



**Welcome to the Club of Opportunities:  
a temporary new world in the middle of your brain.**

**Club of Opportunities, 2017 – ongoing,  
a series of exhibitions (six episodes)  
with the umbrella title Club of Opportunities,  
gradually uncover the anatomy of mythology and storytelling.  
Through mixed genres - from drama to absurd comedy  
- the club thematise nowadays social topics,  
posing questions of authority and hierarchical relationships.  
Low forms elevate in status into high ones and vice versa.  
Somewhere during that transformation,  
new opportunities are being created.**

**Club rules**

All individual parts have been created with respect for ethical cooperation and the impact on the environment. All participating performers and collaborators were paid. All participants are given credits. The club often processes the used material and then offers it for further use.

**Club participants**

Camera: Kryštof Melka, Kryštof Hlůže, Sound Design: Eva01, Sound Recording: Petr Kolev, Performers: Viola Tůmová, Jan Kostíha, Soňa Beaumont, Patrik Petr, 3d: Josef Mrva, Sound Recording: Anna Žihlová, Styling: Karolína Juříková, Graphic Design: Martin Groch, Jan Horčík, Photos: Tomáš Souček, Jakub Jansa, Anna-Marie Bergrová, Kryštof Hlůže

Each exhibition creates a situations which hover between reality and fiction, where the narrative is gradually revealed through video, various objects, and ongoing live action.



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 1: Bowling Bar



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 2: April showers  
bring May flowers



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 3: My name  
is Red Herring



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 4: Britannica  
Bootcamp

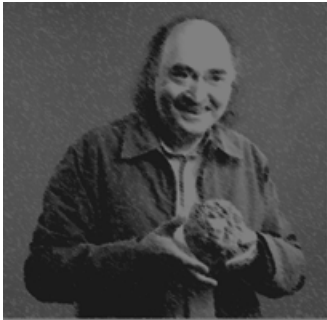


CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 5: Keeping in Line



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 6: Ten Years Night

# Each episode of The Club (i.e. exhibition) introduces new characters and plot twists.



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 1: Bowling Bar

Philosopher Kamil Nábělek undertook the underestimated vegetable. His lecture about the ontology of the celery root brought this vegetables to the center of a new narrative.



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 2: April showers bring May flowers

The character of SEER (Oracle), who has no vision of the future anymore and feels anxious. She is trying to realize her own ambitions and desires for hope. We witness the SEER touching every individual celery root and getting them tattoo with positive functions.



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 3: My name is Red Herring

The character of Red Herring, a hybrid creature between a human and a celery, is introduced. He is revolting against the Seer. He discovers that this mythology is simply a storytelling. He is individualizing himself and becoming dark-side influencer.



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 4: Britannica Bootcamp

Other celerists are shocked by Red Herring's acting, but they don't know how to react. That's why they are looking for help. They are based in the department called Britannica Bootcamp, reminding us of a hybrid of training camp and library. Soo, on which page to start, hm?



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 5: Keeping in Line

We see Red Herring, a hybrid creature between a human and a celery, working on the Avocado Bar. He wants to become a part of higher veggiesity. During that he must undergo an insulting duel with his inner self. He is self-doubtful and experiences identity crises. In the context of vegetable hierarchy celery finds itself on very low position. In the supermarkets we can find celery roots situated on the bottom shelves, avocados are always highlighted in the center.



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES  
Episode 6: Ten Years Night

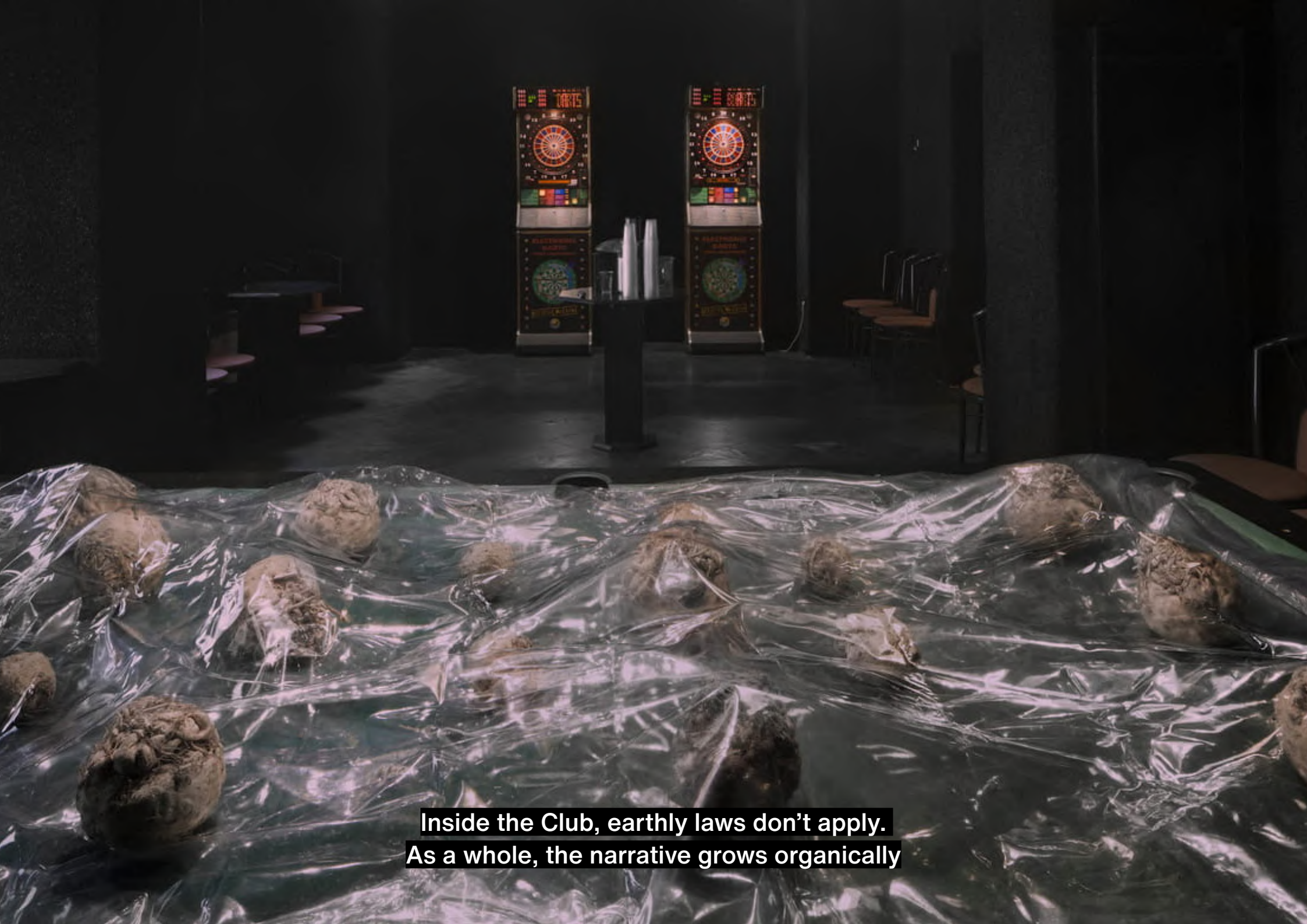
The character of philosopher Kamil Nábělek walks through the screens and gives a permanent guided tour of the exhibition. He reveals key moments in the current story. The sixth episode is based in Mihelic's Gas Station, reminding us of celeriac.



**No two Clubs are ever the same.  
The Club appears and disappears without warning.**



The main hero is the overlooked vegetable - Celeriac. Which transforms into a rebellious hybrid creature between a human and a celeriac...



**Inside the Club, earthly laws don't apply.  
As a whole, the narrative grows organically**



The main storyteller is Kamil Nábělek, a fairly eccentric philosopher who makes live appearances at The Club's openings...





The main problem was that character of SEER (Oracle), had no vision of the future anymore and felt anxious.

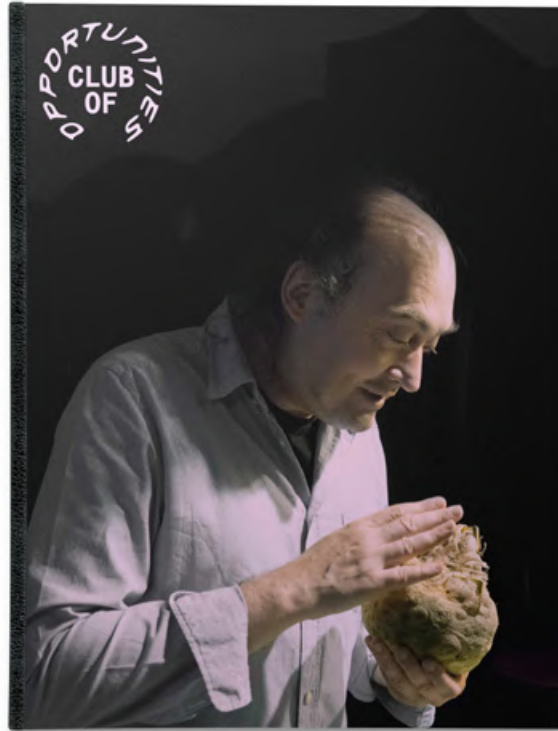


But the real main problem was  
that in the context of vegeciety celery finds itself on very low position.  
And avocados are always highlighted in the center.



**So welcome in The Club, this unfamiliar space,  
one step outside your comfort zone.**

# Club of Opportunities, Episode 1: Bowling Bar



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES Ep.1:  
"Bowling Bar"

artist: Jansa Jakub  
curator: Jan Vitek  
text: Christina Gigliotti  
venue: Bowling Bar Žižkov,  
organised by Hunt Kastner Gallery, Prague  
July 29th, 2017

Welcome to the Club of Opportunities:  
a temporary new world in the middle  
of your brain.

The Club offers various scenarios to interact  
with. In the first room, philosopher Kamil  
Nábělek lectures on the Ontology of celery  
and its impact on the theories of games.  
During the lecture, Kamil removes the individual  
celery pieces from the root, and prepares fresh  
celery juice, which he serves to the visitors.  
In the second room, the voice of an ani-  
mated chipmunk transforms visitors into performers  
while encouraging them to imagine new  
opportunities for themselves. At the bar, Michal  
Šupák's live piano rendition of Rihanna's We  
Found Love in a Hopeless Place can be heard.

STRIKE X!

The Club appears and disappears without  
warning. Inside the Club, earthly laws don't  
apply. No two Clubs are ever the same. This time  
warp is just a blip on the map in an unfamiliar  
space, one step outside your comfort zone.

Row, row, row, your boat Gently down the  
stream Celery, celery, celery,  
celery Life is but a dream

STRIKE XX!

The gateway to the Club opens up inside  
a bowling alley in Prague's Žižkov neighborhood.  
Try your luck, and navigate through the cloud  
of cigarette smoke that's settled into every  
crevice of this neon-lit wormhole.

Row, row, row, your boat Gently down the  
stream Celery, celery, celery,  
celery Life is but a dream

STRIKE XXX!

Are you winning or losing?

text by Christina Gigliotti

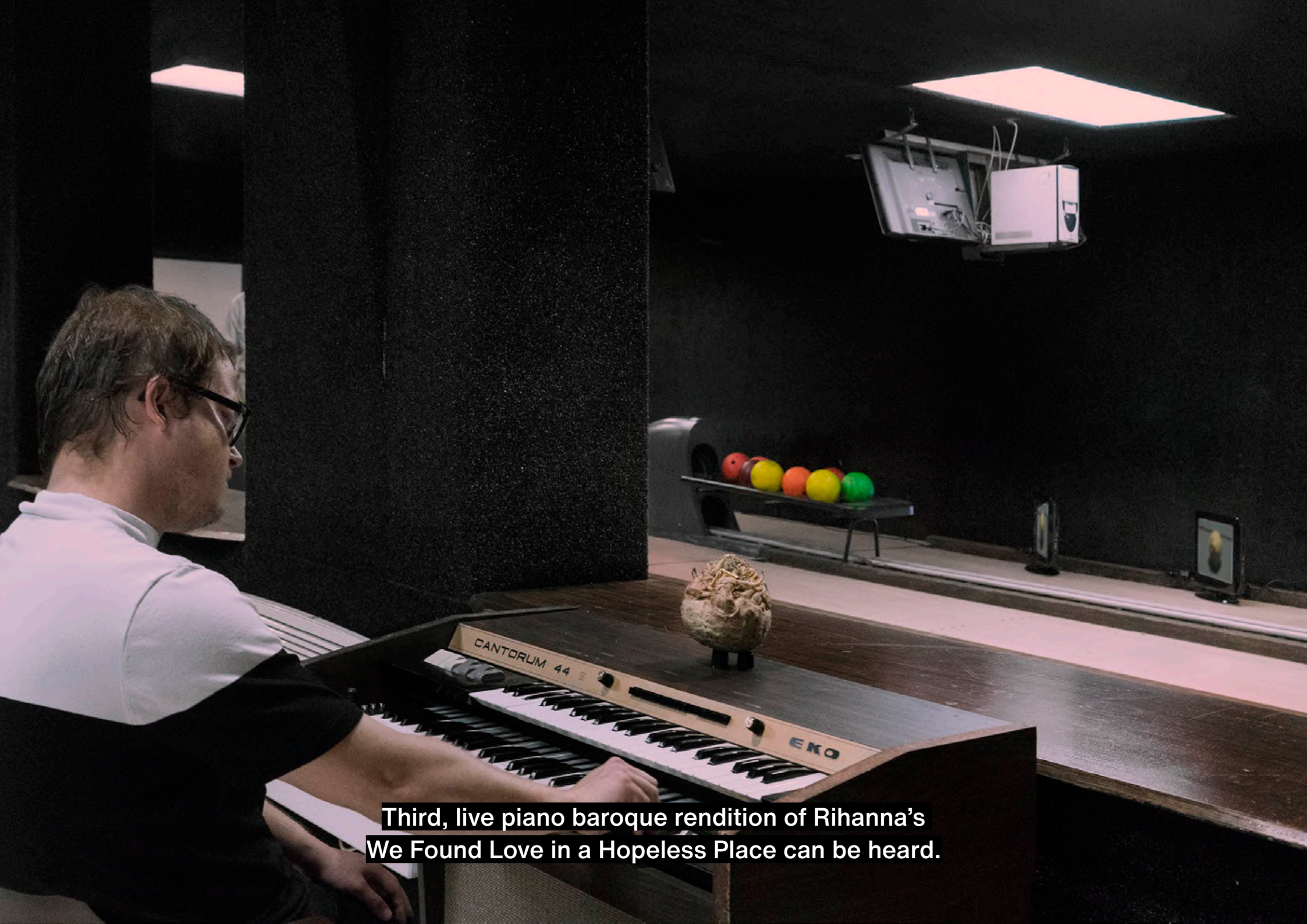




**First, philosopher Kamil Nábělek undertook the underestimated vegetable. His lecture about the ontology of the celery root brought this vegetables to the center of a new narrative.**



**Second, the voice of an animated chipmunk transforms visitors into performers while encouraging them to imagine new opportunities for themselves.**



**Third, live piano baroque rendition of Rihanna's We Found Love in a Hopeless Place can be heard.**



# Club of Opportunities, Episode 2: April showers bring May flowers



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES Ep.2:  
"April Showers Bring May Flowers"

artists: Jansa Jakub, Karolina Jurikova  
curated by: Lumír Nykl  
venue: Gallery AMU, Prague  
date: 14. 3. – 6. 4. 2018

Venue: Pioneer Works, New York  
Curator: PAF & Alexander Campaz  
Date: November 20th, 2018

Venue: CCA Tel Aviv  
Curator: Chen Tamir  
Date: July 13 – September 7, 2019

The collaborative exhibition of Jakub Jansa and Karolína Juříková is the second part of a series whose pilot version originated as an invitation to Jansa's own Club of Opportunities. The bowling bar became the setting for a seminar devoted to the ontology of celery for all the senses.

In this new, narrative episode featuring Karolína Juříková, our intrepid heroes relocate beneath the arched ceilings of GAMU for an initiatory séance of young stalks, their hag watching from backstage, where bodies flagrantly transform with the promise of a new beginning. An old sage rambles from her ritually refurbished throne, her avuncular visage showing signs of new hope. Through the rejuvenated language of folk verbiage, we call for a new spring of shared imagination.

The bleak emptiness of dark background and personal eradication alternates with the promise of collective initiation to the new storyline. Thick tattoo needle and ink blotted in cruciferous texture suggest that ubiquitous anxiety can be smoothed down and moulded to a custom-tailored role. From freshly-made shape marked with new mission cones an effort to get better prospects for the near future. The Bookkeeper or the Florist take their part in a shared narrative with same natural responsibility as too-real story about a class president who has pulled his classmates out of the school simply from being faithful to his function. The feeling of leakage of meaning and separation from a rapid sequence of micro-affairs weighs and pushes us. But in a proper collective tune, it can materialize in a well-fitting uniform. Ready-to-wear jersey

in a game of commonality.  
The hybrid war of avatars of meaning suddenly changes into a fairy tale of hope in which new forms of shared attention economy based on mutual unselfish care are being invented.

All of a sudden it's another smile,  
it's another heartbeat,  
it's another style of thinking  
New hope couture  
Folk body modification  
Peep-to-Peep networking

text by Lumir Nykl

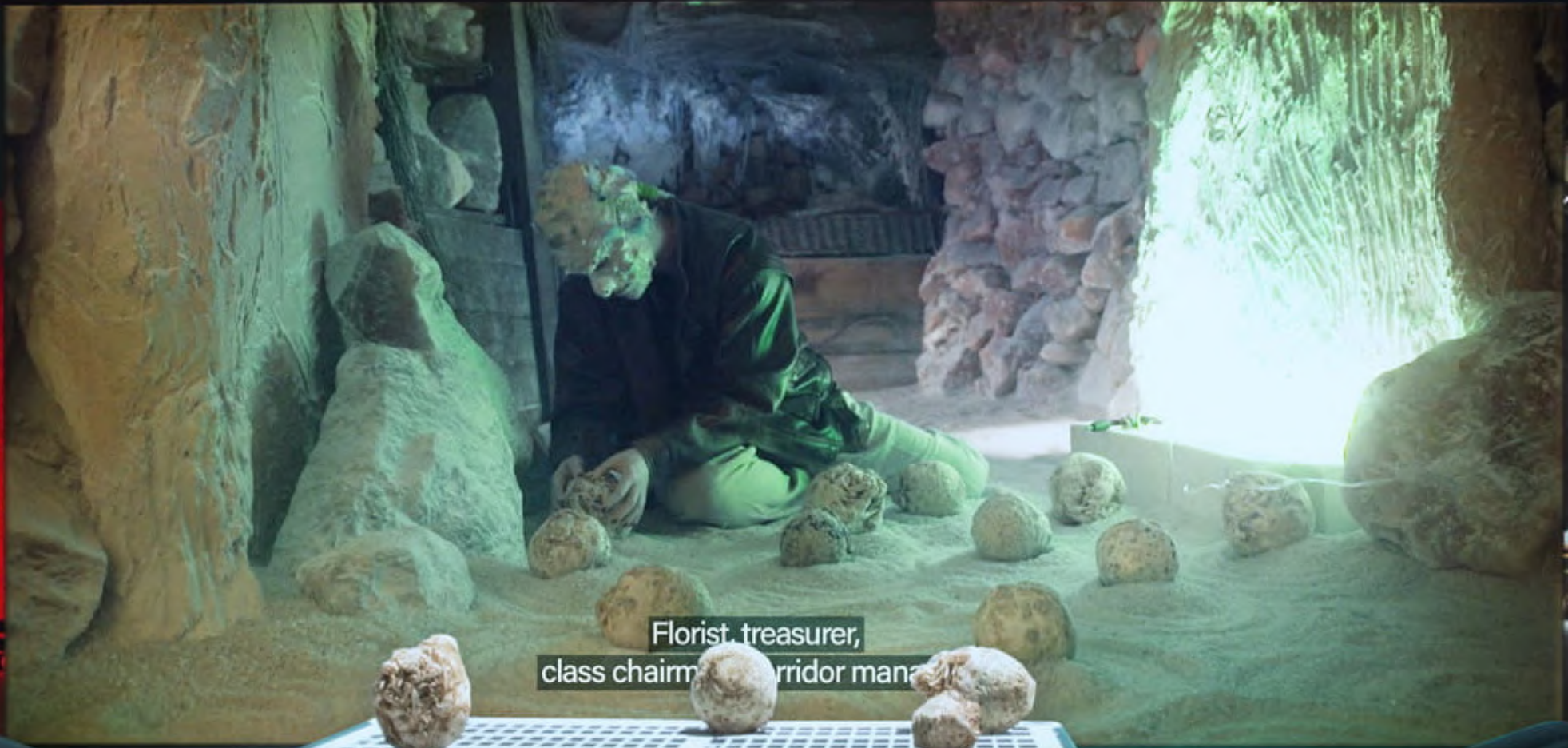


When I'm frustrated, it helps me to talk about it.





The character of SEER (Oracle), who has no vision of the future anymore and feels anxious.



Florist, treasurer,  
class chair, corridor man

**She looks for a way to be more active in forming the surrounding world and herself. She is trying to realize her own ambitions and desires for hope.**

Pioneer Works

We witness the SEER touching every individual celery root and getting them tattoo with positive functions.



Book-keeper

# Club of Opportunities, Episode 3: My name is Red Herring



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES Ep.3:  
"My name is Red Herring"

artists: Jansa Jakub  
curated by: Jiří Ptáček  
venue: Fotograf Galery, Prague  
date: March 20 – April 14, 2018

The raw-series, Club of Opportunities, has entered its schizophrenic phase. While hope springs in thin, wind-blown layers of sand in a parallel episode "April Showers Bring May Flowers" shown at Prague's GAMU (The Gallery of the Academy of Performing Arts), at "My Name is Red Herring" root vegetables withdraw themselves deep down into the native underground, so that a vision of political goals and tactics can sprout from the gooey, blind darkness. Glimmers of hope therein are substituted with a promise of power; however, the condition for its fulfilment is of course acceptance of unscrupulous argumentative methods.

By taking on the attribute of series story-telling, Jansa sets a trap (for himself?) in the form of unexpected continuity and internal consistency. Similar to this, there's the emphasis on a (neo- or quasi-) mythological aspect of the written characters and their storylines. His allusion to the temple narthex with minimalist furniture that reminds one of store shelves, but which also breathes a rhythm of colored lights, intensifies an atmosphere that approximates a business- spiritual transaction, in which devilish demand accommodates a supply of skills that allow us to live through at least a small portion of life without a feeling of humiliation. But what if this is all just a clown-show. The series is a series only thanks

to the transplanting of plants which, of course, have the gift of being able to take root in any conditions. Myth is an optional game whose rules can be changed as the moment requires. Skills are just crutches for all the legless and armless who cannot submit an alternative to force-based solutions to "social issues." Movement in ambivalent escapism and untrustworthiness is, however, grounds for asking who exactly is Red Herring?

text by Jiří Páček







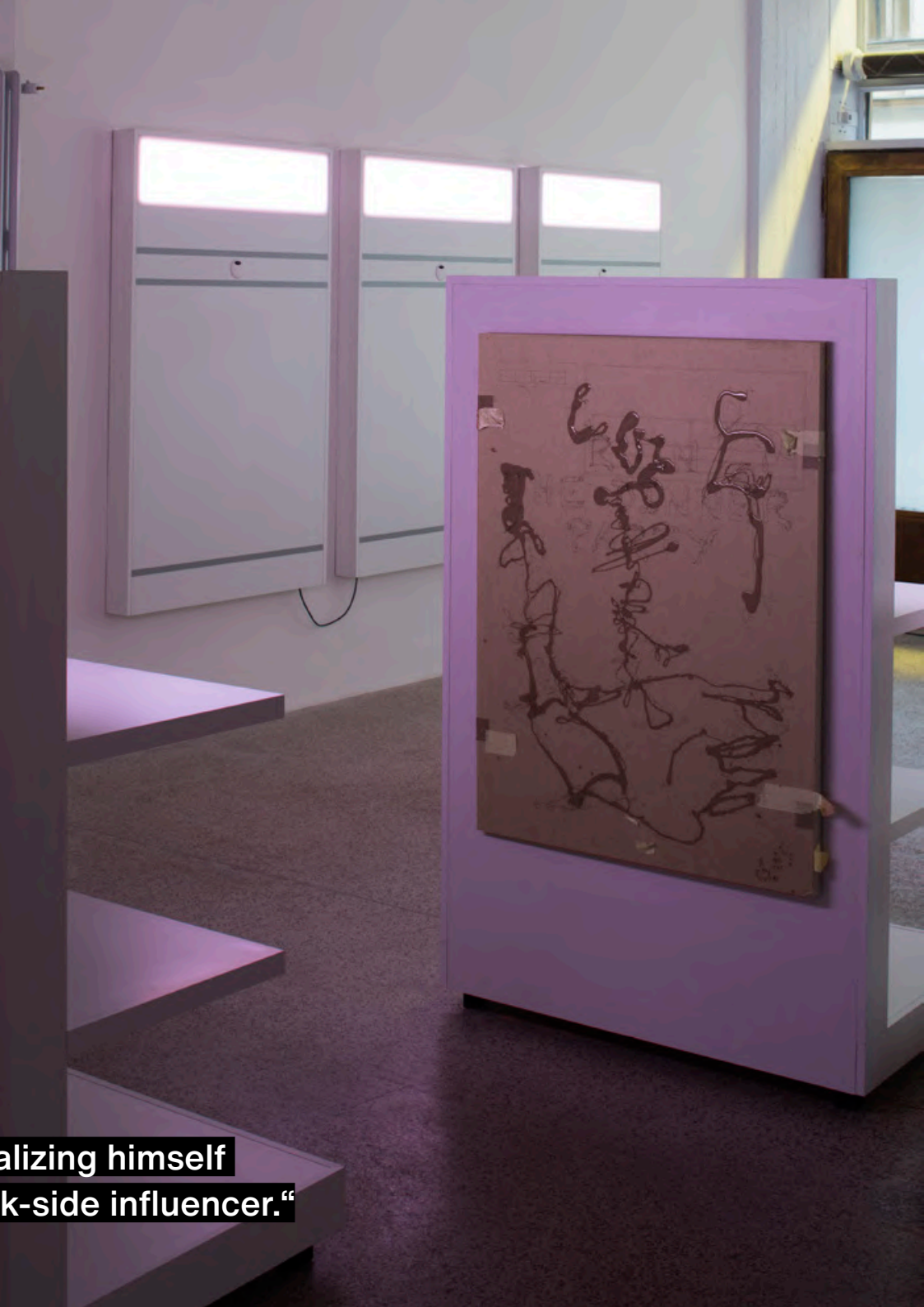
**The character of Red Herring, a hybrid creature between a human and a celery, is introduced.**



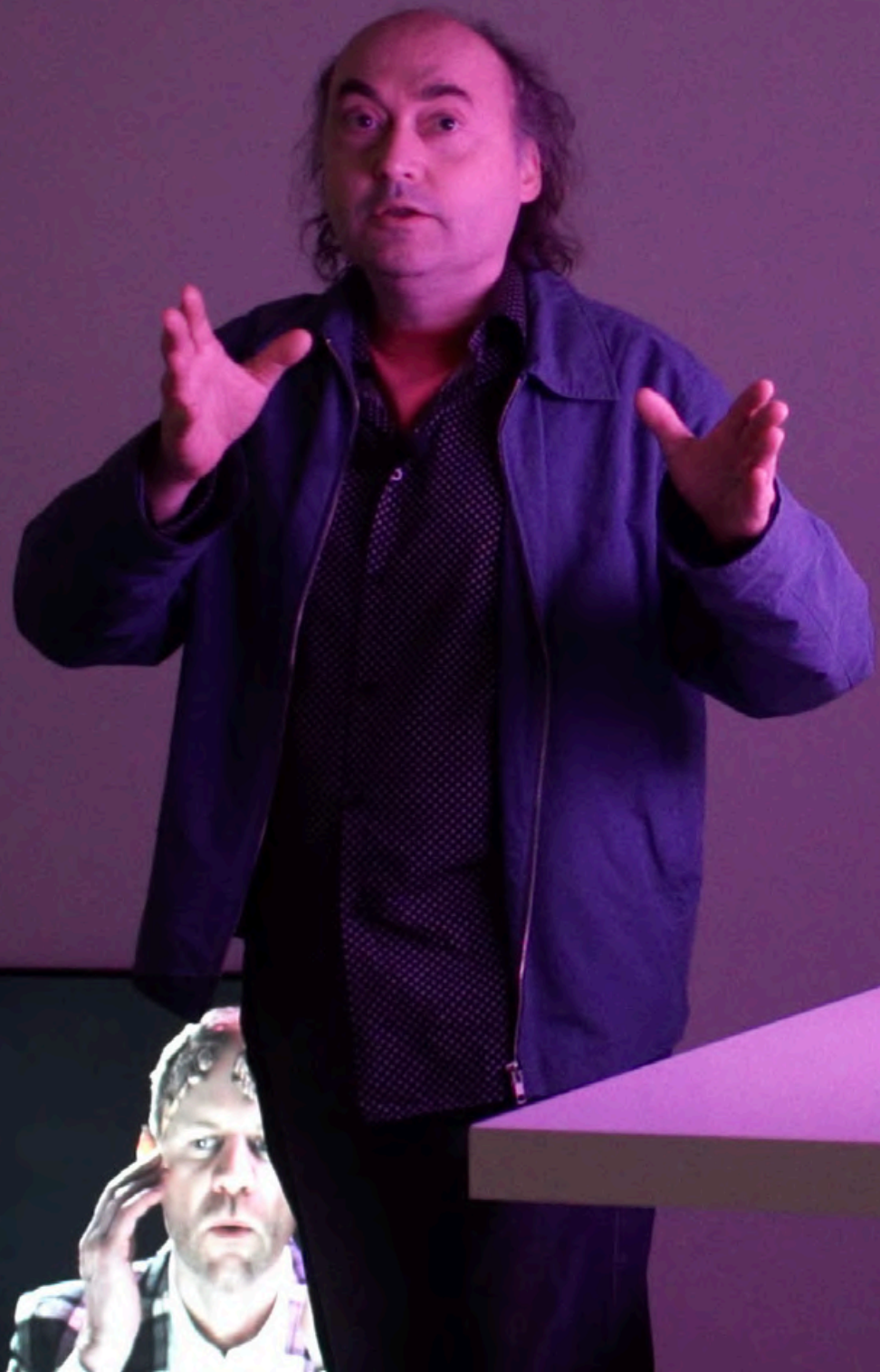
**And now he's revolting against the origin that gave birth to him, so he is revolting against the Seer.**



He discovers that this mythology is simply a storytelling.  
He enters a battlefield and wrestles on a political level.



**He is individualizing himself  
and becoming dark-side influencer.“**



# Club of Opportunities, Episode 4: Britannica Bootcamp



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES Ep.4:  
"Britanica Bootcamp"

artists: Jansa Jakub  
curated by: Kamil Nábělek  
venue: CEAAC, Strasbourg, France  
date: September 20 – November 20, 2018

Oh yes! We're here. This is the fourth episode of The Club of Opportunities. We're in the middle of a story which started a little bit earlier, let's say in some mythological proto- form and maybe the story is only starting to show itself. We don't know yet.

The Club of Opportunities began as an introduction to an ontology of one celery root and his own self-being. All this takes place in a semi-natural environment, partly just in our mind. And I can prove this, because I was there. I was actually there, right at the beginning of this story and I was helping this entity be born. There I said, even though it's a trivial thought - the celery looks like a very common plant, a common vegetable which tends to be overlooked, but inside it's very very strong. Because the bulb may remind us of a skull.

And there are deeper, mysterious forces hidden inside this skull, which are somehow dissolved and unspecific. So the first episode was mostly about what celery is, and how he came to existence and what we can read from his shape and temperament. We can see his roots which are connected with the ground, and his tiny small roots disappear somewhere in the ground and become almost invisible. There they gain their strength and charge themselves by this proto-energy.

So this is the first moment. This very first episode was mostly just a prologue. But I think the real beginning of this story goes back to Gamu Gallery. There we saw how the celery root entered the world. If we wanna put it simply - It's the story in which the character of SEER feels anxious in this world. She looks for a way to be more active in forming the surrounding world and herself. So, there we witness the SEER touching every individual celery root and giving it some positive predictions - or functions.

Here, we can see one of the so called "Celerists" individualizing himself. We can see him as a young man, who is presenting a critique of, let's say, a natural narrative, which is something we consider elementary. By his act of revolt, he finds himself in a teenage phase, he is still looking for his real identity. And now he's revolting against the origin that gave birth to him. He discovers that this mythology is simply a narrative. Just storytelling. And if he takes control of this storytelling, he'll be able to steer it in a different direction.

And he realizes that this rhetorical tool is very manipulative. It's a way to get profits in this competitive fight. So from his safe place, inside the mythos, he enters he enters a battlefield and wrestles on a political level. And somewhere here is the opening of the next episode, but now we're still not sure what's going to happen next. But starting with the mythos all the way to the critic and language transformations, we ended up on a political level where the opinions are interfering with each other and fighting. They aren't looking for a specific transcendental goodness, but rather for a contemporary advantage or disadvantage regardless if it's fair play or not. Somewhere, there awaits another destiny of our Celerist, whom we see here.

text by Kamil Nábělek





**Other celerists are shocked by Red Herring's acting, but they don't know how to react.**





**That's why they are looking for help.  
They are based in the department called Britannica Bootcamp**



reminding us of a hybrid of training camp and library.  
Soo, on which page to start, hm?

# Club of Opportunities, Episode 5: Keeping in line



CLUB OF OPPORTUNITIES Ep.5:  
"Keeping in Line"

artist: Jansa Jakub  
curator: Pavel Kubesa  
text: Domenico de Chirico  
venue: NoD Gallery, Prague  
23. 10. – 26. 11. 2018

Taking inspiration from the methodology of storytelling, Jakub Jansa uses narration as an instrument created by the mind to contextualize reality and explains it according to a logic of senses, in order to examine identity processes and media experiences in depth and focus on the dynamics of social influencing. By doing so, he develops a sort of "interactive process" within which the narrative discourse allows for several interpretations to whoever makes contact with the story that Jansa himself wants to tell, in particular: "Club of Opportunities", in its fifth episode, presents its undisputed main character, "actor" Red Herring, in a new significant evolution process.

His poetry, seemingly twisted and dreamlike, is based on expanded and elaborate metaphors and his language, carefully structured and polished, turns out to be intentionally rhetorical, a sort of subversive declamation designed to deconstruct the more traditional spoken narration.

Acting almost as an omniscient narrator, Jansa uses cryptic and intimate dramaturgy to create settings in an almost Shakesporean style. Based on his empirical experience, he describes characters and archetypal situations deliberately transforming their nature through a motion that goes from the top down and viceversa, so as to achieve a distinctive poetry and structuring the plot from time to time to create multiple interesting themes and to show various possible points of view.

Jansa gives voice to a distinctive aspect of today's society, characterized by an intense "media socialization", by examining the most direct interpersonal encounter and highlighting the lack of adaptability towards society that the individual often shows. In his epic poem "Club of Opportunities", Jansa describes its characters in real time through enchanting tales and makes the obscure and mysterious entities more visible and comprehensible. Red Herring is here ready to fight against himself in a cerebral and almost videogame-y "mise en scène" centred around his own two battling personalities, each constantly trying to take control of his attitude towards the outside world.

text by Domenico de Chirico



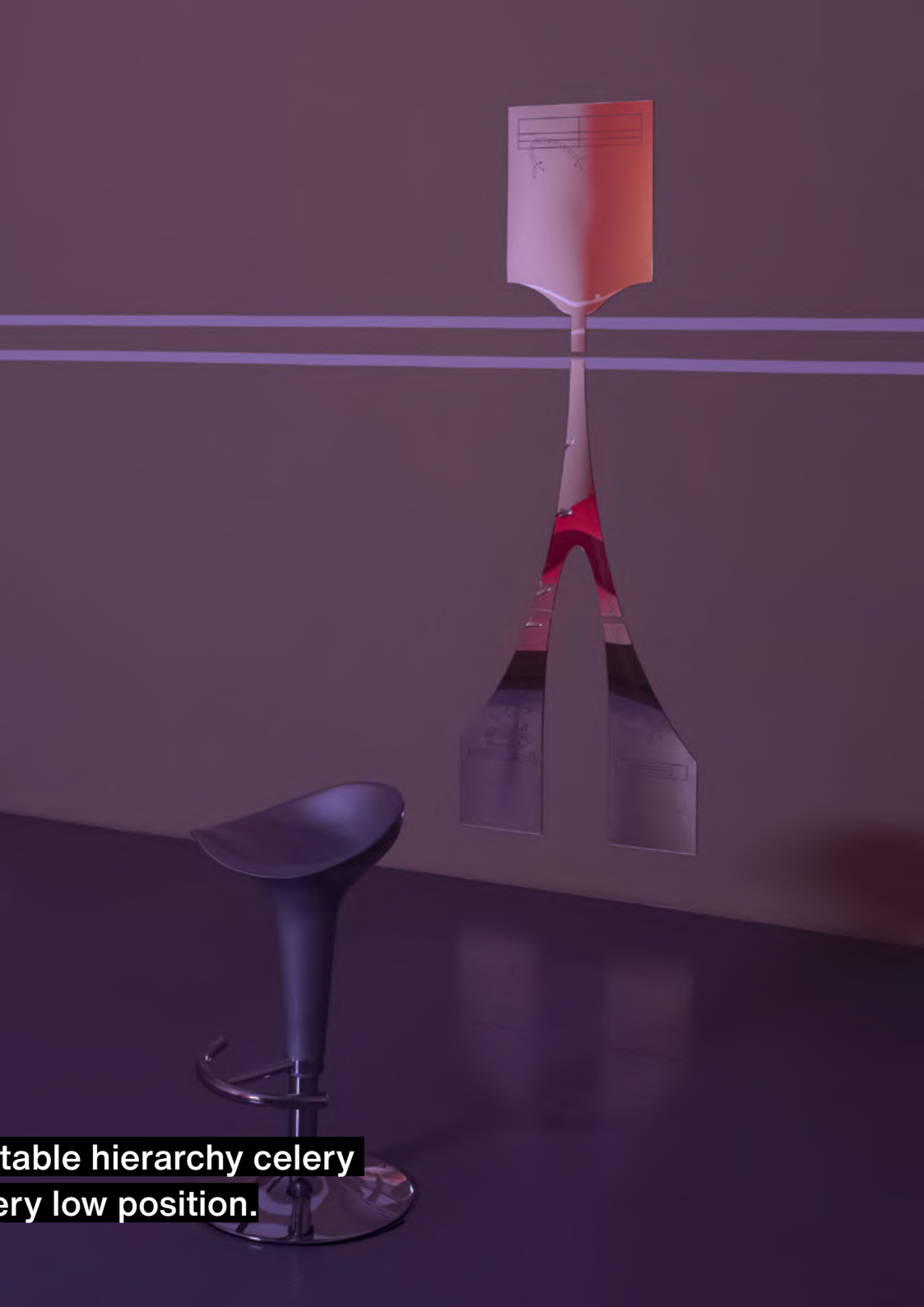
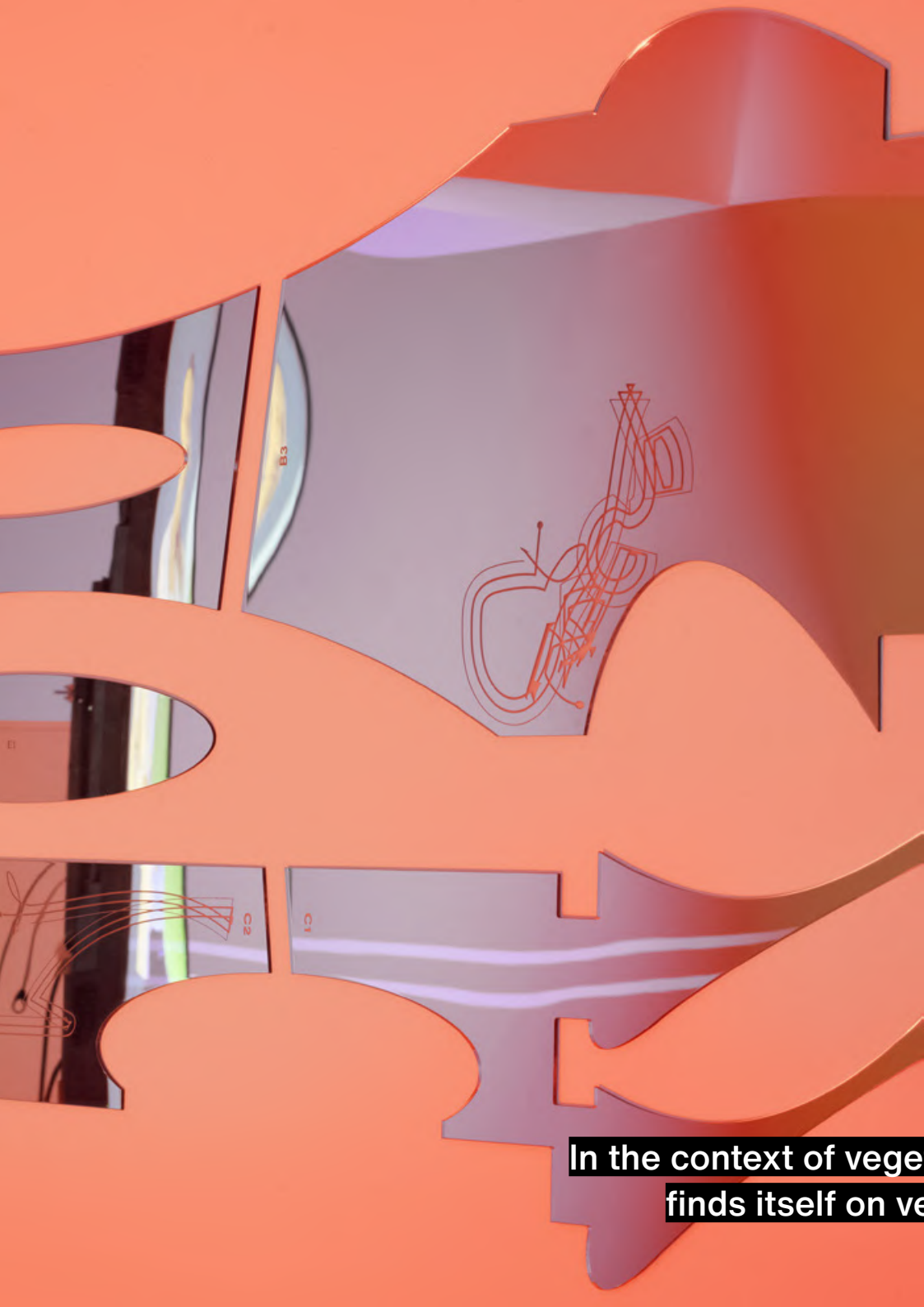
**We see Red Herring, a hybrid creature between a human and a celery, working on the Avocado Bar, where he is comparing himself with star avocados.**



**He wants to become a part of higher veggiesiety.  
During that he must undergo an insulting duel with his inner self.**



He is self-doubtful and experiences identity crises.

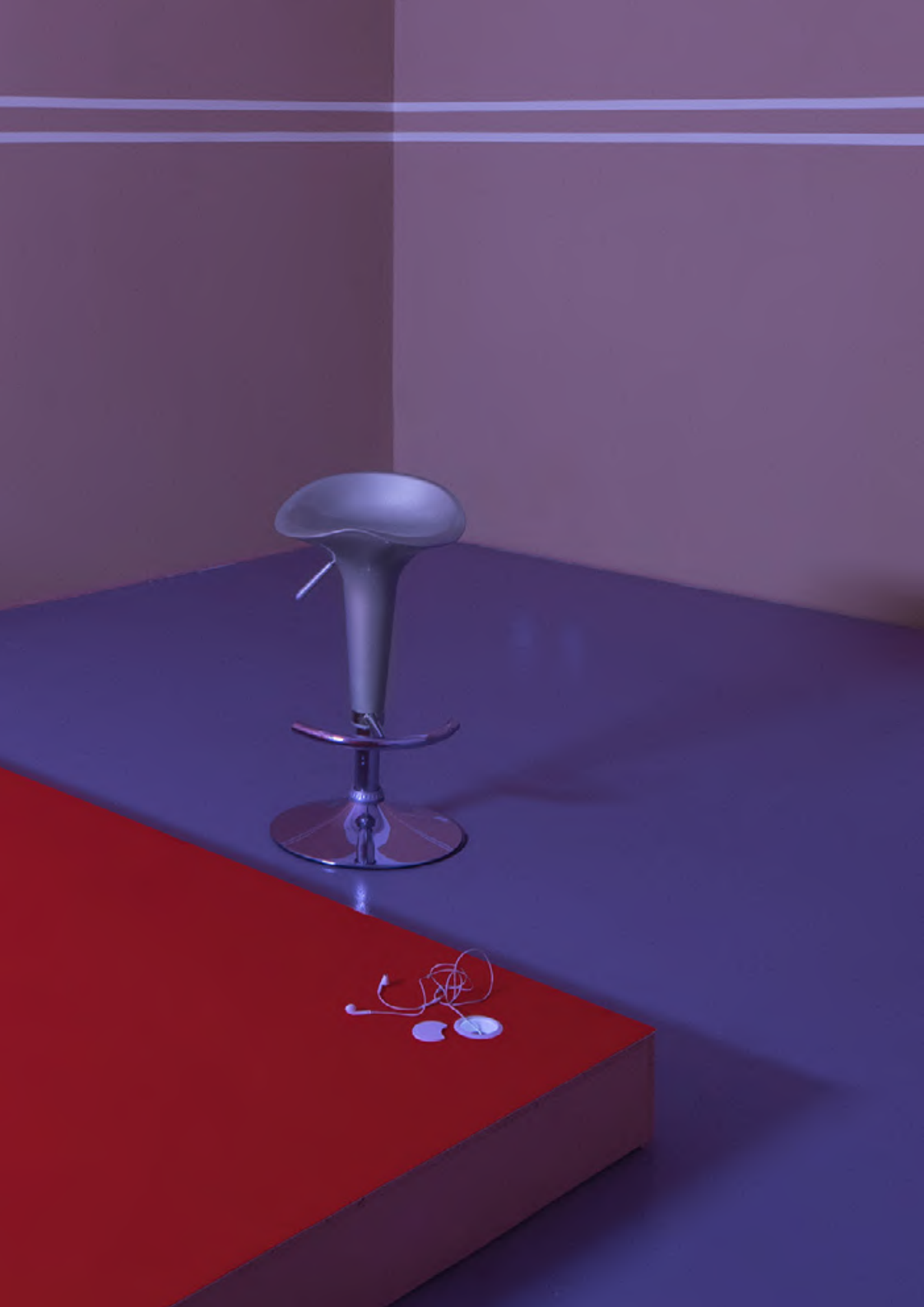


**In the context of vegetable hierarchy celery finds itself on very low position.**





**In the supermarkets we can find celery roots situated on the bottom shelves, avocados are always highlighted in the center.**



# Club of Opportunities, Episode 6: Ten Years Night





The sixth episode is based in Mihelic's Gas Station, reminding us of celeriac.



**He reveals key moments in the current story.**



**The character of philosopher Kamil Nábělek walks through the screens and gives a permanent guided tour of the exhibition.**





Book-keeper

Book  
Keeper





Prague has always been a city of the most absurd stories, from the tale of the golem - an animated anthropomorphic creature made of clay by Rabbi Loew in the sixteenth century - to Franz Kafka's novella *The Metamorphosis* (1915), in which a human being turns into an insect. Storytelling and transformation are also key elements in *Club of Opportunities*.