

Kris Lemsalu Malone and Kyp Malone Lemsalu

Kai Art Center Peetri 12, Noblessner July
18–September 6, 2020

The centerpiece of “Love Song Sing Along (Once Again With Feeling!)” is a large, swan-shaped paddleboat occupied by life-size ceramic sculptures of a bipedal jaguar and rabbit. The creatures—which sit wide-eyed, tongues hanging—represent the married artists, Kris Lemsalu Malone and Kyp Malone Lemsalu. The diorama shares the main room of the Kai Art Center with Malone Lemsalu’s “Love Song Sing-Along series,” 2019–20, featuring fourteen gouache and watercolor prints depicting Kris and Kyp’s animal avatars enacting an archetypal creation myth. Kyp describes the series as “a non-story of a story” that portrays the jaguar as day and the rabbit as night as they interact with a tree that symbolizes their relationship. Accompanied by a soundtrack that is in parts funky, parts meditative, the work sends viewers on a quest to reconcile two halves of an estranged whole—that is, the aforementioned jaguar and rabbit.

Dangling from the ceiling near the entrance, two ceramic legs and arms protrude from a fur garment as part of Lemsalu Malone’s *I forgot, come back*, 2018. Wedged

between two warped bicycle wheels, the blob appears to be reading the short story book *Mõned kurvad päevad* (A Few Sad Days) by Soviet-era dissident Vasily Grossman. More ceramics and paintings complete the show, along with a music video performed and edited by Kyp, *Some Song Sung Deeply in Love*, 2020. The five-minute piece, shot and edited on the artist's phone, is a haunting dedication to his partner, with laid-back slacker guitar and heavily glitched visuals. Like so many works here, it evokes a beautiful calamity. Somewhere in the mess we live in, Kris and Kyp's feel-good chaos suggests, things may turn out OK. As a viewer, I am compelled to believe them.

— [Mike Watson](#)