

From the exhibit catalogue: THE FORM OF MY LIFE
Art Exhibit: June 16 through July 23, 1995
Contemporary Art Center of Vilnius
Vilnius, Lithuania

**THE
FORM
OF
MY
LIFE**

**PLIOPLYS
STRASEVICIUS**

**MANO
GYVENIMO
FORMA**

**1985
BIRŽELIO 16 -
LIEPOS 23**



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VILNIAUS ŠIUOLAIKINIO MENO CENTRAS, VOKIEČIŲ 2, VILNIUS

Audrius Plioplys was born in 1951 in Toronto, Canada. He attended the University of Chicago earning an M.D. degree in 1975.

As a neuroscientist and neurologist Plioplys investigates how the brain is formed and how it functions. His daily work concerns trying to find the causes and cures for cognitive disorders: from autism in children to Alzheimer's disease in the elderly.

These same themes also interest him as an artist. Installations and mixed-media sculptures dominated his earlier works. His later works began to "directly" reflect the thought process, for instance, recording his own electroencephalograms while thinking about various topics. His most recent work develops visual and verbal metaphors of the thought process, which take the form of words, thoughts and memories applied to photographs. Along with his other work, the artist presents, as art objects, the framed pages of his research papers.

In 1994 the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture participated in the Chicago Artists International competition to arrange an international exchange of art specialists and exhibits. The Museum invited the Contemporary Art Center of Vilnius (CACV) in Lithuania to collaborate in this effort and the proposal was awarded funding. As a result, the CACV exhibit "Recent Documents: New Tendencies in Lithuanian Art" took place in April, 1995, in Chicago and met with great success and now, the reciprocating visit to Vilnius is the exhibit "The Form of My Life."

Two Chicago artists are participating in the exhibit: Audrius Plioplys and Mary Strasevicius. Both are second generation American Lithuanians, both are active in America's artistic life and both have "idees fixes" about the true form of the world. Perhaps most important is that both of the artists believe and live their respective forms of life.

The object of Audrius Plioplys's artistic innovations is thought and the thought process. The artist develops this theme in a complex fashion with the constancy of a scientist. Plioplys's thoughts about thought are often expressed utilizing the methods of conceptual art and acquire various forms: installations, performance pieces, drawings, paintings, photographs, electroencephalograms or texts. Some of these forms can be seen at the CACV exhibit. (...)

I hope that the exhibit "The Form of My Life" will furnish the Vilnius audience with new aesthetic impressions.



AUDRIUS PLIOPLYS

Gimė 1951 m. Toronto mieste, Kanadoje.
1975 m. baigė Čikagos universitetą, įgydamas
medicinos daktaro laipsnį.

Kaip gydytojas neuropatologas Plioplys tiria
smegenų struktūrą ir funkcijas. Jo kasdieninis
darbas yra pažinimo funkcijos sutrikimų gydymas -
nuo vaikų autizmo iki pagyvenusių žmonių
Alzheimer'io ligos.

Tos pačios temos domina autorių ir kaip
menininką. Ankstyvojoje Plioplio kūryboje vyravo
instaliacijos, mišrios technikos skulptūros. Vėlesni
kūriniai ėmė "tiesiogiai" vaizduoti galvojimo procesą,
pavyzdžiui paties autoriaus encifalogramomis,
įrašytomis galvojant apie skirtingus dalykus.
Naujausi darbai vysto vizualias ir žodines galvojimo
proceso metaforas, kurios įgauna fotografijų ir su
jomis susijusių žodžių, minčių ar prisiminimų formą.
Šalia kitų paveikslų autorius kaip dailės objektus
pateikia įrėmintus mokslinių straipsnių titulinis
puslapius.

An exhibition "The Form of My Life" featuring Chicago artists Audrius Pliopllys and Mary Strasevicius is the second part of the art exchange project between Chicago and Vilnius, Lithuania. The project was initiated by the Chicago Artists International Program (Pat Johnson, Director) and implemented by the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture and the Contemporary Art Center of Vilnius.

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago (Stanley Balzekas, Jr., President) collects and presents to the public artifacts of Lithuanian history, culture and art since 1966.

The Contemporary Art Center of Vilnius (Kęstutis Kuizinas, Director) was established in 1990 and is one of the major art exhibiting institutions of Central Europe. It presents approximately 20 international and local contemporary art exhibits a year.

1994 m. Balzeko lietuvių kultūros muziejus Čikagoje dalyvavo Chicago Artists International fondo paskelbtame konkurse surengti tarptautinį apsieitimą meno srities specialistais ir parodomis. Muziejus pakvietė bendradarbiauti Vilniaus šiuolaikinio meno centrą ir šių dviejų organizacijų projektas laimėjo. Taip 1995 m. balandžio mėnesį Čikagoje su dideliu pasisekimu įvyko ŠMC paroda "Dabarties dokumentai: naujos tendencijos Lietuvos mene", o dabar - atsakomasis vizitas Vilniuje, paroda "Mano gyvenimo forma".

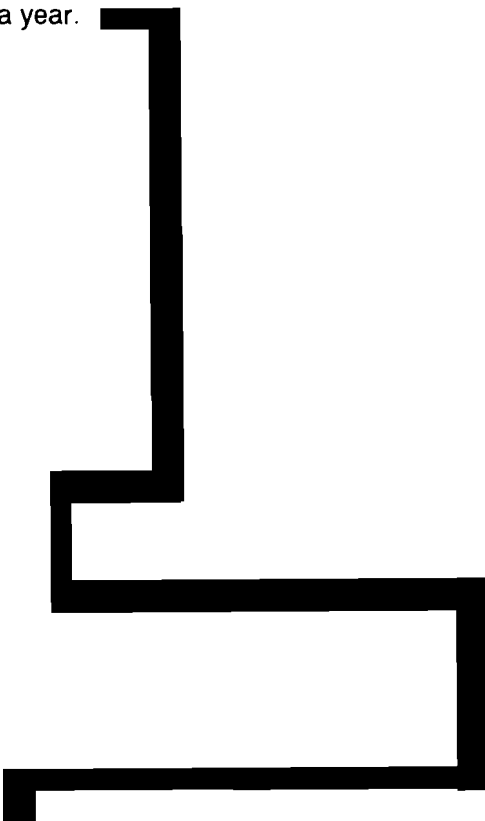
Parodoje dalyvauja du Čikagos menininkai - Audrius Pliopllys ir Mary Strasevicius. Abu yra antrosios kartos Amerikos lietuviai, abu aktyvūs parodiniame gyvenime ir abu turi "fix idėjas" apie tikrąją pasaulio formą. Galbūt svarbiausia, kad abu tiki ir gyvena šia forma.

Audriaus Pliopllo meninių variacijų objektas yra mintis, galvojimo procesas. Šią temą dailininkas vysto kompleksiskai, su mokslininko nuoseklumu. Pliopllo mintys apie mintis dažnai reiškiasi konceptualiojo meno priemonėmis, įgydamos įvairias formas: instaliacijos, akcijos, piešinio, tapybos, fotografijos, encifalogramos ar teksto. Dalį šių formų matome ŠMC.

Mary Strasevicius neatsiejama nuo 20 a. modernistų. Jos didelio formato akrilinės tapybos darbai bei piešiniai spalvotais pieštukais semia įkvėpimą iš šeštojo dešimtmečio Amerikos abstrakčiojo ekspresionizmo. Dailininkės paveikslai jungia meditatyvines potėpio ar štricho savybes su spontaniška energija, apskaičiuotą kompoziciją su vaiko psichologijos inspiruotais formos žaidimais bei ryškia autoironija.

Tikiuosi, kad paroda "Mano gyvenimo forma" suteiks naujų estetinių įspūdžių Vilniaus žiūrovams.

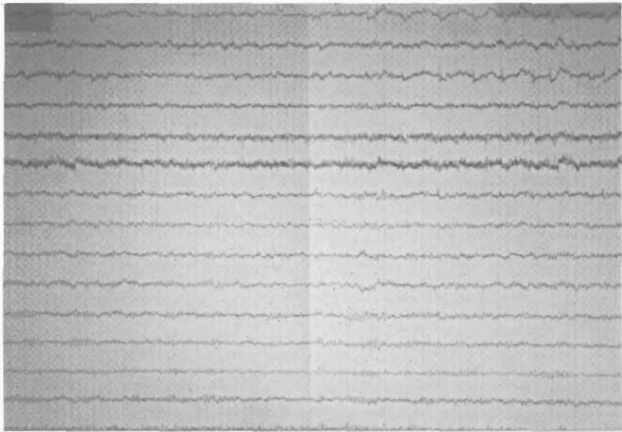
Danas Lapkus
Kuratorius



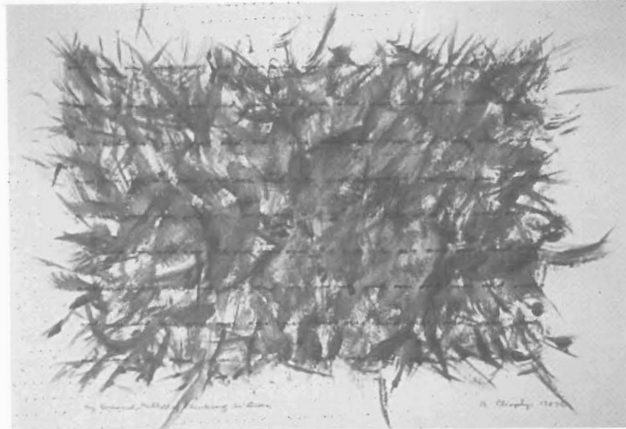
This project is partially supported by a grant from the Chicago Artists International Program of the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Illinois Arts Council, United States Information Service, Paul and Gabriella Rosenbaum Foundation, United Airlines and Lufthansa German Airlines, the official carriers of CAIP, and by Chicago Sister Cities International Program and Dr. Loreta Višomirskytė, Chairperson, International Cultural Committee of Chicago-Vilnius Friendship Cities Committee.



Pro-Con Theory of Thinking - Pro-Con galvojimo būdas. Akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.



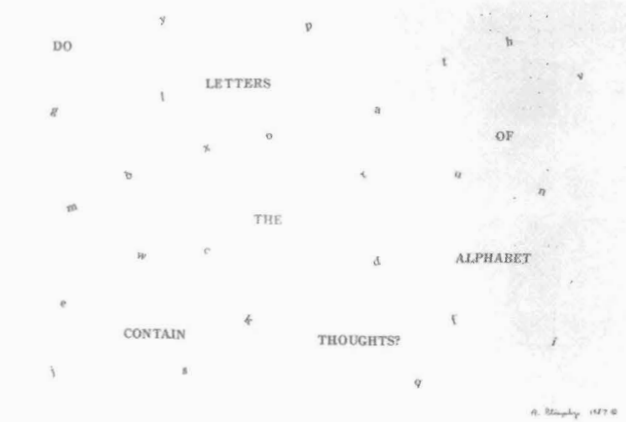
Thinking of Robert Morris's Mirrors - Galvojimas apie Robert Morris'o veidrodžius. Elektroencefalograma, tušas ant popieriaus, 45x63 cm, 1980.



My Personal Method of Thinking in Green - Mano galvojimo būdas žaliai. Tušas ir akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.



Thoughts of Shelter - Mintys apie prieglobstį. Pastatyta ir nufotografuota 1980 m. Cornwallis saloje. Spalvota fotografija, 28x45 cm, 1995.



Do Letters of the Alphabet Contain Thoughts? - Ar abėcėlės raidės neša mintis? Letracetinės raidės ant popieriaus, 45x58 cm, 1987.

L-Carnitine as a Treatment for Rett Syndrome

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ABSTRACT: A 10-year-old girl with Rett syndrome, who was taking no other medications, was treated with L-carnitine (70 mg/kg/day). Within 2 months of initiation of treatment, she became much more active, developed good eye contact, started speaking and began to draw. She was able to walk and to play with her toys. Her weight gain was documented and stable. While she layed into her pre-treatment condition rapidly, her speaking, fine motor skills, and attention, her sleep, her skin became better than they had been while taking no medication. Her speech, attention, fine motor skills, and social skills were better than they had been while taking L-carnitine. Her attention was within normal limits prior to starting L-carnitine. L-carnitine appears to be an effective treatment in the girl with advanced Rett syndrome.

KEY WORDS: Rett syndrome, L-carnitine, attention, eye contact, speech, fine motor skills, social skills, and social interaction.

INTRODUCTION: Rett syndrome is a progressive neurologic disorder in girls first described by Rett in 1984. There is no known effective treatment of this condition. Mitochondrial abnormalities have been described in Rett syndrome, including pyruvate and lactate dehydrogenase deficiencies in muscle biopsies and pyruvate and lactate dehydrogenase deficiencies in urine biopsies.^{1,2} and large, complex mitochondrial nuclei has been reported in some biopsies.³ Carnitine has been proposed as a treatment for long-chain fatty acids into the mitochondrion and to help regulate the intramitochondrial levels of acetyl-coenzyme A (CoA) in free CoA.⁴ Mitochondrial carnitine deficiency impairs energy metabolism by preventing mitochondrial beta-oxidation of long-chain fatty acids and by preventing build up of acyl-CoA within the mitochondrion resulting in dysfunction of these chains more dependent on mitochondrial energy metabolism. Carnitine has been associated with mitochondrial structural abnormalities that may indicate functional mitochondrial abnormalities and because L-carnitine is an effective treatment for selected cases of mitochondrial carnitine deficiency, we treated our Rett syndrome patient with L-carnitine.

CASE REPORT: A 10-year-old girl with Rett syndrome, who was taking no other medications, was treated with L-carnitine (70 mg/kg/day). Within 2 months of initiation of treatment, she became much more active, developed good eye contact, started speaking and began to draw. She was able to walk and to play with her toys. Her weight gain was documented and stable. While she layed into her pre-treatment condition rapidly, her speaking, fine motor skills, and attention, her sleep, her skin became better than they had been while taking no medication. Her speech, attention, fine motor skills, and social skills were better than they had been while taking L-carnitine. Her attention was within normal limits prior to starting L-carnitine. L-carnitine appears to be an effective treatment in the girl with advanced Rett syndrome.

DISCUSSION: The girl with advanced Rett syndrome, who was taking no other medications, was treated with L-carnitine (70 mg/kg/day). Within 2 months of initiation of treatment, she became much more active, developed good eye contact, started speaking and began to draw. She was able to walk and to play with her toys. Her weight gain was documented and stable. While she layed into her pre-treatment condition rapidly, her speaking, fine motor skills, and attention, her sleep, her skin became better than they had been while taking no medication. Her speech, attention, fine motor skills, and social skills were better than they had been while taking L-carnitine. Her attention was within normal limits prior to starting L-carnitine. L-carnitine appears to be an effective treatment in the girl with advanced Rett syndrome.

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Thoughts About Curing Rett Syndrome - Mintys apie Rett sindromo gydymą. Pasirašytas ofseto atspaudas, 20x30 cm, 1994.

1. Thoughts of shelter. Built and photographed in 1980. Cornwallis Island, Northwest Territories, Canada. Transfer lettering on color photograph. 11" X 14". 1995.
 2. Thoughts of a frozen death: Franklin's expedition. Photographed in 1980. Beechy Island, Northwest Territories, Canada. Transfer lettering on Ilfochrome print. 11" X 14". 1995.
 3. Thoughts of barricades in paradise. Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Transfer lettering on color photograph. 11" X 14". 1995.
 4. Thoughts of a mass execution: 50 hanged. Photographed in 1980. Rural Minnesota. Transfer lettering on black and white photograph. 11" X 14". 1995.
 5. Thoughts of stone displacements: Ellesmere Island to Lake Ontario. Executed and photographed in 1987. Transfer lettering on color photograph. 11" X 14". 1995.
 6. My personal method of thinking in red. Ink and acrylic paint on paper. 12" X 15.5". 1987.
 7. My personal method of thinking in greed. Ink and acrylic paint on paper. 12" X 15.5". 1987.
 8. Green thought. Ink and acrylic paint on paper. 12" X 15.5". 1987.
 9. Blue thought. Ink and acrylic paint on paper. 12" X 15.5". 1987.
 10. PRO-CON theory of thought development. Acrylic paint on paper. 12" X 15.5". 1987.
 11. Thinking of the meaning of art. Electroencephalogram. Ink on paper. 14" X 24". 1980.
 12. Thinking of Vermeer. Electroencephalogram. Ink on paper. 14" X 24". 1980.
 13. Thinking of Robert Morris's mirrors. Electroencephalogram. Ink on paper. 14" X 24". 1980.
 14. Do letters of the alphabet contain thoughts? Transfer lettering on paper. 11" X 17". 1987.
 15. Is memory really important? Transfer lettering on paper. 11" X 17". 1987.
 16. Do you have a cognitive disorder? Transfer lettering on paper. 11" X 17". 1987.
 17. Thoughts about curing Rett Syndrome. Limited edition of 50 signed offset prints. 11" X 8". 1994.
 18. Thoughts about a lymphocytic cause of autism. Limited edition of 50 signed offset prints. 11" X 8". 1994.
 19. Thoughts about a neurochemical cause of autism. Limited edition of 50 signed offset prints. 11" X 8". 1994.
 20. Thoughts about the development of the brain. Limited edition of 7 signed offset prints. 11" X 8.5". 1994.
1. **Mintys apie prieglobstį.** Pastatyta ir nufotografuota 1980 m. Cornwallis sala, Kanados šiaurės vakarų teritorija. Spalvota fotografija, 28x45 cm, 1995.
 2. **Mintys apie užšaldytą mirtį: Franklin'o ekspedicija.** Fotografuota 1980 m. Beechy sala, Kanados šiaurės vakarų teritorija. Spalvota fotografija, 28x45 cm, 1995.
 3. **Mintys apie barikadas rojuje.** Ocho Rios, Jamaika. Spalvota fotografija, 28x45 cm, 1995.
 4. **Mintys apie masines žudynes: 50 pakartų.** Fotografuota 1980 m. Minnesotos valstija. Juodai balta fotografija, 28x45 cm, 1995.
 5. **Mintys apie akmens perkėlimą: iš Ellesmere salos į Ontario ežerą.** Įvykdyta ir nufotografuota 1987 m. Spalvota fotografija, 28x45 cm, 1995.
 6. **Mano galvojimo metodas raudonai.** Tušas ir akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.
 7. **Mano galvojimo metodas žaliai.** Tušas ir akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.
 8. **Žalia mintis.** Akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.
 9. **Mėlyna mintis.** Akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.
 10. **Pro-Con minties vystymosi teorija.** Akrilis ant popieriaus, 43x30 cm, 1987.
 11. **Galvojimas apie meno prasmę.** Elektroencifalograma, tušas ant popieriaus, 45x63 cm, 1980.
 12. **Galvojimas apie Vermeer'į.** Elektroencifalograma, tušas ant popieriaus, 45x63 cm, 1980.
 13. **Galvojimas apie Robert Morris'o veidrodžius.** Elektroencifalograma, tušas ant popieriaus, 45x63 cm, 1980.
 14. **Ar abėcėlės raidės neša mintis?** Letracetinės raidės ant popieriaus, 45x58 cm, 1987.
 15. **Ar atmintis tikrai svarbu?** Letracetinės raidės ant popieriaus, 30x43 cm, 1987.
 16. **Protas?** Letracetinės raidės ant popieriaus, 30x43 cm, 1987.
 17. **Mintys apie Rett sindromo gydymą.** Pasirašytas ofseto atspaudas, 20x30 cm, 1994.
 18. **Mintys apie limfocitinę autizmo priežastį.** Pasirašytas ofseto atspaudas, 20x30 cm, 1994.
 19. **Mintys apie neurocheminę autizmo priežastį.** Pasirašytas ofseto atspaudas, 20x30cm, 1994.
 20. **Mintys apie smegenų vystymąsi.** Pasirašytas ofseto atspaudas, 21x30 cm, 1994.