery Positiiv at Roo 21a, Tallinn, from 15 March to 11 April 2021.

The artists attempt to show how an equally created work of art may not be equal and how it can be seemingly altered when presenting it differently, hinting at today's (social) media.

Saarepera and Mae speak about the topic of social equality through a photography series captured in the form of performance: "It's an abstract work of art on a double-sided canvas made by both creators at the same time and by throwing a piece of string across the canvas. This technique makes the work of art a creation of both authors in terms of equality where 50% of the other party's work has input from the other. However, this realisation of work may be unequal due to the personal motives of both authors. Unequal treatment of bilateral equal agreements for personal gain can sometimes be an opportunity that stimulates the spirit and frees one creatively. Equal may not be equal, both one or the other could be influenced in different directions, meaning that equality signifies an ideal that never has a chance to come true."

Capturing the process in the form of [video](#) and photos allows new perspectives to be created, demonstrating the creation as collaboration or lack thereof, resulting in the creation of two different worlds.

**Mari Saarepera** (1990) is an artist and designer, future art teacher, self-wanderer, and fan of absurdism. She studied blacksmithing at Tallinn Kopli Vocational School (2013) and at the Estonian Academy of Arts (BA, 2016). She is currently completing her Master's degree in art teaching in the joint study programme at Tallinn University and the Estonian Academy of Art. Saarepera fills her days with drawing, painting, and creating collages and installation objects. In her work, she mainly discusses the topics of doubts, irony, absurdity and perfectionism, and finds the dialogue between the artist and the work (of art) to be important.

**Tauri Mae** (1987) is a designer with an engineering background whose strong technical knowledge goes back to Tallinn University of Technology (2014). Mae has worked on aeroplane models, drawing, photography, music creation and product design. At the moment, the object of his interest and research are light sculptures; he is fascinated by the connection between modern sculpture and engineering possibilities.

Together, the artists have founded the Saarepera&Mae lighting studio (2012), which focuses on creating high quality light sculptures in small editions. Saarepera's artistic and Mae's engineering backgrounds together form a dynamic and perfect pair, despite their opposing personalities and qualifications.

[www.saarepera-and-mae.com](http://www.saarepera-and-mae.com)

## Mari Saarepera & Tauri Mae:



Saarepera & Mae. Thrown I. 2021

Awareness of the established equal rules becomes a tedious obligation at some point. The human mind falls into the desire to destroy the ideal in a raw, screaming and morbid way. To sabotage or not, that is the question. Unequal treatment of bilateral equal agreements for personal gain can sometimes be an opportunity that stimulates the spirit and frees one creatively. When creating the work of art depicted in the photo, Mari's goal was to sabotage Tauri's work.

Based on whom or what can we say that a moment or situation is governed by equal terms? Aren't there sometimes small, creeping doubts as though equality goes hand in hand with manipulation and provocation? Can equal always be equal, or is equal, in certain situations, also unequal?

The desire was to achieve a situation in which the creation of one work of art is in the power of two different authors who had previously agreed on equal terms and conditions. Half of the work of both parties, or authors, has an input from the other author.

Equal realisation may be unequal due to the personal motives of both authors. For example, there may be the desire to sabotage a seemingly equal opponent in order to achieve a legitimate opportunity for oneself, in order to take the maximum out of the situation and to strengthen one's own creation.

The essence of equality is the idea that each person has a balanced, equal opportunity to make the most of their life and talent. Although equality can be formulated as an ideal that never has a chance to become a neutral reality, does it exist around us at all?

Can we live with the knowledge that equal is not always equal, and if we can, how? If what seems equal is not actually so what should we take as the truth and what a lie? The growing

desire to achieve the ideal becomes the main goal in the primary essence of this process. The development of inequality through the use of selfish manipulation. In creating the work of art depicted in the photo, Tauri's goal was to manipulate Mari's input in a way that would help realise the idea of his own work.



Saarepera & Mae. Equal, not equal! 2021