

The artists for the XXVII Mänttä Art Festival are announced. *Out of Nowhere* promises to deliver a surprising summer.

Out of Nowhere is the title for the 2023 Mänttä Art Festival. This year, the curators **Minna Suoniemi** and **Petri Ala-Maunus** have invited many young artists. – Most of our artists are showing in the Art Festival for the first time, the curators are happy to announce. We wanted to invite some well known artists such as Ars Fennica winner **Kari Vehosallo**, alongside emerging artists such as **Sasha Rotts** and **Mariam Falaileh**.

In this summer's exhibition, 36 artists or artist groups were invited, for a total of 44 participants. – The exhibition's name, *Out of Nowhere* alludes to an unexpected surprise, that even we, as the curators, are waiting to see. What will happen when the artists install their work in the space? Even the artists are not yet aware of what will happen when the audience encounters the artwork. What will happen between the exhibition and the audience?

Many of the artworks look for our place in and as a part of nature. Using materials such as wood, stone or water, the artists explore our relationship with nature and our ability to live with different species. *Out of Nowhere* exposes Mänttä as a community with an interesting history starting in forestry to becoming a well known art hub.

– The most exciting part about the artwork is what you don't expect or realise. This exhibition offers an embodied experience of art, which communicates with the viewer on a kind of instinctual level. We chose the artists for this exhibition according to how their work affected us.

Included in the exhibition are several artists who work in pairs such as **Linda & Aura**, **Elina Nissinen & Max Hannus**, **Pasi Autio & Saku Koistinen** and the artist couple from Kittilä **Raisa Raekallio & Misha del Val**. The curators also invited several artists to work together by suggesting collaborative projects. **J.P Köykkä**, **Peetu Liesinen** and **Kim Somervuori** will create a large collective painting together, both in downtown Mänttä and at Pekilo. A collective installation will also be made by the sisters **Jenni Hiltunen** and **Piia Hiltunen**.

– Painting as a medium is particularly important to us. For this summer's exhibition we invited well known painters such as Kari Vehosallo, **Emma Ainala** and **Eeva Peura**, along with new talents such as **Sirkku Rossi** and **Hanna Hyy**.

Some specific materials play an important role for several artists, as in the work by **Aleksi Martikainen**, **Sari Palosaari**, **Hanna Kanto**, **Jesse Avdeikov** and **Antti Kytömäki** – wood, stone, metal, ceramics, water and sound form bodies of work in the Pekilo space. Music will have a strong presence in the exhibition's numerous moving image pieces, and in the work by artists known for their music, such as **Laura Naukkarinen** in the Chorus Sinensis collective, a musician by the name of Elatu Nessa: the renowned **Rusto Myllylahti**, **Ninni Luhtasaari**, **Maria Stereo** and **Yeboyah**.

– We pay homage to the art of photography in memory of pioneer **Raakel Kuukka** (1955–2022) by bringing in work that greatly affected us years ago. Here, Raakel's work will be shown alongside the work of her daughter, Yeboyah. The curators also invited artist and collector **Seppo Fränti**, whose delicate drawings made as a hostage 20 years ago, now take on new meaning.

Suoniemi and Ala-Maunus also wanted to bring attention to experienced artists whose work they felt was important to share with a larger audience such as the work of **Tuukka Peltonen**, **Veera Kulju**, **Risto-Pekka Blom**, **Anneli Nygren** and **Terhi Heino**. Some of the artists in this exhibition were discovered by the curators more recently, in the last few years or last few months, such as **Hinni Huttunen**, **Sasha Rotts** and **Pavel Rotts**, **liri Poteri**, **Venla Helenius**, **Ida Palojärvi** and **Mariam Falaileh**.

– We fell in love with the artists' work, and we hope the audience will also find something new and unexpected in them. Something that they weren't aware of.

The first Mänttä Art Festival was organised exactly 30 years ago. Since then, the festival has risen to become Finland's largest survey of contemporary Finnish art and awarded with the Finnish National Prize in 2017. The XXVII Mänttä Art Festival will be open every day from June 11th until August 31st, 2023.

List of Artists

Emma Ainala
Pasi Autio & Saku Koistinen
Jesse Avdeikov
Risto-Pekka Blom
Jan Eerala & Laura Naukkarinen & Ulla Taipale + Chorus Sinensis collective
Mariam Falaileh
Seppo Fränti
Terhi Heino
Venla Helenius
Jenni Hiltunen
Piia Hiltunen
Hinni Huttunen
Hanna Hyy
Hanna Kanto
Veera Kulju
Raakel Kuukka
Antti Kytömäki
J.P Köykkä & Peetu Liesinen & Kim Somervuori
Linda ja Aura
Ninni Luhtasaari
Aleksi Martikainen
Rusto Myllylahti
Elina Nissinen & Max Hannus
Anneli Nygren
Ida Palojärvi
Sari Palosaari
Tuukka Peltonen
Eeva Peura
Iiri Poteri
Raisa Raekallio & Misha del Val
Sirku Rosi
Pavel Rotts
Sasha Rotts
Maria Stereo
Kari Vehosalo
Yeboyah

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