



Sára MÄRC

About the artist

Sára Märc (they/them) is an art researcher and curator based in Prague, Czech Republic. They studied (alternative and puppet) acting at the Theatre Academy of Performing Arts, DAMU. Sára works at the intersection of curatorial care, research, and multidisciplinary art practice. They combine text, (moving) images, and performative moments. Focusing on more-than-human perspectives, their subjects dwell between speculative storytelling, alternative histories and presence exploration. Sára has been involved in several collaborative art projects. For example, they were part of the collective preparing the Polish pavilion for the Prague Quadrennial 2023 and worked as a personal assistant to artist Eva Kořátková and curator Hana Janečková for their exhibition for the Venice Biennale Arte 2024, Italy. Sára works as a curator and manager in etc. gallery, Prague. Currently, they are rehearsing a new theatre production for Studio Hrdinů (directed by Apolena Vanišová). They are also preparing a new work focusing on the history of animal trials and animal rights and protection for an exhibition at the National Gallery in Prague.

About the research

More-than-Carbon Imaginaries is an artistic research focusing on non-human perspectives on coal mining history. By “non-humans”, they mean animals, plants and entities beyond human experience, such as minerals or ecosystems. Sára Märc believes that attention and sensitivity towards other than human actors can help us navigate ourselves through ongoing ecological crises. Especially since coal is a vital material for the Industrial Revolution and, subsequently, the planet’s warming, it is essential to recognise it as an active figure. As mentioned above, this is a rather broad, complex and multi-layered topic, the project required establishing several research strategies: Sára Märc walked through former mines and the restored landscape, collected materials and stories from local communities and materials themselves, explored museums and archives, guided speculative workshops, and studied the history and concepts of posthumanist and new materialist philosophical approaches. In the process, the artist set up six specific figures – characters, each representing a particular more-than-human story and perspective. In their research, Canaries, Energy, Emissions, Fossils, Ghost Acres and Pit ponies are representative agents of non-human participation in the history and present of coal mining and the industry built around it.

About the presentation

For the Future Laboratory Final Event, Sára Märc prepared a multi-format work-in-progress installation called *The Future Coal Archive*. The processuality of the installation goes hand in hand with the unfinished process of *More-than-Carbon Imaginaries* research which started by the end of 2022. The installation works as a spatial mind map network. It connects a variety of findings from their two-year research of non-human perspectives on the coal mining industry. The public is invited to walk freely through the exhibition and find stories and connections according to their positions and perspectives. Archives usually embody political power and sustain social and cultural hegemony. *The Future Coal Archive* focuses on the historical and speculative non-human figures that have significantly impacted human society and the planet’s ecology. Canaries, Energy, Emissions, Fossils, Ghost Acres and Pit ponies are all part of the records that have been overlooked or forgotten. Besides the artistic process itself, the installation documents each one of the non-human figures in video, text and image formats.



- Nowy Teatr: 19th – 30th June 2023
- Queen’s Theatre Hornchurch: 9th – 20th October 2023
- Comédie, CDN de Reims: 27th May – 7th June 2024