**THE 11TH TRIENNIAL MEETING FOR CONSERVATORS OF THE BALTIC STATES, TARTU, ESTONIA 2017** CHANGING CONTEXTS: FROM ENVIRONMENT TO IDEAS



LITHUANIAN ART MUSEUM
PRANAS GUDYNAS RESTORATION CENTRE

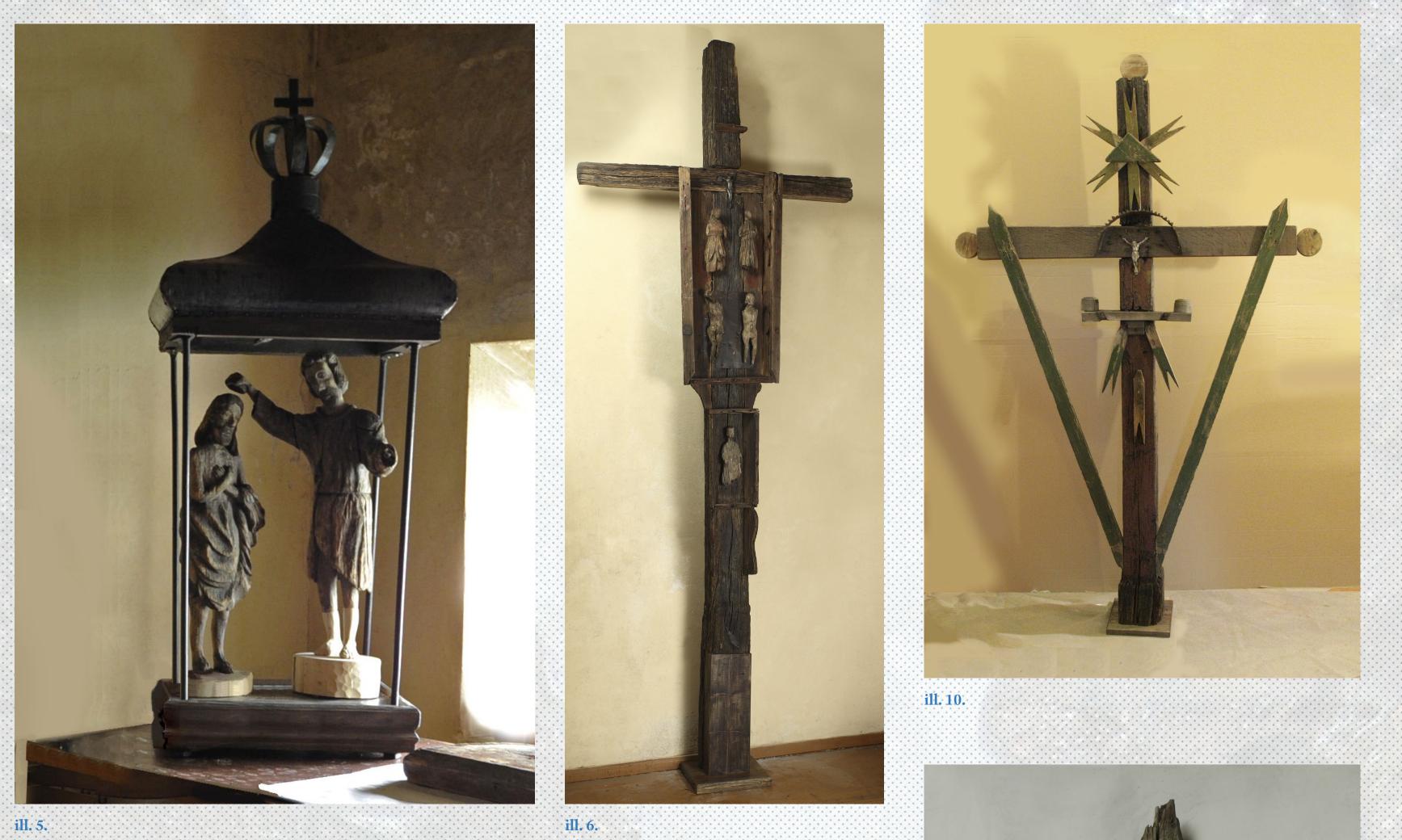
## **Crosses and Waiside Shrines in Museums. Research and Restoration**

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There aren't many small architecture exhibits in museums. Not every museum can place a higher cross

The exhibit in the Ethnographic Museum of Kupiškis – the wayside shrine depicting the birth of



or a wayside shrine in its premises. The restoration isn't easy as well, because you need bigger premises for that purpose. The carvings, especially tracery, are often disintegrated or missing and sometimes it is impossible to recreate the former structure. Jesus – lost its wooden pole, but the sculpture composition remained. The composition is cracked, with missing fgraments, and the wood is heavily damaged naturally by open-air conditions. There is no polychrome left (ill. 5).

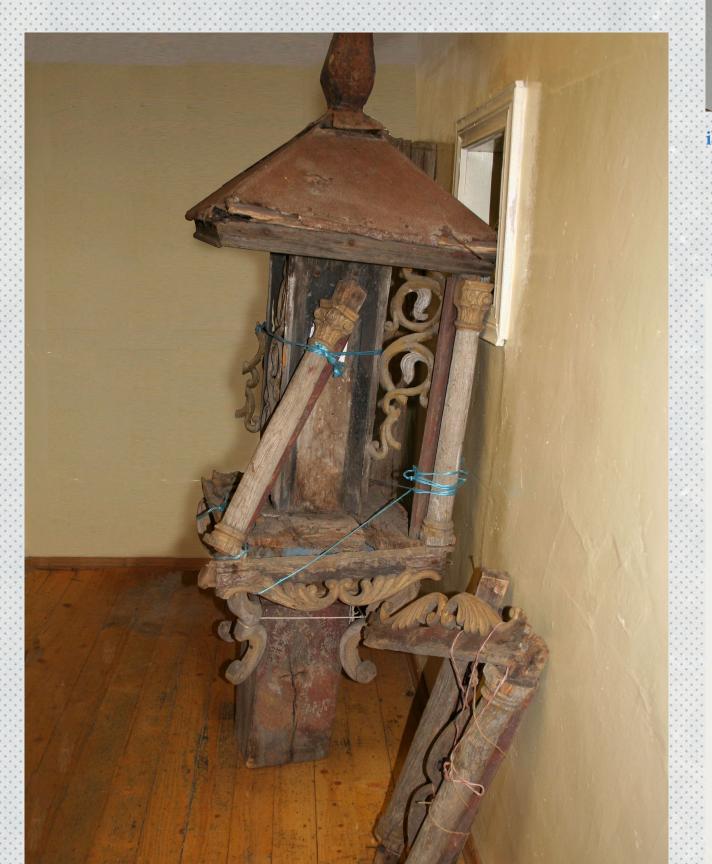


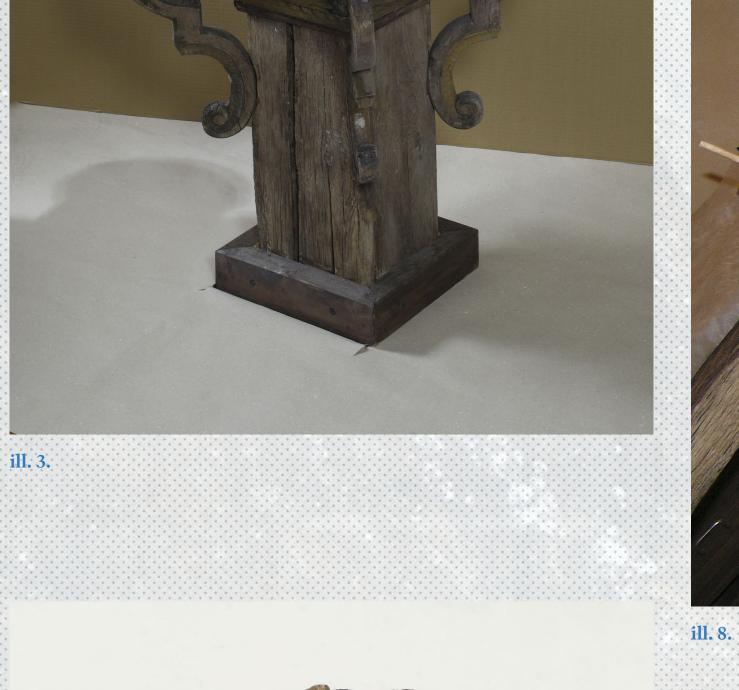
In the Alytus Museum of Regional<br/>History several crosses and wayside2004 and transferred to the Alytus Museum<br/>if Regional History (ill. 6-8). Another cross,<br/>kept in the Alytus of Regional History, was<br/>chapels and sculptures fixed in them, once<br/>stood in Vaisodžiai village in Alytus region.2004 and transferred to the Alytus Museum<br/>if Regional History (ill. 6-8). Another cross,<br/>erected in the first part of the 20th century<br/>near the dairy in Alytus. The authors of both<br/>trosses are unknown (ill. 9-10).





That kind of artwork usually arrives to museums thanks to the local activistsor curators of cultural heritage. In 2003 Pasvalys Regional Museum was presented with several works – the remaining cross and wayside shrine parts (ill. 1-3).

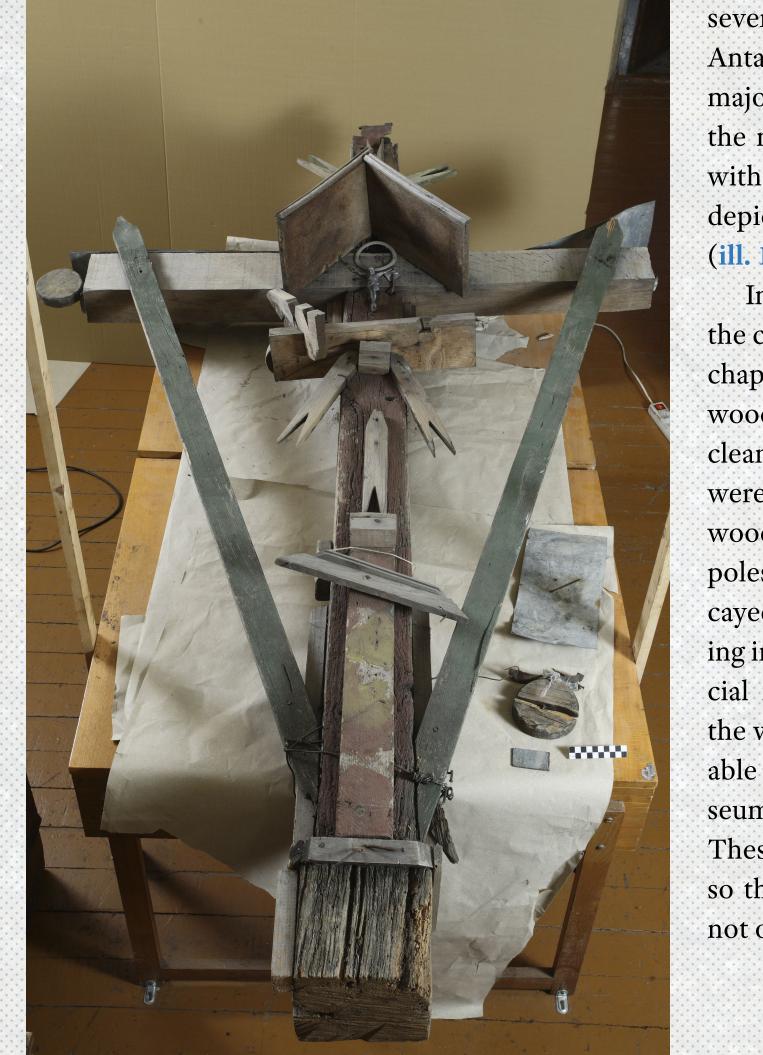






ill. 9.





In Lazdijai Regional Muzeum several works by the wood carver Antanas Soraka are stored. The majority of them are small, but the museum was also presented with the entire wayside shrine depicting the Crucifixion scene (ill. 11-12).

In the process of restoration the crosses, wayside shrines and-

The Lithuanian Art Museum was also presented with the cross fragment with a doubled-sided sculpture by the wood carver Vincas Svirskis that was found by the lake in 1960. The carving was decayed and muddy, and the deep cracks were filled with cement probably left from the previous repairs (ill. 4).

**ill. 4.** 

ill. 2.

chapelswere taken apart. The wood and the polychromy were cleaned and fixed. The chapels were put back together using wooden pins, the crosses gor new poles. Despite the repairs, the decayed wood is not capable of lasting in outdoor conditions. A special microclimate is needed for the wood storage, so it is reasonable to keep the carvings in museums for an indoor display. These works had to by preserved, so that people can admire them not only in photographs.

ill. 12.

ill. 11.