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## The Mänttä Art Festival exhibition will be postponed until the year 2021

Finland's largest national overview of contemporary art, the Mänttä Art Festival, will be postponing this year's exhibition until the year 2021. This year's exhibition curator, the artists and the theme will remain, to create the exhibition in 2021.

– The exhibition organisers, the Mänttä kuvataiteen ystävät (Mänttä Friends of Art association) have decided to make what seems to be the only logical choice at this time. The safety of our artists, staff and exhibition visitors, is our primary concern. Explains the festival's director **Tiina Nyrhinen**.

– The Corona virus epidemic has disrupted the exhibition preparations this whole spring. Many artists have not been able to work, and mobility has been difficult or even impossible for some. In addition everyone is generally concerned and preoccupied about the the well being and futures of their friends and family. We are all in this together, acknowledged Nyrhinen.

– The installation process is an extremely intense procedure. We do not want to end up preparing for an exhibition that will never open to the public, continues Nyrhinen.

The Mänttä Art Festival traditionally opens with a large celebration and includes a generous programme of additional events, artist talks and different guided tours. These events would have had to be cut from the festival in response to governmental guidelines and safety concerns, if the exhibition could have opened in 2020.

– We would like to provide the curator, **Anna Ruth** and all the artists with the opportunity to hold a full-fledged cultural event next year, continues Nyrhinen. The new dates for the festival are currently set for June 13th, until August 31st, 2021.

The exhibition planned by curator Anna Ruth includes 47 artists/artist groups. The theme for the Art Festival will still be relevant and perhaps even more timely than ever in 2021: *Erehtyminen – To Err is Human*.

– The theme for this year's exhibition was intended as a reflection on the state of our humanity. Now, in this pandemic period, we are forced to reconsider our actions and choices as they directly affect ourselves and fellow humans in a very tangible way. For the moment, I believe time will be best spent listening, feeling out the essential in our lives and reconsidering our humanity. Art has the ability to heal and communicate deep unspoken realities. The 2021 exhibition will take our theme of human error, one step further and speak to our common experience with new meaning. Considers Anna Ruth.

### More information

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