



EMORY

MICHAEL C.  
CARLOS  
MUSEUM

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Contact: **Emily Knight**

Office: 404-727-6117

Emily.Knight@emory.edu

**Eglė Budvytė's video installation  
*Songs from the Compost: Mutating Bodies, Imploding Stars*  
opens at the Michael C. Carlos Museum**



Eglė Budvytė in collaboration with Marija Olšauskaitė and Julija Lukas Steponaitytė, *Songs from the Compost: Mutating Bodies, Imploding Stars* (still), 2020. 4K video, 28 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

[Atlanta, Georgia, January 3, 2023]— Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum proudly presents *Songs from the Compost: Mutating Bodies, Imploding Stars* opens, a captivating video installation by Lithuanian artist Eglė Budvytė, from February 3 through May 19, 2024.

Shot in the pine forests and sand dunes of the Curonian Spit, Lithuanian artist Eglė Budvytė's film *Songs from the Compost* is a hypnotic exploration of nonhuman forms of consciousness and different dimensions of symbiotic life: interdependence, surrender, death, and decay. The images gradually layer, alongside intimate lyrics of a song that channels the desires of an entity shapeshifting across different genders, voices, and beyond-human embodiments. Featuring a cast comprised of local youth and performer and choreographer Mami Kang, the film unfolds through a specially conceived song, choreography, and costumes.

Horizontality in the choreography undoes the usual verticality of the human figure, unfurling her into the landscape. The performers' bodies are sites of activity, though they are often horizontal, pulled toward the earth and one another, moving through the forest, along the sand dunes and water.

The song lyrics draw on the work and words of biologist Lynn Margulis, celebrating the role of bacteria in making life and the collaboration between the single-cell organisms possible, as well as concepts by the science-fiction author Octavia Butler, who employed tropes of symbiosis, mutation, and hybridity to challenge hierarchies and categorization.

Artist Eglė Budvytė will participate in a teaching artist residency at the Carlos Museum from February 19 – 23, where she will work with students and faculty throughout the week from a variety of departments and disciplines including writing, ethics, movement and dance, and music. During her residency, Budvytė will give an [artist talk](#) that is free and open to the public on February 22, at 7:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

This exhibition has been made possible in part by the generous financial support of the Charles S. Ackerman Fund and the Emory University Office of Sustainability Initiatives.

Public programming presented in conjunction with this exhibition have been organized in partnership with [Emory CompFest 2024: Ecologies of Sound](#).

Each year, Emory CompFest brings innovative national and international musicians to Emory, where they work with students and faculty and present their music in concert to the greater-Atlanta community. CompFest 2024: Ecologies of Sound presents a series of performances and other events that examine our sonic relationships to the more-than-human world and our planet's dramatically shifting soundscape.

This year's program is a special collaboration organized jointly with Georgia Tech's School of Music. Guest artists include composer and sound artist Annea Lockwood and NYC-based piano and percussion quartet Yarn/Wire, and the programming includes world premieres by Emory faculty composer Katherine Young and GA Tech graduate composer Lauren McCall.

### **About the Artist**

Based in Vilnius and Amsterdam, Eglė Budvytė (b.1981) works at the intersection between visual and performing arts. She approaches movement and gesture as technologies for a possible subversion of normativity, gender and social roles, and the dominant narratives governing public spaces. Spanning song, poetry, video, and performance, her practice explores the persuasive power of collectivity, vulnerability, and the permeable relationships between bodies, audiences, and environments. Her work has been shown at Whitechapel Gallery, London (2022); Venice Biennale (2022); Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Latvia (2020); Renaissance Society, Chicago (2018); South London Gallery (2018); and 19th Biennale of Sydney (2014); among others.

### **About the Michael C. Carlos Museum**

Set in the heart of Emory's Atlanta campus, the Michael C. Carlos Museum is a dynamic, interdisciplinary center for study of art and culture, with collections from Africa; ancient Egypt;

Nubia, and the Near East; ancient Greece and Rome; the Indigenous Americas; and South Asia; as well as American and European Works on Paper. Through our permanent collection galleries, engaging special exhibitions, and innovative programs for audiences of all ages, the Carlos Museum connects the past with the present and the campus with the community.

Curators and faculty develop original exhibitions, engage in interdisciplinary research and teaching, and host touring exhibitions that complement our collections and support the teaching mission of the university. The museum's conservators collaborate with staff, faculty, and students to conduct research and manage preventive care on the museum's varied collections. Museum educators reach across the museum, campus, and city to develop opportunities to engage the intellect and the imagination of university students and faculty, preK-12 students and teachers, and the larger Atlanta community.

The Michael C. Carlos Museum is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [carlos.emory.edu/visit](https://carlos.emory.edu/visit), call 404.727.4282, or follow @CarlosMuseum on social media.

carlos.emory.edu

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