



# mutating bodies imploding stars

**A project by OGR Torino**  
**An exhibition with artworks by Alex Baczyński-Jenkins, Eglė Budvytė, Guglielmo Castelli and Raúl de Nieves**  
**Opening with Sound Performance by Ramona Ponzini**

**Curated by Samuele Piazza**

**06 – 17.09.2023 | Binario 2**

Share your experience at the exhibition with the hashtags **#mutatingbodiesimplodingstars #OGRTorino #WeAreOGR**

Mutating bodies, imploding stars: astronomical and biological time collide, weaving together flesh and mineral, human and geological elements, under a title inspired by one of the works on display – *Songs from the compost* by **Eglė Budvytė**. The exhibition embarks on a journey rooted in feminist ecologies and affect theories, crafting a narrative that explores transforming bodies immersed in complex ecologies. It does so by bringing into dialogue works by **Alex Baczyński-Jenkins, Eglė Budvytė, Guglielmo Castelli** and **Raúl de Nieves**, spanning across diverse media from painting to performance to video installation.



Courtesy the Artist and APALAZZOGALLERY

Upon entering, visitors are welcomed by a series of sculptural works by **Raúl de Nieves**: creatures that inhabit the artist’s personal mythology, collecting visual elements inspired by Mexican folklore, Catholic traditions and the world of queer nightlife. Despite being crafted from modest materials, the sculptures radiate preciousness thanks to meticulous and masterly manipulation and care. The artist, who learned the art of sewing from his mother, turns mere scraps into something magical and fabulous, ready to transform anyone who wears these “celebratory skins” with the power to reshape subjectivities, evoking a profound connection to ancestral and personal histories.



Courtesy the Artist

**Guglielmo Castelli’s** paintings are elegant and claustrophobic compositions, in which the depicted bodies negotiate their very presence. Decorative lines clash with vivid colors and looming shadows, which overlap, multiply, and sometimes try to escape the characters, inspired by a dreamlike world teeming with literary allusions. These paintings portray hybrid bodies, their limbs contorted, clustered, and shifting, evoking a dynamic akin to the growth of plants. Guided by harmonious tones formed through sedimentation of layers of color, the brushstrokes flow with coruscating fluidity, at times thickening opaquely, enveloping the figures in an almost amniotic liquid, suspending them as if forming a collective existence within their own environment.



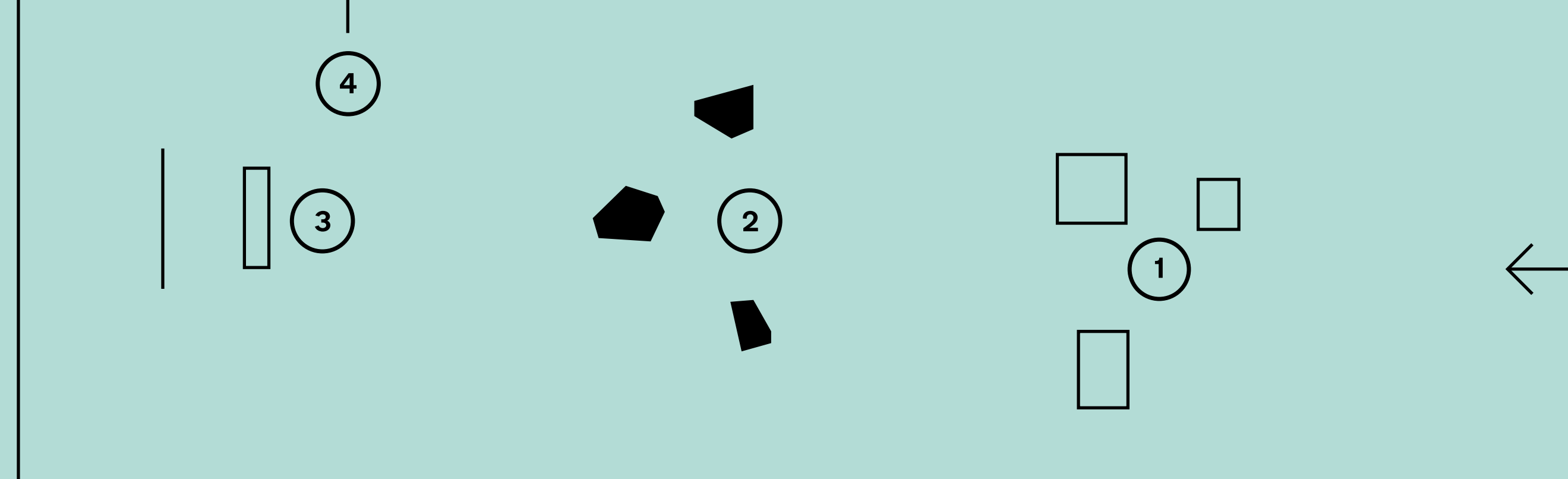
Courtesy the Artist

The video *Songs from the compost: mutating bodies, imploding stars* by **Eglė Budvytė**, in collaboration with Marija Olšauskaitė and Julija Steponaitytė, unfolds amidst the enchanting landscapes of the Curonian Spit in Lithuania, adorned with lush forests and mesmerizing sand dunes. The work captures a group of performers as they traverse this pristine setting, their bodies seamlessly engaged in continuous movement. Straying from the confines of verticality, they crawl, immerse themselves in water, and intertwine with one another. “Hello, I am a cyborg, a symbiosis, a non-binary alien... I’m a borderline between stone and animal intelligence,” recites the song that accompanies their gestures.

Inspired by Octavia E. Butler’s and biologist Lynn Margulis’ writings, the refracted and multiplied narrative voice invites us, in a hypnotic mantra, to surrender to transformation and embrace a radical symbiosis, where interdependence and letting go lead to a disavowal of any presumed anthropocentric superiority: the latter can be replaced, instead, with an awareness of the ecological complexity of our bodies and of the environment that embraces them, of the interrelationships among living beings, and of the symbiotic relationships that characterize coevolution: “I am a host and I am hosted.”

On **15, 16 and 17 September**, Binario 1 will welcome Alex Baczyński-Jenkins’ *Us Swerve* (2014), in which performers on rollerblades orbit one another while reciting, remixing, and reformulating fragments of poetry that meditate on the subject of desire. This polyphonic choreographic “score” is perpetually altered by the performers’ movements, attitudes, and affects. As the performers circulate, they begin to channel a queer archive of verses and inflections, including lines from writers such as Essex Hemphill, Eileen Myles, and Langston Hughes. These articulations of desire and the sensuality of repetition both set the rollerbladers in motion and create a score for them to move through.

- ① **Raúl de Nieves**
- ② **Guglielmo Castelli**
- ③ **Eglė Budvytė**
- ④ **Alex Baczyński-Jenkins**  
from 15 to 17 September | Binario 1



**EXTRA CONTENT**