

limbo, 2022

You recognize the outlines of people, but you do not distinguish spots. The spots move chaotically and anxiously like atoms. Fragments of words in a measured tone travel through the dimension, mixing two polarities. The waiting state does not have any particular position in space. It has a length. Because of this, it is not possible to accurately determine its coordinate and momentum.



Ksenia Ilyina is a contemporary artist from St. Petersburg who works with video, photography, graphics and objects. In her art practice, it has always been important to her to question space, to unpuzzle their hints, to spy on reality, to catch a fragile moment.

In the limbo project, Ksenia Ilyina tries to catch the momentary process of waiting and stretch it to infinity, thereby expanding the amplitude of the feeling of being lost, "hovering in the air".

To describe the process of creating a limbo project, you need to imagine how you are sitting in line at the hospital, stuck in a traffic jam in a taxi, or waiting for your stop on the train. It was in these waiting situations that field recordings and recordings of people's conversations were made for the project.

Tracking a state from a side and added to this audiovisual journey are five portraits of drivers behind the wheel, stuck in hours of traffic jams.

'limbo' is defined as a state in which you are uncertain about something important. Indefinite waiting period for a decision; intermediate state or condition.

It is associated with a sense of aimlessness and meaninglessness, a general stagnation that hinders movement.

'limbo' is a temporary state, no movement forward or backward in life.

It is an awkward place between where you are now and where you will be 'soon'.



The project 'limbo' was first shown in Moscow on February 24, 2022, the day of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As if having created a prediction - from that moment on, the life of the artist, like the lives of many other people, was stuck in a state of limbo.

