

Press release 25 March 2021

## Exhibition of graduate fine artists' artworks to open in summer 2021 in Art Town Mänttä-Vilppula

This summer, an exhibition titled **Kuvataiteen valtakunta (Realm of Fine Art) in Mänttä-Vilppula** presents the artworks of a number of fine artists who have recently graduated from one of the six Finnish universities of applied sciences teaching fine arts.



The exhibition, which is open to the public from 11 June to 29 August 2021, is produced as a collaboration between the culture services of Mänttä-Vilppula and the universities of applied sciences. The universities of applied sciences participating in the collaboration are the LAB University of Applied Sciences (Institute of Design and Fine Arts, Lappeenranta and Lahti), Lapland University of Applied Sciences (Visual Arts, Tornio), Arts Academy of Turku University of Applied Sciences (Fine Arts), Tampere University of Applied Sciences (D.P. in Media and Arts, Fine Art), Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (Fine Arts Campus, Kankaanpää) and Yrkeshögskolan Novia (Culture and Arts, Fine Arts, Pietarsaari).

The objective of the exhibition Kuvataiteen valtakunta is to improve the visibility and position of newly graduated artists in Finland. The exhibition also highlights the important role of the universities of applied sciences teaching fine arts in the training of fine artists. The famous art centre and interesting attraction Mänttä-Vilppula Art Town can be considered a significant arena for presenting the works of emerging and newly graduated artists.

Kuvataiteen valtakunta exhibitions and related events have previously been organised in different cities and in different forms as collaborations between various universities of applied sciences teaching fine arts. This time, and for the first time, the exhibition activities have been designed to be implemented in cooperation between all six Finnish universities of applied sciences teaching fine arts. There are plans to establish the activities in Art Town for future years as well.

All six universities of applied sciences propose final projects of their arts students graduating in 2020 and 2021 to be included in the exhibition. The curators of the exhibition are the visual artists Krister Gråhn and Riikka Lenkkeri, both residing in Art Town.

- *The universities of applied sciences are extremely happy for this opportunity to present and showcase the expertise of our newly graduated artists. During the summertime, Mänttä-Vilppula is the central art location in Finland, attracting a diverse number of visitors interested in art, says Eija Mustonen from LAB, who is leading the artistic cooperation between the universities of applied sciences.*

The exhibition will be set up inside an old store building in the town centre of Mänttä. The town's cooperation partners in the implementation of the exhibition are Yrke Kiinteistöt Ltd, Koskelantalot Ltd and Autere Adult Education Center.

- *The exhibition adds significantly to the selection of fine arts offerings of Mänttä-Vilppula alongside the Serlachius museums, the Mänttä Art Festival and other local exhibitions. Art Town is the perfect location for promoting the exposure of newly graduated visual artists in our country, says Director of Culture Antti Korkka.*

## Exhibition curators

Krister Gråhn works with sculptures and installations. During his career, Gråhn has studied in three different schools of fine arts and is currently completing his post-graduate studies in the Praxis programme of the Academy of Fine Arts of Uniarts Helsinki. In recent years, Gråhn has collaborated with different artists and worked with his own projects. Working in pairs with other artists has provided new challenges to the production of art – different aesthetic preferences must be brought together and the artists must share constant dialogue about the content of the artwork. Gråhn has held private exhibitions in different parts of Finland and participated in various curated and juried group and collaboration art exhibitions since 2001. Since the beginning of his career, Gråhn has actively worked in different roles in the artistic field, as a technical executor, producer, publisher and curator.

Riikka Lenkkeri works as a painter. She graduated from the Accademia Ligustica di Belle Arti in Genoa in 1995. In recent years, Lenkkeri has explored working methods that combine different painting techniques, where the know-how of old painting traditions is linked with contemporary materials and subjects. Lenkkeri has worked as an artist for nearly three decades and has held several private exhibitions, both in Finland and Italy, and also participated in numerous group exhibitions. Alongside her artistic work, she has worked as a lecturer and a supervisor of final projects in different Finnish schools of fine arts. Lenkkeri is a member of the association Mäntän kuvataiteen ystävät ry, the association behind the Mänttä Art Festival activities.

## Further information

[www.kuvataiteenvaltakunta.fi](http://www.kuvataiteenvaltakunta.fi)

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