

# KLOSTĖS

FOLDS

A film directed by  
**Aideen Barry** & created by  
the citizens of Kaunas



Kaunas 2022  
European Capital of Culture

Behind the walls a story unfolds

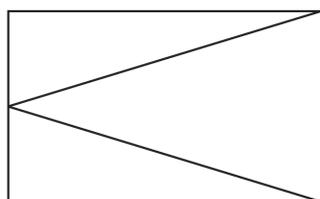
KAUNAS 2022

# KLOSTĖS FOLDS/PLEATS

Film by Aideen Barry and the people of Kaunas

A novel series film inspired by Kaunas Architectural Modernism and the hidden histories associated with a magical city.

Experimental stop motion art film, Lithuania/Ireland, 2021  
Length: up to 45 min (in production)



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# SYNOPSIS

Klostes – a Black & White non verbal stop motion film is a fantasy novel series about city in a modernism epoch – Kaunas. Everything folds here like a fabric: time and era, visions, sounds and unique historical interwar architecture of the city. Folding stories within stories, buildings within buildings like a cleverly constructed origami or pop up book. Stop motion technique creates the optical illusion which constructs unseen image of the city and takes a viewer a new experience.

The whole creative process of the film, including the creation of screenplays for short stories, is based on the involvement of the community and artists from various fields: under the direction of Irish artist Aideen Barry, hundreds of Kaunas residents created scenery, motion performances and audiovisual works.



# DIRECTOR

Aideen Barry is a professional visual artist based in Ireland. She explores and interprets local community, historical and cultural contexts in different ways in her projects, engages a different age and interest groups in the creative process and organizes it as playful experience-learning. Aideen Barry also is a lecturer in fine arts at the Limerick School of Art & Design, Limerick Institute of Technology.

Aideen has shown projects in museums and galleries and has received numerous awards. In 2010 she was shortlisted for the prestigious AIB Prize. In 2019 her film "6SKIN" was nominated at the Aesthetica Short Film Festival. In 2021 she was awarded with a Golden Fleece Award – the largest art prize open to artists and makers in Ireland.

## INTERESTING FACTS:

Kaunasians involved: 500+  
Pictures taken: 32,400+  
Buildings featured: 20+  
Modernist cakes baked: 6  
Shot: during COVID-19 pandemic



"It's like coming across a rare diamond. Truly, it's amazing you have kept this secret from the world for so long. There are some exceptionally beautiful buildings and the little details really get to you, like motifs, balconies that seem to turn buildings into ships or the unique doorways and doors. It's very special."

- Aideen Barry



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

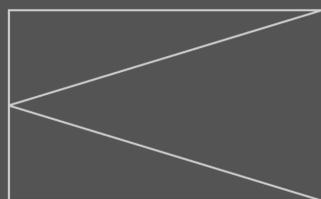
Aideen Barry

When I first time visited Lithuania few years ago I discovered amber, beautiful gem stone that sometimes has evidence of life encased inside. This idea fascinated me: time was an object, which together with a physical gem held things frozen in suspended animation, kind of like a photograph does. The city of Kaunas to me is also a kind of gem, a beautiful intoxicating marvel of architecture and hidden worlds. The amber in this case is remarkable interwar modernism and it holds such incredible secrets and life within its facades, it sometimes feels it too has been frozen or held in time. What I saw here is an amazing example of how a city not only saw it as a style but imbued modernity as a philosophy, an ambition, a lived experience encased in its walls, parquet floors and embossed wall papers. There are stories within these folds, hidden stories. So I took this challenge to tell them in this artistic novel series. Now it is my job as an artist and as a film director to unfold these narratives and to re-activate them. With the camera lens I go to reanimate this living being, bringing this body to life through stop-frame animation. My films are visual fictions constructed out of complex choreographed moments captured photography by photograph to build up a zoetrope of moving image illusions.

The title of the film *Klostės*, was a deliberate choice. It references the way the film is constructed out of thousand upon thousands of photos layered upon each other to create a moving image tapestry. It also refers to this experimental film's composition of stories within stories that leads the viewer on a journey into and beyond surfaces, cracks in the walls, down plugholes and into the bowels of the city. *Klostės* also references some of the complicated and physically challenging movements of our protagonists, our actors and dancers who "fold" their bodies to behave at times quite unnaturally and magically, almost like popup book figurines. Our composers and sound artists who have created the complex score and foley also work with this direction of flooding and layering to create an aural tapestry and architectural cinematic experience for the viewer. *Klostės* also refers to repeated architectural patterns and design embellishment you find in this gorgeous city. It is a city that was frozen in time under extraordinary circumstances of war, invasion, colonisation and in a way has started to retrieve its own identity and save it from amnesia. Of course all of this is only possible if the authors of the film are this city's citizens, so this is what makes our film so unique. It has been created through a massive collaboration with artists, architects, writers, composers and sound artists, poets, philosophers, film makers, crafts people historians, young and old of this city who wrote, scored and performed within this majestic woven project. It is an incredibly ambitious film made up of multiple short stories encased in each other. There are looping repeating vignettes or motifs that pleat in and out of the feature. It is a massive moving picture constructed by over a thousand individuals who have volunteered their time to make this moving cloth come to life.

"I think it is really important to personalise the project a bit more to people. I think that will happen. I think if you know your son or daughter, your neighbour or friend wrote a short story about a modernist building, if they felt connected to it by being a part of the new stories: musical, dance, visual art stories that we are making with this project then yes I think it will humanise these unique and beautiful gems and get people thinking about them and emotionally stitched to them in some way."

- Aideen Barry



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# COMMUNITY

Klostès is a socially engaged film project created in collaboration with artists, composers, performers, actors, musicians and volunteers made up of the citizens of the city of Kaunas.

The engagement of over five hundred children and young people in workshops in Short story writing, film directing, optical illusion workshops, Stop-motion Animation workshops, introductions into Green Screen Technology & Prop Creation has also been intentional. This project set about fostering enthusiasm for this architectural and visual cultural heritage of this city. These groups of future artists have directed and made their own animated shorts adding further elements to the film project and an army of volunteers are currently engaged in large aspects of its production from workshop supervision, extra roles, artistic production, makeup and special effects.

The majority of Cast, Crew and Production of this film is made of people who live in this City. It is a deliberate intervention on behalf of Kaunas 2022 and the Artist & Director Aideen Barry to empower the creatives of this Contemporary Kaunas in the authorship of the film. The film features actors and dancers from the acclaimed International Dance Troupe AURA and NUEPIKO as well as independent performers as protagonists in the Roles of forgotten "Others" of Kaunas.

# CREDITS

Director: Aideen Barry

Director of Photography: Mikas Zabulionis

Cast: Natsuho Matsumoto, Julija Mintautė, Eglė Valadkevičiūtė, Clara Giambino, Justinas Stonkus, Marius Pinigis, Arūnas Mozūraitis, Adrian Carlo Bibiano, Mindaugas Šatkus, Rūta Krasnickaitė, Matas Toliušis, Deividas Breivė, Edgaras Žemaitis, Solveiga Vasiliauskaitė, Ema Senkuvienė, Tomas Alenčikas, TBA

Editor: Aleksandra Rydzkowska

Production: Kaunas 2022 / Modernism for the Future

Line producer: Ugnė Marija Andrijauskaitė

Set design: Paulina Ružauskaitė

Costumes: Solveiga Vasiliauskaitė, Emilė Kertinianskaitė

Make-up: Emilė Kertinianskaitė

Sound design: Dominyka Adomaitytė, Titas Petrikis, TBA

Composers: Arūnas Periokas, Patris Židelevičius

Colorist: Aleksandra Rydzkowska

Domestic Release (Lithuania): December 10 2021

International Premiere: TBA

# STILLS

