



Before my arrival to Estonia, one of my childhood friends made a funny comment that Tartu sounds like a name of some planet in intergalactic space. At that time I laughed, yet this month, I have felt for real a bit lost, as if I was in some different world (heck, even in police registration forms I was referred to as an alien). Everything new once exciting suddenly became tiring or frightening.

We were warned on the On-arrival training that bad periods will occur, but I was confidently shaking head in disbelief of having such experience, since I truly loved everything and I was aware of my luck to be here. Alas, brain is a tricky thing. Do you know that quote from Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis "Once I saw bee drown in honey, and I understood"? I was simply overwhelmed – new things are stressors, and I am still trying to learn how to cope with stress in a healthy manner.

Fortunately, I am working with such caring and patient people, who really showed utmost understanding and compassion for the troublesome parts of my sensitive nature. I managed to overcome bad period with their great help and in spite of my internal struggles, I was fairly productive this month.

I did a media coverage of the seminar "From production to waste: How to make consumption fair" organized by Viktoria Rudenko from NGO





Mondo and supported by Tartu Environmental Educational Center – Loodusmaja. During panel discussion pressing climate change problems were tackled and expert guests were intrigued to debate them. Whole audience was interested and attentive in the discussion, as well as in the later workshops. Seminar was held in Tallinn Botanic Garden, which was lovely occurrence for me.

Next important event was Christmas fair in Loodusmaja. The House was bustling with activity and I was helping wherever possible. It was a fun experience and we collected a decent amount of money that will be used for animal's room. Personally, involvement with such traditional events is highly enjoyable.

In a similar manner I was working in big Christmas Market held in Estonian National Museum on TYPÄ's market stall. Now that was crowded and vivid. Estonian National Museum is itself quite unique. I had a chance to get an amazing tour thanks to International House Culture Crash course. This highly modern museum is treasury of Estonian heritage.



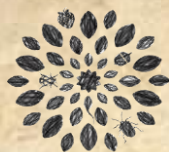
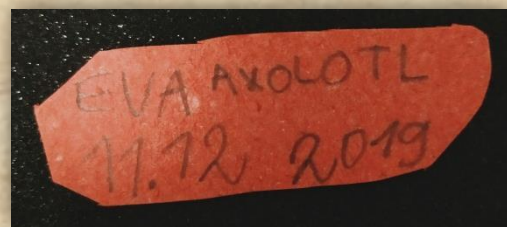


Additionally, I started to give tours in TYPA museum, and in spare time while waiting for the visitors, I make linocuts. It is really relaxing, yet amusing to create them. When I get enough practice, I hope one of my artworks will be used as cliché for everyday visitors in the printing area.



I have met a new volunteer from this project, who will be working in Art school. Her name is Ania Kanatova, she is from Russia and she has an excellent idea on how to get us all involved around certain goal. More of the details are yet to come.

However, the most precious moment of this month will be small class I had with children. I held a lecture about Axolotl, interesting creature we have in Loodusmaja as pet. Children's interest and their clever questions amazed me. That is something I love to see – that thirst for knowledge, those sparkling eyes full of curiosity that see life as something fascinating, something we adults often forget.





This experience elevated my spirit. I got big hugs afterwards and a sparkly magic star tattoo. Haha, I loved it.

In the end days of December, while wrapping up the presents for my new friends I was wrapping up the 2019. I have been through a lot and this time New Year is not such a big deal. My life turning point happened in October, with my arrival here. I am already working steady on my growth and on fulfilling certain resolutions and goals.

Every single day is an opportunity to learn something new. Every single day comes with 86 400 seconds. Tick-tock! I must catch my train to Tallinn.

