LATVIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

Contemporary Latvian Art at EBRD 2026

RIGA2026

A spatial dialogue between gaze, landscape, nature and materiality

Indriķis Ģelzis · Andris Eglītis

Selected works displayed in the main exhibition hall during the Plenary Session of the EBRD Board of Governors

European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

CURATORIAL FRAME

Two artists, one field of encounter

Both artists are deeply rooted in Latvian culture while maintaining a strong presence on the global contemporary art stage

Shared attention to environment, nature and relationships

Narrative is approached conceptually rather than illustratively

The pairing creates tension between constructed form and painterly matter



Indriķis Ģelzis · Andris Eglītis

Their selected works do not simply “decorate” the space - they turn the room into an active visual conversation.

Gaze · Landscape · Materiality

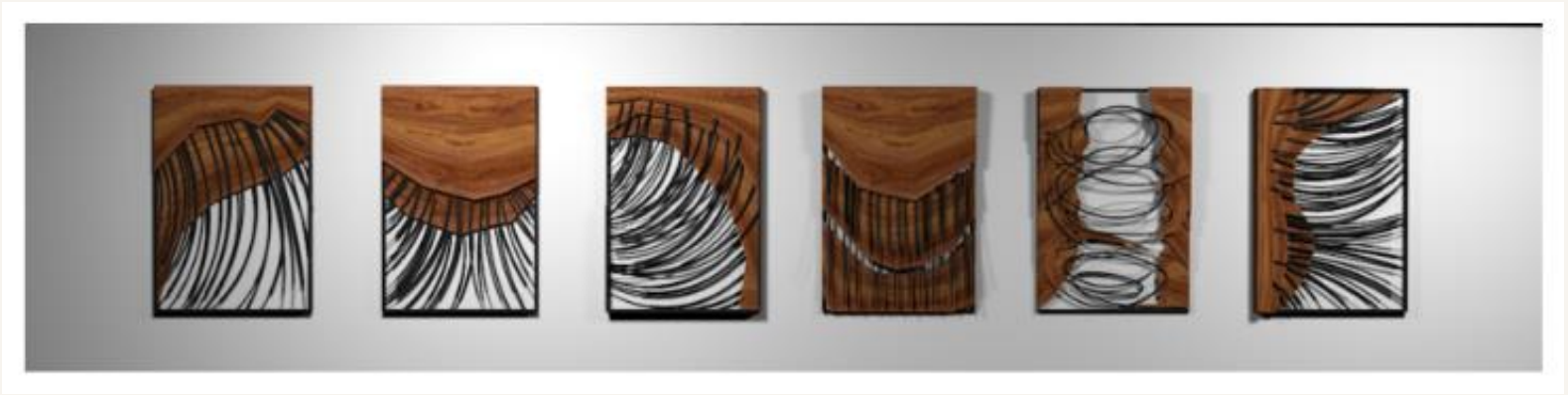
ARTIST I

Indriķis Ģelzis

“Soft Barricade” - eyelash movement transformed into autonomous formal structures.



indrikisgelzis.com



Soft Barricade

2026 · 190 × 12000 cm

Metal, wood and fabric function as independent objects: surfaces, lines and spatiality articulate experience beyond direct narrative readability.

The eyelash as architecture

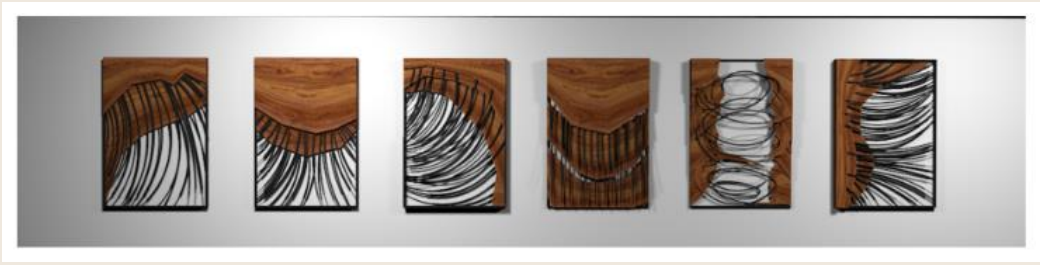
A motif normally associated with fragility becomes a barrier, ornament and autonomous system.

A tension field between the organic and the constructed.

Materials are not symbols only - they carry their own physical presence.

The works sit between sensual fragility and protective form.

Materiality becomes both aesthetic surface and ontological structure.



“Soft” does not mean weak. Here it means charged, perceptive and structurally alive.

ARTIST II

Andris Eglītis

“Some Instances of Encounters between Imagination and Matter” - painting as observation, earth and process.







An ongoing series rooted in intense observation of nature and an existential approach to painting.

aeglitis.lv



IMAGINATION AND MATTER

Painting before it becomes painting

The works are made literally with nature - covered with mud and earth, often carrying traces of being buried or left to the elements.

Their broad strokes, earthly tonality and abstract presence suggest that painting can still be reinvented as a way to understand liminal states of being.

SELECTED WORKS

A composed dialogue inside the exhibition hall

“Soft Barricade” by Indriķis Ģelzis and “Some Instances of Encounters between Imagination and Matter” by Andris Eglītis create a dynamic interplay between painterly representations of nature and a three-dimensional, macro-level perspective.

The constructed “eyes” of Ģelzis appear to gaze beyond, extending over Eglītis’s large-scale landscapes. The room becomes visually enveloped rather than simply decorated.

Gaze

A directed presence across the hall.

Landscape

Nature observed, transformed and materially reimagined.

Materiality

Wood, metal, fabric, mud and earth as active carriers of meaning.

SYNTHESIS

Why this pairing works for EBRD 2026

The hall becomes more than a meeting venue: it becomes a composed cultural statement.
Ģelzis’s constructed “eyes” gaze across the hall, extending over Eglītis’s large-scale landscapes.

Latvian culture is presented through contemporary, internationally relevant artistic language.

The works connect natural forces, human perception and constructed systems.

The room is visually held together by gaze, landscape and the wave-like EBRD 2026 motif.

The result is calm, intelligent and spatially memorable.

Artist references

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