SUMMARY

Photo Series “Human as a block”

The aim of this thesis was to explore the relationship between the human body and interior space, using the body as a “block” - an element that either fits into the structure of space or comes into conflict with it. This goal was achieved: photo series created in four locations demonstrate how the body can function as a spatial element that transforms the usual perception of interior environments.

The most important methodological choice in the work was the use of improvisation in generating movement. This proved to be an appropriate decision, as improvisation allowed movement to emerge from the space itself rather than being pre-determined. Each location provided different conditions for the body: the University of Tartu library staircase offered geometric rhythm and monumentality, the Estonian National Museum foyer organic forms and emotional subtext, the lower staircase precise diagonals and glass surfaces, and the railway station corridor a forced one-directional flow. In each space, movement developed in response to these conditions, which is also visible in the photographs, as the series do not document static poses but the unfolding process of searching and adapting.

The main external limitation of the project was social pressure in public spaces. Photographing in public settings raised questions, increased vigilance, and created pressure to work quickly. In hindsight, however, this aspect aligns with the theme of the work: it directly confirmed that spatial norms are not only architectural. A body that does not behave as expected encounters obstacles arising both from the physical environment and from other users of the space. In this way, social pressure became an unintended but meaningful part of the work.

In future work, it would be interesting to explore how the same concept would function in more private or pre-arranged spaces, where time pressure is absent and the improvisational process can develop at its own pace.