

# Distant Relatives

2019

oil painting,  
3d printed frame (50 ×90cm),  
18 min sound, merchandise: digitally printed  
jumpers and mugs, 2019

Presented at:  
Trøndelag Kostmuseum 2019  
Høstutstillingen 2019

Distant Relatives explores precarious familial connections, impacts of processes of disruption and relocation and our connection to self in the digital age through a deep artistic investigation into a family icon: the Leonardo da Vinci painting *The Benois Madonna* that hangs at the Hermitage Museum and belonged to my great-uncle prior to the Russian revolution.

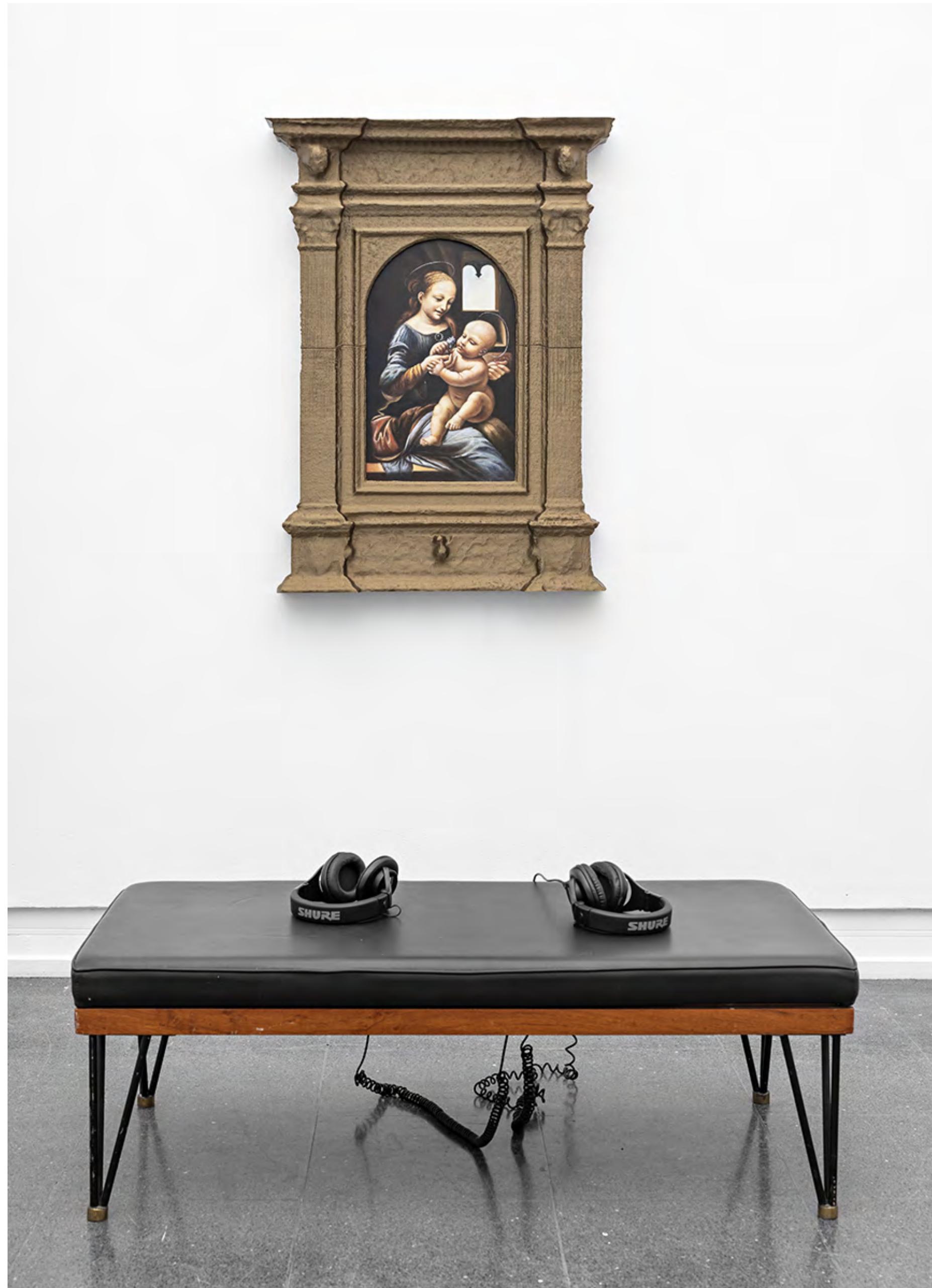
The project received attention from the Hermitage itself and they recently offered me a collaboration which I did not acknowledge due to the ongoing war against Ukraine.

Link to Excerpt of audio used in the installation,  
01:00 min:

<https://soundcloud.com/anton-benois/distant-relatives-clip>

If desired, the full audio 18:19 min can be heard here:

<https://soundcloud.com/anton-benois/anton-benois-distant-relatives-audio-interview>



View of installation at Høstutstillingen and the merchandise at the Kunstnernes Hus gift shop.

# ***Mutations***

# Part of Solo Exhibiton at Telemark Kunstsenter, Skien, 2021

The exhibition explored the intersection of ecological, political, cultural and personal factors and how contemporary mutations within these are changing the human condition. As conversation in the digital space enters the physical environment, it begins to mutate our collective bodies, reshaping our minds and actions.

This idea is presented in the exhibition in the form of familiar items: mass-produced furniture, shower curtains, football scarves, towels - all custom made for the exhibition. Here these domestic objects are stripped of their familiarity, here they become mutants. Their forms and usual intent is changed: they are a product of our own shifting present.



# **Living Objects**

Part of Solo exhibition at Babel  
Visningsrom for Kunst, Trondheim,  
2021

Living Objects is a project that explores cultural objects personified in employees and animals working at cultural institutions that tell us about a bygone era: the Norwegian Folk Museum in Oslo, Sverresborg Trøndelag Folk Museum and Lofotr Viking Museum. Through interviews with workers employed as costumed relics from the past, and through a search of the museums' object archives, the exhibition explores links to cultural pasts and the idea of the body as a museum object.

