

**'Bodies of Water' by Neringa Vasiliauskaitė**

Galerija VARTAI

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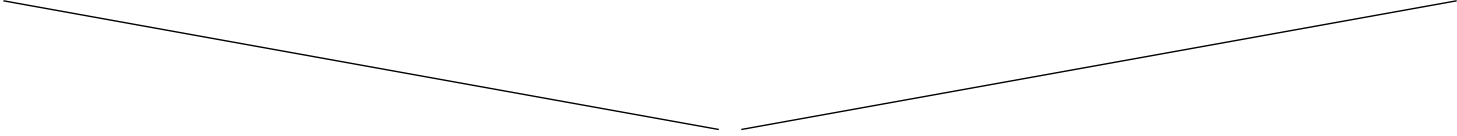
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In 'Bodies of Water', Neringa Vasiliauskaitė unfolds a series of works that trace poetic correspondences between the eye and the net, the act of seeing and the gesture of catching. The retina – both biologically and etymologically – shares its roots with the net: a woven, receptive structure where impressions land, are filtered, remembered. This entanglement becomes a conceptual thread throughout the series, where vision, chance and desire converge into material form.

The eye here is not merely a site of perception but a porous interface between interior and exterior worlds, between body and environment. Vasiliauskaitė's compositions, built through layering photographic fragments, embroidery, glass-like resin, and carved wood, evoke the tactile memory of surfaces – moist, fragile, reflective. Embedded words like 'intention,' 'energy,' or '2024' function as quiet spells or floating notations, charged with the ambiguity of time and desire. The result is a visual language that is simultaneously intimate and symbolic, soft yet precise.

At the core of her work lies a fascination with mimicry and transformation – the way a motif, form, or gesture can shift its meaning entirely through context, material, or scale. A fishing net becomes a retinal map; a gaze becomes a landscape; a decorative element becomes a container of myth. These visual parallels and slippages are not accidental but carefully staged manipulations, where one thing poses as another – not to deceive, but to deepen our ways of seeing. The artist constructs 'chains' of association, where one element morphs into the next: a continuum of transformation rather than a fixed identity. Meaning is not static but migratory – relational, embodied, shifting.

Threads of luck – its pursuit, performance, and projection – run through the work like subtle undercurrents. Lucky coins, smiling fish, netted structures allude to rituals of wishful thinking and symbolic offerings, infused with a tender, slightly ironic gaze at the human need to anchor meaning in signs. The 'catch,' in this context, is as much about randomness as it is about longing – a choreography of hope and illusion. Vasiliauskaitė's works hover between object and image, often suggesting protective or bodily functions



– an eyelid, a shell, a pouch. They address the viewer not through spectacle, but through proximity and resonance. By aligning the anatomical with the emotional, the linguistic with the visual, ‘Bodies of Water’ proposes a sensual topology of perception: where vision becomes fluid, and the act of looking itself becomes a ritual of holding, releasing, and transforming.

**Neringa Vasiliauskaitė** (b. 1984, Lithuania) is a visual artist currently living and working in Germany. Combining various shapes and materials, her work often maneuvers between interior and inner worlds, using everyday motifs to explore connections to memories, nostalgia, and illusions of different times and spaces. Vasiliauskaitė’s work has been featured in significant international exhibitions and projects, including Vent Gallery in Vienna (Austria), Galerie der Künstler in Munich, Kunstverein in Munich, and Westwerk Gallery in Hamburg (Germany). Her pieces have also been shown at the Miranda Kuo Gallery in New York (USA) and the Ulm Museum in Germany. The artist’s works are also part of the following collections: Städtische Galerie Villingen-Schwenningen, Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe, Sammlung FER Collection, and Alexander Tutsek Stiftung.