

## **The Artists of the XXIV Mänttä Art Festival Announced - *The Human Era* Offers Fresh and Humorous Glances at the State of the World**

The list of artists for the 2019 Mänttä Art Festival has been announced. More than 50 artists and artist groups have been invited to the exhibition. Together, they form an extensive cross-section of the field of Finnish contemporary art, from the South to the North. The theme for the XXIV Mänttä Art Festival is *The Human Era*. Many of the artists invited by curator **Marja Helander** reflect on ecology and our accountability over the current state of the world.

– However, the exhibition won't be strictly about the environment, and Pekilo won't be turned into a Doomsday Temple, Helander promises. The artists selected for this summer offer diverse viewpoints on the era of humans and its impact on environment: from the perspective of religion, politics, relationships or even animals.

The artists of this summer's exhibition include **Matti Aikio**, a Sámi media artist who has in his works commented on environmental issues in the Sámi region and the future of reindeer herding. The best-known Sámi artist contributing to the exhibition is **Outi Pieski**, whose artworks are often both tributes to Sámi crafts and abstract, colourful installations.

The artist list for the summer also includes **Aiko Tsukahara**, whose minimalistic sculptures raise the question if the human kind will eventually be forced to evacuate itself into an artificial world: clinical chambers in the infinite space. In a similar but a more humorous vein, the business idea of the **Artist Collective KUNST** is an apocalyptic travel agency called The Ark.

The exhibition boasts well-known young contemporary artists such as the 2018 Young Artist of the Year, **J.A. Juvani**, and **Iiu Susiraja**, whose photography will be seen in Mänttä for the first time.

– Susiraja's photographs are brimming with humour, spirit, shamelessness, absurdity and incredible inventiveness, Marja Helander praises.

Painter **Camilla Vuorenmaa**, who was nominated for Ars Fennica in 2017, and sculptor **Kaisu Koivisto**, who curated the Mänttä Art Festival in 2002, are also contributing to the exhibition, as is **Hanna Vihriälä**, known for her many installations. The full list of the 2019 artists is attached.

The Mänttä Art Festival is Finland's largest summer exhibition of contemporary art and has received accolades like the Ministry of Education and Culture's Finland Prize. The XXIV Mänttä Art Festival will be open daily from 16 June to 1 September 2019.

### **Further Details**

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