

SARAH NAKIITO

(SE/UG)

LIISA-IRMELEN

LIWATA (FI)



Still I Rise

6.9.2025 – 7.2.2026

SEINÄJOEN TAIDEHALLI

seinajoentaidehalli.fi

Invitation

OPENING Fri 5th of September 2025 at 6-10pm

A duo exhibition Still I Rise by artists Sarah Nakiito and Liisa-Irmelen Liwata opens at Kunsthalle Seinäjoki. Exhibition weaves together two practices rooted in resilience, ancestral memory, and the ever-evolving act of self-definition. Nakiito's and Liwata's works navigate the emotional and political terrain of survival, where defiant hope, tactile materiality, and deeply personal mythologies converge.

Sarah Nakiito, a former migration researcher turned artist, utilizes textiles and performance to navigate the experience of being a black woman in a diaspora. Sarah Nakiito's practice is shaped by the duality of her lived experience between Sweden and Uganda. Her works examine contrasting cultural responses to crisis, drawing attention to the instinctive collectivism in migrant and diasporic communities versus the individualism often present in Western contexts. This tension is embodied through her use of bark cloth: Olubugo.

Liisa-Irmelen Liwata, working with ceramics as a canvas, creates layered surfaces that echo the intermingling of cultures and experiences. Her tactile works evoke a sense of the body as a living map, marked by ancestral connections and the land one inhabits. In Seinäjoki Kunsthalle's exhibition Liisa-Irmelen Liwata's work is rooted in the concept of napa—the Finnish word for “belly button”. Her practice explores the navel as both physical origin and central point of orientation. This duality becomes a metaphorical compass, guiding an exploration of cultural identity, bodily memory, and belonging.

The exhibition takes its name from Maya Angelou's (1928–2014) groundbreaking poem Still I Rise (1978). The exhibition is curated by Elham Rahmati and Vidha Saumya, artists and founders No NIIN magazine.

PROGRAM

6–6.30 pm | Hugo-event space (2nd floor)

Artist and curator interviews for the Still I Rise exhibition in English.
Interviewer: Laura Laukkanen, art curator at Kunsthalle Seinäjoki.

7–9 pm | Workshop space Itikka (2nd floor)

Workshop: Star Projector | non-stop

The opening is part of the Ilmiöiden yö (Night of the Phenomena)
-event in Seinäjoki.

Check the program: www.taideseinajoki.fi/ilmioidenyo

Art and Culture Centre Kalevan Navetta, Nyykoolinkatu 23, Seinäjoki, Finland

KUNSTHALLE
SEINÄJOKI