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TIINA LAASONEN

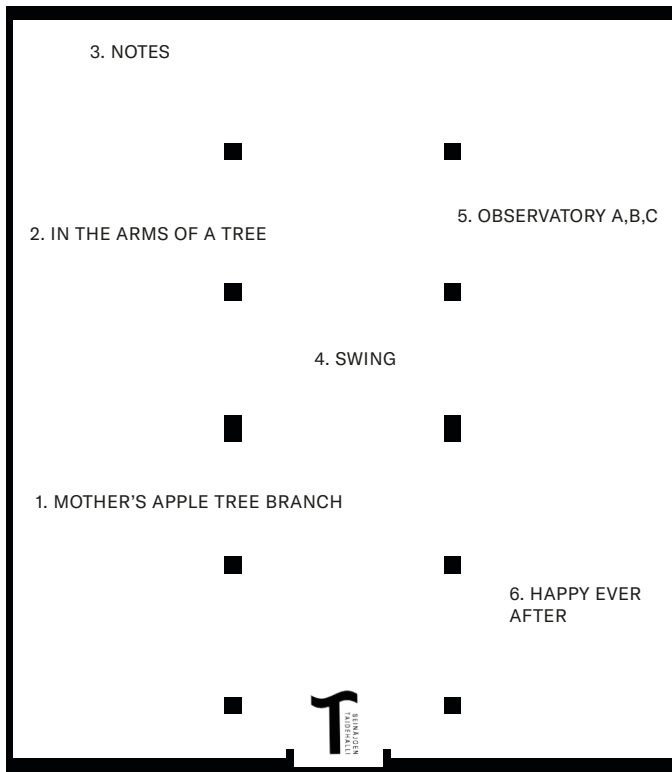
I Know a Tree
that Grew Up

14.6.2025-3.1.2026

KUNSTHALLE
SEINÄJOKI

Exhibition
guide

Exhibition space Halli



TIINA LAASONEN

1. Mother's Apple Tree Branch

2018

sculpture

Mother's apple tree from Kauhava

"I remember the apple tree we planted in the garden we cleared from my mother's dandelion field. Years later, my mother gave me an apple tree branch that had been cut off by a storm in the hope that I would make a sculpture from it. The branch hung in the corner of my studio for years until I finally turned it into Mom's Apple Tree Branch. It was then that I understood how deep personal experience people can have with trees, and I became curious about what kind of tree-related stories other families had."

- Tiina Laasonen

2. In the Arms of a Tree

2025

sculpture

birch, rowan

"The tree grew in front of the kitchen window and was a very beautiful tree, but due to its vigorous growth and overhanging branches, it ended up being too big for its place, or too "sprawling". The hanging branches were overhanging the roof, the gutters and the footpath along the side of the house. You had to sort of dive through it, which was no fun, especially when pushing a wheelchair. Cutting it down seemed only to enhance the growth, so after many years of deliberation we cut it down. Fortunately, we still had another, more conventional, domestic rowan tree in the garden!" - Sanna

"Virpi lives in a 100-year-old house in Ilmajoki. A long birch alley leads to the house, which was planted in the 1940s when Virpi's grandfather Eino lived there. Some of the old birch trees had to be cut down because of rot, and I was able to get a few pieces of trunk for my work." - Tiina Laasonen

Donations: Virpi's birch (Ilmajoki),
Nuutinen's sagebrush (Seinäjoki)

3. Notes

2025

installation

Details of different wood types:

Birch, Buckthorn, Antti's Apple tree's nail, Maarit's Apple tree, Laasonen's Apple tree, Arvo and Ritva's Juniper, Alder, Klementinkatu's Eastern crack-willow, Buckthorn, Nina and Matti's Apple tree, Buckthorn, Rowan

4. Swing

spatial sculpture

2025

Juniper, Birch, Bird cherry, Larch, Alder, Apple tree, Rowan, Beech, Sycamore, Oak, Tar alder, Spruce, Buckthorn, Maple

"I've been planning to cut down the apple tree in the kitchen window for several years now, but I can't resist, because it always starts the summer with a lovely blossom." - Maarit

"I find it so difficult to cut down old trees, because they are somehow so beautiful. I've always liked all the old trees on the property. I've had to cut them down and it's always weighed on my heart. I made a couple of tables and benches out of one pine tree." - Antti

"We had recently moved, and I bought two Tuias to put in a pot on either side of the front door just before Christmas. I thought they would die in the winter anyway but was surprised to find they were still alive in the spring. I then planted them in the flower bed in front of the house, and there they grew for at least 15 years." - Eija

"I have pieces of Tuias that I can't find a use for. I turned the Tuia into a mullet for Tuija but that wood is not really suitable for lathe. They can go if you have a use for them. They'd burn well, but there's no fireplace. They are dry." - Seppo

"We dumped two logs and they are ready to be picked up. The trunks are male and female, the buckthorn have different sexes. I have grown them myself from seed some time ago. We didn't cut off the top yet, because I thought there were some nice parts, Teijo promised to cut them off at your arrival if necessary." - Elina

"Nina and Matti's apple tree have been very productive and produced delicious apples. Its last blossom was stunningly beautiful, Nina photographed it. A late summer storm toppled the tree, which was full of apple cores. It was a shame, but luckily Nina remembered the advertisement for the tree campaign and contacted." - Tiina Laasonen

"Macke and his family bought the house partly because of the oak tree growing in the yard. A strong spring storm at the height of the peak of the covid times ripped off a branch of the oak tree. Macke offered the wood material to me to be used in the works." - Tiina Laasonen

"Liisa and Timo's old garden has large trees that occasionally have to be pruned and even removed due to their age. From there I have got good pieces of trunk from bird cherry, rowan and apple trees for my artwork. On my last visit, they dug up an oak tree from the ground, grown from a Spanish acorn." - Tiina Laasonen

"In the front yard of Ritva and Arvo's house there was a large and old juniper tree that had to be cut down. Ritva told me that it was such a nuisance to cut it down, but it would be a joy if something could be done from it. The juniper dried for a long time ago and part of it ended up in another work in 2022 and the rest I have used for the Swing work." - Tiina Laasonen

"Irma once brought up an un-split and rounded piece of a deciduous tree about a metre long that they had used as a flower stand. They were getting rid of it, so I accepted the offer. I stored the tree bollard and other things in the study with it until recently I remembered it and dug it out of storage. It transform to three beautiful pearls." - Tiina Laasonen

"Jaakko always surprises me by bringing me a precious piece of dry wood. It's usually beech, which doesn't grow in Jaakko's yard. Sometimes Jaakko would tell me that the beech was from a dismantled central European pallet. This treasure, too, has been refined into a pearl." - Tiina Laasonen

"Jouni donated birch planks he had dried in his attic as material for his work. The birch had grown slowly in the yard of his house in Raahe. It was a dense birch tree" - Tiina Laasonen

Donators: Antti's apple tree (Lapua), Arvo and Ritva's juniper (Seinäjoki), Eija and Timo's tuia (Seinäjoki), Elina and Pirkko's sea buckthorn (Seinäjoki), Jaakko's beech (Seinäjoki), Jouni's birch (Raahe), Liisa and Timo's bird cherry and apple tree (Seinäjoki), Maarit's apple tree (Seinäjoki), Macken family oak (Vaasa), Ossi's and Irma's larch, Seinäjoki city's alder, Seppo's tuia, Virpi's birch (Ilmajoki)

5. Observatory A, B, C
sculpture
2023
Eastern crack-willow

"We played in the tree all our childhood. It was our main playground. There were different places and branches in the tree, which we had named Observatory A, B and C. The tree had a precise hierarchy. The oldest children sat on the top branches."

"Sometimes I went up the tree all by myself, without the older children. Then I could go on whichever branch I wanted. If I was angry or sad, I would climb up there and sit by myself. I'd look at the street and think about everything. I'd sit for a while, calm down and then come away. I also hugged the tree many times."

"We were constantly looking at whether we can go any higher, whether there are even better branches somewhere. And if we'd been to the shop, we went there to eat the sweets. It was particularly fun to jump out of the tree to the side of the street. One branch grew on the footpath and we also tried to get to the tree through it. We jumped and grabbed the branch and tried to pull ourselves up. The white fence on the side of the yard made it easier to climb the tree."

"We moved away when I was a teenager. Every time I passed by, I would look at it and remember fondly my childhood. It was sad when it was cut down and the place is now empty, but wonderful that the tree was there for my childhood."

- Venny ja Vilma

"In Vaasa, in the yard of Klemetinkatu 9, a large Eastern crack-willow grew between the houses. Residents thought it had been planted in the 1950s. Unfortunately for everyone, the tree had to be cut down because of a drainage renovation in a neighbouring house. The decision was made easier by the knowledge that the tree will end up as a work of art." - Tiina Laasonen

Donations: Klemetinkatu 9 housing association, Vaasa

6. Happy Ever After
sculpture
2025
Pear tree

"Eija and Timo planted a pear tree in the yard of their family home on their 10th wedding anniversary. When the tree was still small, it had to be moved to a more sheltered spot. On the southern wall of the house, it grew and produced pears. The tree had to be pruned occasionally because of a disease that caused the leaves to turn brown. The resilient tree grew new branches until it was finally decided to cut it down after its 21st anniversary. Eija was overjoyed at the idea that the tree would live on as a work of art." - Tiina Laasonen

Donations: Eija and Timo's pear tree, Seinäjoki

I Know a Tree that Grew Up

The tree remembers where it grew, and so do I. I remember every tree and lilac bush in our yard. In them I have found my love for the tree as a living organism, piled material, and medium for art

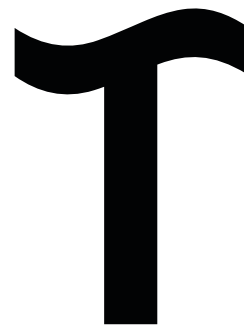
- Tiina Laasonen

Tiina Laasonen explores humanity and the connection between human beings and natural world. Through her art as well as the process of working Laasonen reflects on the emotional bond associated with trees, the way they connect to our memories, personal histories and identities. The works in the exhibition are made from wood collected through an open call. Local people in Seinäjoki, Lapua and Vaasa donated material for the art works. While collecting the wood material for the art works, the artist took notes on the memories and stories related to it.

The stories and memories later became central to the exhibition: they are the subject of the art works as well as the starting point for the formal language of the exhibition. Large wooden strips, knits and beads symbolize continuity in the chain of generations and time. The works are interconnected to the region through their stories and material.

The artist herself still remembers how she and her mother planted an apple tree in the garden cleared from a dandelion field. Years later, Laasonen's mother gave an apple tree branch cut by a storm to her, hoping that the branch could be turned into a work of art. In the end, the branch got a new life as Mother's Apple Tree Branch, an artwork on display in the exhibition.

Text by Laura Laukkanen



TIINA LAASONEN

Tiina Laasonen (b. 1968) works with sculpture and spatial art. In her work, craftsmanship and traditional woodworking techniques are united with contemporary sculpture. Laasonen works with wood by sawing, planing, gluing, carving, and turning. The different shapes, properties, and the warmth and softness of wood, make wood Laasonen's favorite material.

Laasonen graduated from the Kankaanpää Art School as a sculptor in 1993. Laasonen has also worked as an environmental artist and made several public art works. Her works have been featured in numerous museum and gallery exhibitions in Finland and abroad, and her works belong to many museum and public collections. Laasonen has been awarded the Jaakkoo Cultural Award in 2019, the Ostrobothnia Art Council's prize in 2017, and the Young Ostrobothnian Artist prize in 1997. She is a member of the Association of Finnish Sculptors.



photo by Tiina Laasonen



Take part in the survey
by scanning the QR code!

Inspired by the exhibition, we are collecting memories of trees from South Ostrobothnia, with different meanings and emotional ties. The survey is open during the exhibition 13.6.2025-3.1.2026.

The survey is carried out in cooperation between Kunsthalle Seinäjoki and Seinäjoki Museums. The results of the survey will be stored in the archives of Seinäjoki Museums to be used in research and exhibition activities. All the answers for the survey will be summarised and posted on the Museum's Facebook page after the survey has been completed.

KUNSTHALLE SEINÄJOKI

art curator
Laura Laukkanen

art producer
Pii Anttila

technician
Miika Vainionkulma

exhibition assistant
Alan Bulfin

producer for public programmes
Ruu Kumpulainen

THANKS

Vesa Kaivo-oja

Elina Teitti

Sanna Karimäki-Nuutinen

Katariina Vestergård

For installing the exhibition: Miika and Alan

Donaters of trees: Antti, Arvo, Ritva,

Eija, Timo, Elina, Pirkko, Jaakko, Jouni,

Liisa, Timo, Maarit, family of Macke, Ossi,

Irma, Seppo, Nuutinen's family, Virpi,

Klementinkatu 9 housing association

Seinäjoki Museums

Seinäjoki Library

The artist is supported by Finnish Cultural Foundation
South Ostrobothnia and Art Promotion Centre Finland

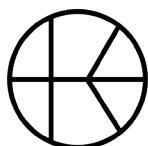


Taiteen edistämiskeskus
Centret för konstfrämjande
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

Exhibition is supported by Finnish Heritage Agency



Museovirasto



**KALEVAN
NAVETTA**



**Seinäjoki
KULTTUURI**

Events

seinajoentaidehalli.fi/en → events

FREE ADMISSION DAYS AT THE KUNSTHALLE

The first Friday of the month is the free admission day at the Kunsthalle.
Upcoming Free Admission Fridays: 4.7., 1.8., 5.9., 3.10.
During July 2025, free entrance every Wednesday: 2.7., 9.7., 16.7., 23.7., 30.7.

AFTERWORK ART

Afterwork Art at the culture centre offers variety of art and culture activities every first Friday of the month. Upcoming days: 4.7., 1.8. 5.9., 3.10 Evening bistro at the restaurant and free entrance to the exhibitions.
Program at kalevannavetta.fi

THE SUMMER ARTIST EMMI KAIRENIUS

During 2.6.– 2.8.2025.
During the summer, Emmi Kairenius will carry out an art project in which she works as the official professional playmaker of the City of Seinäjoki. Follow the artist's summer: @kesakuvataiteilija

Summer Artist's Programme:

PLAY TRIP TO THE CITY

Finnish Visual Arts Day 10.7. at 17.00, Kaleva Navetta
Join us for an open play trip, where the urban environment will be explored through experimental play.

The CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PLAY

The office is open every Wednesday in July from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission.
The Department of Play offers up-to-date play tips for different locations in the city, as well as other expert services and activities to guide you through experimental play.

LATE NIGHT PLAY TRIP FOR ADULTS

Fri 4 July, free admission. Join us for an open play experience, exploring the urban environment through experimental play.

VIDEOSCREENING

Fri 1 Aug 11am-7pm, Itikka space
Bringing together the summer urban play experiences of the summer artist, presenting Kairenius' artistic work in the form of a documentary in the urban environment of Seinäjoki.

KUNSTHALLE SEINÄJOKI

Customer service is open on opening hours.
Mon–Fri at 11am–7pm
Sat at 11am–3pm

Tel. 050 514 3407
taidehalli@seinajoki.fi
Art and Culture Centre Kalevan Navetta
Nyykkölinkatu 25, 60100 Seinäjoki

Tickets:
Adults 10 €
Students, pensioners
conscripts, unemployed 4 €

Free admission for children under 18 years.
Free admission to assistants of persons with sensory and physical disabilities during the visit.

GUIDED ART TOURS OF SEINÄJOKI STATION

Thu 14 August at 6pm | €10 per adult.
Come and discover the latest public art in Seinäjoki's new station area together with an guide.
The tour that takes a closer look at six works of art located in different parts of the station complex starts in the lobby of the new railway station and lasts about 45 mins. Tickets: netticket.fi/seinajoen-taidehalli

MUU-KESÄ OPEN DAY'S WORKSHOPS

Wed 2.7. at 12-14 Art workshop: Meditative art
Come and relax with meditative art!
In this workshop we will draw repetitive patterns inspired by the annual rings of trees with markers. Quiet music will play in the background. The workshop is non-stop and an art instructor will be present.

Wed 9.7., 14:45 - 14:45 Guided Tour

The house tour of Kalevan Navetta will showcase the house's colourful history from a barn to a base factory, to a military warehouse and an arts and culture centre. The tour also includes a visit to art exhibitions. The free tour starts in the lobby of at 14:00 and lasts about 45 minutes.

Wed 16 July, 14-16 Art Workshop: Plant printmaking
The workshop is non-stop and will be facilitated by an art instructions.

Wed 23.7. & 30.7. from 11 am to 7 pm Summer art projects. Offering DIY projects take their inspiration from the exhibitions on display.

NIGHT OF PHENOMENA:

OPENING OF AN ART EXHIBITION

Fri 5.9.2025 at 5pm to 10pm | Exhibition space Vintti
Wuhuu! The Night of Phenomena (Ilmiöiden yö) invites you to explore different cultural contents in the new urban event in the city during one evening! Kunsthalle Seinäjoki will celebrate with everyone the opening of an art exhibition Still I Rise by Sarah Nakiito and Liisa-Irmelen Liwata.

BOOK FOR YOUR GROUP

Guided Tours, Art Workshops or Art Birthdays

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