

I'm in **CRISIS**,  
no, I myself am alive and well (perfectly fit),  
it's **YOU** with a bump on the head, dislocated shoulder and bruised leg,  
It's hard to stay fit when you're constantly injuring yourself!

I do **CARE**,  
don't care that I'm almost naked and my ball is moulded out of the Earth,  
it's **YOU** who can't live without new sportswear, sneakers and a smart phone  
showing the latest results,  
It wants to kick the ball so hard, that all consumerism would splattered away!

I'm **SAD**,  
not because we still don't have a national stadium, a meadow will suit me,  
it's **YOU** who trample, cut, burn and otherwise destroy natural stadiums,  
Just look around, art will return you to nature without destroying it!

I'm **ANGRY**,  
no, I am not bounded by commitments, and my team is whole world,  
it's **YOU** who defends, protects, attacks and constantly judges everyone,  
In this way, it is not a cohesive team going towards a common goal!

It's **SUBSTANTIAL**,  
not where we are in football, Eurovision or economical rankings,  
**YOU** won't achieve anything by constantly fighting, if there are winners  
there will be losers too,  
It is important to fair play to everyone, by the fair play of the nature!

**About football.** The game could be fun I think it was invented for this particular purpose. However, football has changed, like all other parts of our consumer-based society. Now football has become a manifestation of politics, power, and dominance. FIFA organization is an example of why the game (the world) is no longer fun. The title of the poem refers to the position of the Lithuanian national football team in FIFA rankings (last time it was 146 position, 6 April 2023). The poem speaks in the words (thoughts, maybe) of the painting's protagonist. The position is not important: *'...if there are winners there will be losers too...'*

**"There are more important things in life than winning or losing a game."** – Lionel Messi

**About nature.** When I saw this tribal-looking 'crucifix' I thought he represents the whole of nature. There was no separation between humans and others. He does not bother to be naked, he is not afraid to be dirty, he invites everyone to be a part of it. On the other hand, he looks angry and a little bit aggressive that humans overexploited the whole planet and pushed nature to the very limits. For those that we usually name as progressive, intellectual homo sapience he could look like the primal one. However, for me, he represents nature as it is: pure and sacred. I can read from him: why do we keep *'destroying natural stadiums'*?

**"Everything I know about morality and the obligations of men, I owe it to football."** – Albert Camus

**About both.** Is nature playing football? Yes, I think, it is the most Fair Play that we can imagine. And this poem is not about desperation, even though it gives negative thoughts about our attitude towards the world, it is about finding a way to connectivity between everyone and everything and about becoming *'a team going towards a common goal'* (ground). This is an open question for everyone: are you ready *'to kick the ball so hard, that all the consumerism will be splattered up'*? Because nature is always ready to play together with us.

**"You can't score a goal if you don't take a shot."** — Johann Cruyff

**Justas Kažys** "Ranking Position No. 144" (2021)

[poem inspired by artwork "Rūpintojėlis" (Pensive Christ), Leopoldas Surgailis, 1970]

This poem and explanatory text were taken from the Creative Europe project "Common Ground" final book (2023), published by The Centre of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu in Toruń