



Posthumous monument to a living being



Foto: Agnė Semberaitė

After party at the "LAB": Not just the participants and the kiln room of the laboratory, but also the sky appears "all fire and flame", lit by the events of the past fortnights



The sober reality of war is not documented by medals, shiny military equipment or postcards from the front, which are presented to visitors to the fortress at several locations - nor is it present in the list of heroic victories on display boards. The effects of war mean broken, ruined and traumatized lives, which are not mentioned in the panoptics provided for tourists.

It does not make much sense to repeat artificially all the war-associated suffering and grief in order to design memorials for a change of mind. It is all the more touching to be able to track down two artistic designs that reflect the peculiarities of the fortress or the reason for its existence and seek to bring the aspect of healing to the effects of war:

* War horses were critical to the military infrastructure. One of these horses was sculpturally wrapped in bandages as a symbol of all life and dubbed the (good) "spirit of the fortress".

* The above illustration shows inserts in existing display cases by Romanian ceramicist Ana Maria Asan: delicate, pure-white porcelain reminds us that a hand is guiding a saber or that the sounds of war produce deafening noise.

Glory In the final photo, a pine tree is now hiding the entrance into the officers' mess and the first three Cyrillic letters in the Russian word for "Glory". Who this exuberant praise is addressed to can be seen in the further abbreviation that stands for "The Communist Party of the Soviet Union". The building is on the verge of decay and nature is gradually reclaiming its terrain - the party and the state structure have dissolved. So much for the stability of glorifications and martial consciousness.



This photographic monument warns us to concentrate on the "now" and to show "glory" with joy, love and mindfulness towards nature, creature and things ■