

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Gregor Taul

PhD student, free-lance art and architecture writer, curator

Born in Tallinn, Estonia 31 October 1986

Married, father of two

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### EDUCATION

- 2016 - ... Catholic University of Portugal, PhD student in Culture Studies
- 2011 St Petersburg Institute of Technology and Design – exchange studies  
Art theory, history of Russian art, Russian language
- 2009 - 2012 Estonian Academy of arts, MA in Art History and Visual Studies  
MA thesis *Monumental Changes at the Liberty Square 2001-2011. Monuments and Sculptures*
- 2005 - 2009 Tartu University, BA in Semiotics and Culture Studies  
Minor field of study – Museum Studies  
BA thesis *Museology from the Point of View of Semiotics of Art*
- 1993 - 2005 Tallinn School No 21

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sculpture, monuments, murals, public art, public sphere, architecture, art and visual culture of late-Soviet societies, Eastern Europe, contemporary art, curating, cultural semiotics.

### BOOKS

- 2017 *Notes on Space. Estonian Monumental Painting 1873–2012*, Tallinn: Lugemik;  
pdf: <https://goo.gl/rv97TN> (co-authored by Paul Kuimet)
- 2016 *Estonian National Museum. Essay on Spatial Culture*, Tartu: Eesti Rahva Muuseum. Published as a separate book in Estonian: Gregor Taul, *Eesti Rahva Muuseum. Essee ruumikultuurist*, Tartu: Eesti Rahva Muuseum;  
pdf: <https://goo.gl/3vdFUt>
- 2016 *Mikoff. Sculptures*, Tartu: Tartu Art Museum, 2016. Bilingual Estonian-

- English catalogue of the retrospective exhibition of Mare Mikoff curated by me at Tartu Art Museum; pdf: <https://goo.gl/vqC6FZ>
- 2013 *Lost in Space. Art Academies' Galleries*, Tallinn: KUNO. Catalogue of the jubilee exhibition of association of Nordic and Baltic Art Academies I curated by me at Konstfack Art College Stockholm; pdf: <https://goo.gl/RYR7pa>
- 2013 *TASE'13. EKA lõputööde näituse kataloog*, Tallinn: Eesti Kunstiakadeemia. Catalogue (in Estonian) of the final degree show of students of Estonian Academy of Arts curated by me; pdf: <https://goo.gl/ZMFPXG>

## ACADEMIC PAPERS

- 2018 “Architecture in the memory field: Estonian National Museum’s case”, *Acta Academiae Artium Vilnensis*. Forthcoming peer-reviewed article first presented as a paper in the international conference (De)Coded History in Architecture to be published in the proceedings of the conference
- 2018 “Eesti kunsti ajalugu. 1940–1991. II osa” (History of Estonian Art. 1940–1991. II part), *Studies on Art and Architecture*. Peer-reviewed review article of the recent publication of History of Estonian Art’s fifth volume
- 2017 “One Percent for Art. Strategies for Contemporary Public Art in Estonia”, *Public Art in the Digital Creativity Era*. Proceedings of the conference Public Art in the Digital Creativity Era, Porto: Catholic University of Portugal, School of Arts.
- 2016 “Monumentaalmaal” (Monumental painting), *Eesti kunsti ajalugu. 1940–1991. II osa* (History of Estonian Art. 1940–1991. II part). Tallinn: Eesti Kunstiakadeemia, pp. 231–239. Article about Estonian mural painting published in the sixth volume of Estonian Art History

## ART AND ARCHITECTURE CRITICISM, WRITINGS ON CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES

Since 2009 I have published more than 150 articles on art, architecture, art education and public space in Estonian and international newspapers, journals and art criticism blogs; all of my writings can be found from my homepage gregortaul.ee. Besides criticism I have written essays for various art and architecture exhibition catalogues. A selection of writings in English:

- 2018 “Free Some Space for Weak Monuments”, *Estonian Art*, 1; <https://goo.gl/EWXLtG>

- 2017 “A Laboratory for Symbols. Reflections on Today’s Europe”, *Estonian Art*, 2; <https://goo.gl/GTvmVo>
- 2017 “Dismantling the Binary Pillars of Knowledge. The Transformation of Interior Architecture Studies by Professor Hannes Praks”, *Estonian Art*, 1; <https://goo.gl/aiup1o>
- 2015 “Art Life Outside the Capital City”, *Estonian Art*, 2; <https://goo.gl/KjnnKg>
- 2014 “Safe periphery”, *Maja*, 2; <https://goo.gl/HtUyrh>
- 2014 “Unprecedented percentage”, *Kunst.ee*, 2; <https://goo.gl/MQ6mD4>
- 2013 “Võru’s Pacifier”, *Urbanists Review*, 14; <https://goo.gl/AZ9GVq>
- 2013 “About Writing to the Air: Tetsuo Kondo Architects”, catalogue text for the public art festival Lift11 publication; <https://goo.gl/wLxWJu>
- 2012 “Some paragraphs on Art Allmägi and young sculpture in Estonia”, *Artshok*, 26.3.2012; <https://goo.gl/Fdj21s>

## ACADEMIC WORK

- 2014 - 2017 Fixed-term lecturer at Estonian Academy of Arts’ Interior Architecture Department  
 - 2017 winter semester BA course Outsider Architecture  
 - 2015 and 2016 winter semester BA course The Horrific Urban  
 - 2015 and 2016 winter semester BA course Diary, Sense, Hand  
 - 2014 and 2015 winter semester MA course Semiotics of Space
- 2015 - 2016 Fixed-term lecturer at Estonian Academy of Arts Design Faculty  
 - 2015 and 2016 winter semester MA course Public Art
- 2014 - 2015 Fixed-term lecturer at Tartu University’s Viljandi Culture Academy  
 - 2-semester long BA course Spatial Relations of the Performative World
- 2014 - 2015 Fixed-term lecturer at Tartu University’s Viljandi Culture Academy  
 - 2-semester long masters course Methodology of Performing Arts
- 2013 Fixed-term lecturer at Konstfack University College of Arts, Craft and Design, Stockholm  
 – One-week workshop Lost in Space
- 2013 Fixed-term lecturer at Estonian Academy of Arts Graphic Design Department  
 – Tutor of mid-summer workshop Isolation

- 2013 Fixed-term lecturer at Estonian Academy of Arts  
- 2-semester long MA course Art History in Estonia and Beyond for foreign students
- 2011 - 2013 Fixed-term lecturer at Estonian Academy of Arts Graphic Design Department  
- 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 2-semester long BA course Visual Semiotics

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 2016 - ... Free-lance tour-guide in Lisbon
- 2014 - 2016 Director and curator of Museum of Outsider Art, Viljandi
- 2014 - 2015 Art history teacher at Viljandi High School
- 2014 - 2016 Art history teacher at Viljandi Hobby School
- 2012 Editor and presenter of Ministry of Art radio show (Estonian Public Broadcasting)
- 2011 - 2013 Gallerist of Estonian Academy of Arts
- 2011 - 2012 Editor of St Petersburg-based architectural journal Project Baltia
- 2008 - 2009 Programme manager of Tartu Art Factory
- 2007 - 2008 Sales assistant in Oxfam Books and Music, Portobello Road, London
- 2003 - ... Free-lance, fully-licensed tour-guide in Tallinn and Northern-Estonia

## CURATORIAL WORK

- 2017 *5/5* (co-curated by students from Lisbon Consortium, Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, 3 March – 18 March 2017)
- 2016 *Mikoff. Sculptures*, Mare Mikoff's retrospective at the Tartu Art Museum, 6 June – 19 September 2016
- 2015 *Burning Borders* (co-curated by Laineli Parrest), International performance art festival in Viljandi, 5 – 7 June 2015
- 2014 - 2016 During the three years as the curator of the Kondas art museum I curated 18 exhibitions
- 2013 *Lost in Space. Art Academies' Galleries*, Vita Havet Gallery of

Konstfack University College of Arts, Craft and Design, Stockholm, 14 – 20 June 2013

2013 *Ekadence*, (co-curated by Marten Esko, Siim-Ghert Preiman) 1st of May Gallery, 13 – 28 April 2014

2013 Augustas Serapinas *GYM*, Raja gallery, 19 – 23 June 2013

#### **CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA (organiser)**

2018 VII Graduate Conference in Culture Studies *Alterity and the Research Imagination*, organised together with Amani Mahoub (25 – 26 January 2018; <https://goo.gl/9vAxx3>)

2017 Annual conference of the Association of Estonian Art Historians and Curators *One Percent for Art: Then, Now and in the Future*, organisation and moderation the conference, 21 December 2017

#### **CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA (presenter)**

2018 “War of Monuments’ in Estonia: Cold, Hot and Monumental Translations”, *Global Translations. VII Lisbon Summer School for the Study of Culture*, 28 June 2017

2017 “Monumental painting in Soviet Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania”, *International Forum for Doctoral Candidates in East European Art History*, Humboldt University, Berlin, 28 April 2017

2017 “One Percent For Art. Strategies For Contemporary Public Art in Estonia”, *Public Art in the Digital Creativity Era*, Catholic University of Portugal, Porto, 27 April 2017

2017 “Art academies' galleries. Examples from the Nordic and Baltic Countries”, *Making space for arts based research: Considering the relationship between artistic projects and universities*, Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon, 7 March 2017

2017 “Twentieth-century mural painting from Socialist and Capitalist Peripheries”, *Art in the Periphery*, Nova University, Lisbon, 6 March 2017

2016 “History in the Making: Estonian National Museum’s case”, *(De)Coded History in Architecture*, Vilnius Academy of Arts, 14 May 2016

2016 “Contemporary artist Johann Köler (1823–1899)”, *International conference*

*dedicated to the 190th anniversary of Johann Köler*, Tartu University Viljandi Culture Academy, 7 March 2016

- 2015 “Sculpture in Public Space”, *Kilometre of Sculpture Public Art Festival*, 5 July 2015
- 2015 “EKA, KAKA, BAKA, RÄKA”, presentation at the conference dedicated to the future of higher art education, Estonian Academy of Arts, 11 June 2015
- 2014 “Public Art Now and Then”, presentation at a conference dedicated to the One Percent Public Art Law, Estonian Ministry of Culture, 23 April 2014
- 2013 “Do we Speak the Same Language?”, presentation at the conference dedicated to the 25th year of Estonian independence movement, Estonian Parliament, 7 September 2013
- 2012 “Artist Critic Talk”, talk with photographer Ats Parve, Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia, 16 October 2012
- 2011 “A Few Remarks on Urban Photography”, presentation at a conference dedicated to the Noorderlicht photography prize, Museum of Estonian Architecture, 9 December 2011
- 2011 “Self-published Biography”, presentation at a symposium dedicated to independent publishing, Asterisk bookstore, 29 July 2011
- 2011 “Art on the Streets of St Petersburg”, presentation at a seminar dedicated to urbanism, Tartu University, 18 May 2011

#### **CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, SUMMER SCHOOLS (participant)**

- 2017 *Socialist Internationalism & the Global Contemporary*, Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa (GWZO), 23 – 25 November 2017
- 2017 Nida Doctoral School *Tweezers & Squeezers: Methodological Approaches and Research Methods in Art, Design and Architecture*, Vilnius Academy of Arts Nida Art Colony, 21 – 26 August 2017
- 2017 VII Lisbon Summer School for the Study of Culture *Global Translations*, Catholic University of Portugal, 26 June – 1 July 2017
- 2016 Association of Art Historians Annual Conference, Edinburgh, 7 – 9 April 2016
- 2016 *Genius Loci: Places and Meanings*, The Department of Heritage Science and Techniques at the Faculty of Arts, University of Porto, 20 – 22 April

2016

2015 *Object Lessons: Sculpture and the Production of Knowledge*, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, 3 October 2015

## COMMITTEES

2016 Jury member of the art commission for Hiiumaa High School

2014 - 2016 Member of the Board of Governors of the Viljandi Hobby School

2014 Jury member of Estonian young artist prize

2013 Jury member of Estonian young sculpture prize

2012 - 2013 Jury member of Estonian Ministry of Culture's committee of non-profit art galleries

2015 Jury member of the art commission for Ministry of Agriculture Office

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Art in the Periphery, from 2017

Centro de Estudos de Comunicação e Cultura, Catholic University of Portugal, from 2017

The Estonian Society of Art Historians and Curators, from 2014

Tallinn Tour Guide Association, from 2004

## ACADEMIC SUPERVISING

2018 Anu Soojärv, *Commissioning monumental-decorative art in late Soviet Estonia*, Estonian Academy of Arts, Department of Cultural Heritage and Conservation, MA thesis

2017 Elina Kask, *Memory and Form: Memorial Sites Impact on Contemporary Space. The Past, Present and Future of the Maarjamäe War Memorial in Tallinn*, Estonian Academy of Arts, Department of Urban Studies, MA thesis

2017 Karolin Tamm, *Alasti valgus* (Naked Light), Tartu University's Viljandi Culture Academy, Department of Performing Arts, seminar paper

- 2016 Laura Pormeister, *Public Art in Industrial Space*, Tartu University of Applied Sciences, Department of Restauration and Conservation, BA thesis
- 2014 Kadri Noormets, *Space for Organized Concentration*, Estonian Academy of Arts, Department of Performance Art, MA thesis
- 2011 Jaanika Kolk, *Skulptuurilaev* (Sculpture-Ship), Tartu University of Applied Sciences, Department of Sculpture, BA thesis

## ACADEMIC REVIEWS

- 2017 Member of the Estonian Research Council's jury for the Estonian National Contest for University Students (reviewing BA and MA theses)
- 2016 Martha Stewart, *Keraamiline linnuskulptuur Kõue mõisa* (Ceramic bird sculpture for Kõue manor), Estonian Academy of Arts, Department of Ceramics, MA thesis
- 2016 Liisa Liksor, *Theatre Technical Arts' Exhibition (R)EVOLUTION from the idea to the realization*, Tartu University's Viljandi Culture Academy, Department of Performing Arts, BA thesis
- 2015 Age Linkmann, *Skulpturaalsus tantsus* (The Sculptural in Dance), Tartu University's Viljandi Culture Academy, Department of Performing Arts, seminar paper
- 2014 Kaie Küünal, *Tantsukriitika tendentsid Eestis oktoobrist 2012 kuni oktoobrini 2013* (Tendencies of Dance Criticism in Estonia from October 2012 to October 2013), Tartu University's Viljandi Culture Academy, Department of Performing Arts, seminar paper

## AWARDS and GRANTS

- 2018 Estonian Ministry of Culture's State Culture Award for PhD studies
- 2017 EDP Foundation International Grant for the Lisbon Consortium aimed at funding research conducted by an international PhD student in the Culture Studies program
- 2017 Visual and Applied Art Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, one year study grant
- 2017 Architecture Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, one year study grant



- 2017 The Estonian Society of Art Historians and Curators, research stipend
- 2017 Estonian Ministry of Culture's State Culture Award for PhD studies
- 2016 Visual and Applied Art Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, one year study grant
- 2016 Architecture Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, one year study grant
- 2016 Architecture Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, annual architecture criticism stipend
- 2016 Estonian Ministry of Culture's State Culture Award for PhD studies
- 2015 The Estonian Society of Art Historians and Curators, research stipend
- 2014 Visual and Applied Art Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, one-year creative grant
- 2011 Visual and Applied Art Endowment of The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, one year study grant
- 2010 Tallinn City Government's one-year study grant

## **ARTISTIC PROJECTS**

- 2015 Performance with Evi Pärn at the Estonian Opinion Festival, 11 August 2015
- 2013 Participation as an artist in the exhibition *Ekadents* in the 1st of May gallery, 12 – 28 April 2013
- 2014 Participation as an artist in the exhibition *Lima* in Y gallery, 7 – 18 April 2009

## **LANGUAGES**

Estonian – mother tongue

English – excellent in speech and writing

Finnish – good in speech, basic in writing

Russian – good in speech, basic in writing

German – satisfactory in speech / read with the help of dictionary

Portuguese – beginner in speech / read with the help of dictionary

## **HOBBIES and INTERESTS**

Besides reading and writing – my first novel is to be published later this year – I love co-operating with other people and working for the community. In my homeland I have a bit of a reputation for initiating whole-city flea-markets to the places I have moved (Tallinn, Tartu, Viljandi). I believe that such Sundays when the whole city becomes a flea-market is an ideal way for bringing people together and building trust within neighborhoods. Before forming a family I used to organise concerts and was regularly performing as a DJ in Estonia. From an early age I have been drawn to collecting stuff, I possess an unusual collection of classical and contemporary artworks, rare books, records and manuscripts (an idea, which I lent from Stefan Zweig).