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ANNA-KAROLIINA VAINIO

NINNI LUHTASAARI

ANNI HAUNIA

ILAI ELIAS LEHTO

ERIKA HIRSIMÄKI

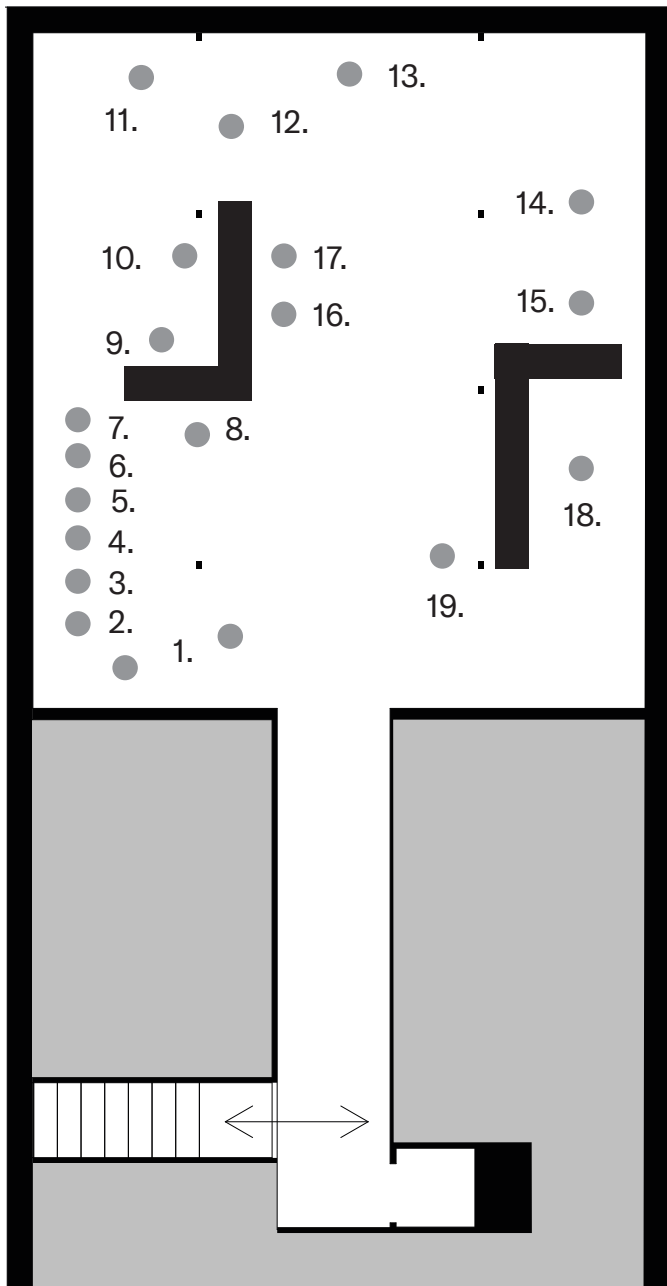
Pisto.

16.6.- 21.8.2021

KUNSTHALLE
SEINÄJOKI

EXHIBITION
GUIDE

Exhibition space VINTTI



- 1. Anni Haunia
sen alati hapuilevat, monet
(fumbling always, manies)
2019
Textile weave
Waste textile, carpet tissue plaided by Kaisa, piece of wood that Kaisa found, fish wire, yarn that was found from flea market and from Antero's, Kaisa's, Rita's and mom's staches, braid weaved by Rita and Niina, industrial surplus leotard, polyester ribbons, cotton yarn.
You can stroke the artwork softly.
- 2. Ninni Luhtasaari
Lean on Me
2021
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass beads and sequin on recycled fabric
- 3. Ninni Luhtasaari
Pantera Albums Ranked
2021
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass beads and sequin on recycled fabric
- 4. Ninni Luhtasaari
Pretend It's a Forest
2021
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass beads and sequin on recycled fabric
- 5. Ninni Luhtasaari
Top 10 Sofas
2021
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass beads and sequin on recycled fabric
- 6. Ninni Luhtasaari
Mood
2020
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass beads and sequin on recycled fabric

#kunsthalleseinajoki

More information: taidehalli@seinajoki.fi

- 7. Ninni Luhtasaari
Gold Tooth
2020
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass beads
and sequin on recycled fabric
- 8. Ninni Luhtasaari
The Valley Sweepers
2020
Contemporary embroidery
Mouline cotton thread, glass and
natural stone beads, sequin
on recycled fabric
Tampere Art Museum Collection
- 9. Erika Hirsimäki
Plan D
Glinting strenght
Look of the Sun and voice
2019
Textile work
Weaved and felted jacquard textile
- 10. Erika Hirsimäki
I Float in Gold
I black out I black out I black out
I black out I black out I black out
2019
Textile work
Knitted textile
- 11. Erika Hirsimäki
Landscape After Tipi
I want you to know that Fantasies are real
(Affected by Running's, Angel's let's Go)
2019
Textile work
Weaved jacquard textile
- 12. Erika Hirsimäki
Silent Service
Tweety's tale has turned into a funeral
that never took place and just like that
to nourishment of others.
2020
Installation
Weaved and felted jacquard textile, metal
- 13. Ilai Elias lehto
Trophy Wall
2020
Installation
Heads of soft teddy bears, yarn, foam
- 14. Anni Haunia
~ , ~ sshhh, wait... ' did I heard from there
some cooing? ~ , ' ~ '
2021
Textile weave
Acrylic yarn, hemp yarn that Kaisa spunned, yarn found
from Kaisa's, Pirjo's and Rita's staches, fish wire, grease
from hands, handlotion, polyester, cotton yarn, dust, saw
dust, silk, leotard, wool yarn. Thank you Nextiili, friends
and acquaintances for the recycled textiles.
You can stroke the artwork softly, and step through it.
- 15. Anna-Karoliina Vainio
Paradise on Your Skin
2021
Knotted-pile woollen rug
- 16. Anna-Karoliina Vainio
The Golden Egg
2021
Knotted-pile woollen rug
- 17. Anna-Karoliina Vainio
The World on a Plate
2021
Knotted-pile woollen rug
- 18. Ilai Elias lehto
Incubator
2020
Installation
Kids' pool table, fake hair fabric,
net bags, heat lamp, PVC-fabric
- 19. Ilai Elias lehto
Cradle
2019
Installation
Felting wool, lamp with a twilight switch, mirror

Pisto.

Pisto. (Stitch) is a group exhibition of five contemporary artists at Vintti in the Kunsthalle Seinäjoki. The exhibition has been curated by the Kunsthalle Seinäjoki and it was created at junction of two observations by the program team planning the exhibition program. Even before moving to the Kalevan Navetta, four policies were developed around which the repertoire will be built. In the case of Pisto., one of the policies specially highlighted is Tila (the Space), which includes not only the spatial and architectural features of the exhibition spaces, but also the historical layers. In other words, the fascinating story of the Kalevan Navetta. The 130-year-old house has been home to a baize factory from 1909 to 1929. In addition, the arts and cultural centre's community includes the handicraft-inspired Taito Etelä-Pohjanmaa with its shop and courses offered. As the past and the present of the premises radiate handicrafts and textiles as material, these themes were also addressed from the perspective of contemporary art.

Another observation was that there seemed to be many interesting young contemporary artists using textiles in their own way. Curiosity arose to delve more closely into contemporary textile art. What are the characteristics that textile as a material brings into the work of artists? What does the playfulness that seems to be related to creation tell us? To the Pisto. exhibition Kunsthalle Seinäjoki team has curated five young artists, who are united not only by textile as a material and the imaginative use of handicraft techniques, but also by contemporary and difficult social issues and the sequence of thoughts related to tradition and the eternal continuum.

Many meanings of recycling

The artists are connected by the use of discovered and recycled materials. This expresses practicality and ecological pursuits, but also has broader meanings. **Anni Haunia's** yarns from various people bring a personal level and emotional relation to the work, which is emphasized by the description of the origin of the materials in the work information. Her dangling and sprawling textile weaves explicate the process-like nature of creating, which also includes the unexpectedness of finding materials, the slowness of hand-knitting, and the unfolding of feelings, shapes, and colors. As such, art emerges as the outcome of various material and social currents. From Haunia we can see two textile weaves in the exhibition, whose poetic names stimulate their meaning and add many possibilities of interpretation. On one hand, the artist leads us to reflect on change and symptoms of present; on the other hand, to reflect on the meaning of touch.

Touching and feeling a material are central in the works of Pisto. artists. From **Ilai Elias Lehto** we can see three spatial works in the exhibition. The felted Kehto ("the Cradle") and the Hautomo ("the Incubator") built on top of the dumpster diving pool table invite to a gentle touch. The main technique of Lehto, who finds versatile uses for textiles, is wool felting, in which he does not pursue flawless technical implementation but values the unpredictable features of felting work. The process of creation includes lumps and surprising holes that are given the opportunity to guide the work and to influence the artist's plans. The third work is a crooked hunting memory or a trophy-wall utilizing recycled plush toys.

The work highlights the association between hunting and the destruction of soft toys typical of a child. The authority of well-established norms can be seen in the fact that in hunting the “destruction” of an animal is considered normal, while in children’s play it is not. Lehto explores the material that fills our lives, how it circulates and how it is consumed as an expression of identity and a preserver of feelings.

The artists’ ideas highlight how our lives center on textiles. Textile products can be found everywhere in everyday life and textile is linked to many global issues. **Anna-Karoliina Vainio**’s starting points for using textile are related to softness, comfort and continuing of tradition with a contemporary and feminist touch. The rya works, bursting with yarn and woven into jute fabric, convey a powerful symbol of the contexts of paradise and world creation. Peace and harmony seem to be possible. However, especially when brought to the present, and according to the impression left by the larger work *Paradise on Your Skin*, the gentle moment is in danger of falling to pieces.

Material-orientedness meets assertiveness

The use of textiles leads artists into material-oriented work that reaches towards neo-materialistic dimensions. Working with textiles is a slow process, at the same time, the relationship with the work is a close one and the work is influenced by life and experiences. For **Erika Hirsimäki**, working with textile is integral both in terms of its historical fascination and handicraft. In her woven and felted jacquard fabrics, the brightness of form is combined with unscrupulous content. Ideas critical of the society, such as tensions related to animal rights, can be seen in powerful works that can be read as a narrative. The works that borrow methods from conceptual art create confusion about the destiny of the character Tipi, Tweety, from the animation world. Hirsimäki combines textiles with three-dimensionality which can be seen notably in the sculptural piece *Silent Service*. In this work, Tipi’s story has ended either as a funeral never held or as food for others.

In the case of technical execution, contemporary textile art is determined by the dynamics of wild experimentation and slow execution.

In **Ninni Luhtasaari**’s works, this appears as a contrast between spontaneousness and slowness of work. She sketches quickly her embroidery work on the bottom canvas and then continues to work slowly – the sketch lines must be covered. In the works, the yarns, pearls and sequins draw non-human creatures acting or feeling in a human-like. The highly coloured works that make you smile convey a reflection on the unbalanced relation between humans and other living beings, suitable for posthumanistic thinking.

On playfulness, lightness

The playfulness arising from the exhibition’s initial information and considerations is especially evident in the playful approach to material and technology. However, this playfulness is located on the background of reflecting on world situation and the place of humans. The way the exhibition is hanged highlights the contrast between playfulness and seriousness by choosing deliciously pastel colours on the hanging walls. The majestic stylishness of *Vintti* and the almost sacral atmosphere has been coupled with summer lightness to the exhibition experience.

However, the exhibition should not be viewed lightly. The nurturing nature of textile creates a contradiction between concern and criticism about the role of textile in modern world. This perspective connects artists and adds an awakening distortion to the exhibition’s historic connections: the baize factory manufactured fabrics for actual needs a hundred years ago, while nowadays textile waste and acquisition of materials are major global problems.

Text by
Sanna Karimäki-Nuutinen
Art Curator
Kunsthalle Seinäjoki

Artists of the Pisto. Exhibition

Anni Haunia

Anni Haunia's (b. 1995) works are wiggly, hanging textile weaves. In addition to be looked at, her works can also be touched. Anni uses traditional craft techniques: weaving, crocheting and sewing. She creates the works in a simple handlooms that she builds herself. Anni describes her work method rather as wiggling drawing than traditional rug making.

@kanttuveijari | annihaunia.tumblr.com

Erika Hirsimäki

Erika Hirsimäki (b. 1993) is material intensive visual artist. They work with soft materials, but use also photo and video. They are interested in material: where it comes from, how and to who it affects geopolitically and historically. Erika relies on the accelerating and at times stagnant tensions created by their emotions and turns them into fictional narratives and characters, that often address a very different kind of world or reflect pictures of it.

@sadeterika | erikahirsimaki.wixsite.com

Ilai Elias Lehto

Ilai Lehto's (b. 1988) passion are fuzzy and soft things that he works on blending work techniques of crafts and visual art. The most notisable of these techniques is felting. There is often also text, sound art and performance in the works. He explores questions of consumption and identity and is especially interested in peoples' relationships to objects and items – objects and items as containers for emotions that are mirrors for dreams and fears.

@ilaielias | ilaielias.com

Ninni Luhtasaari

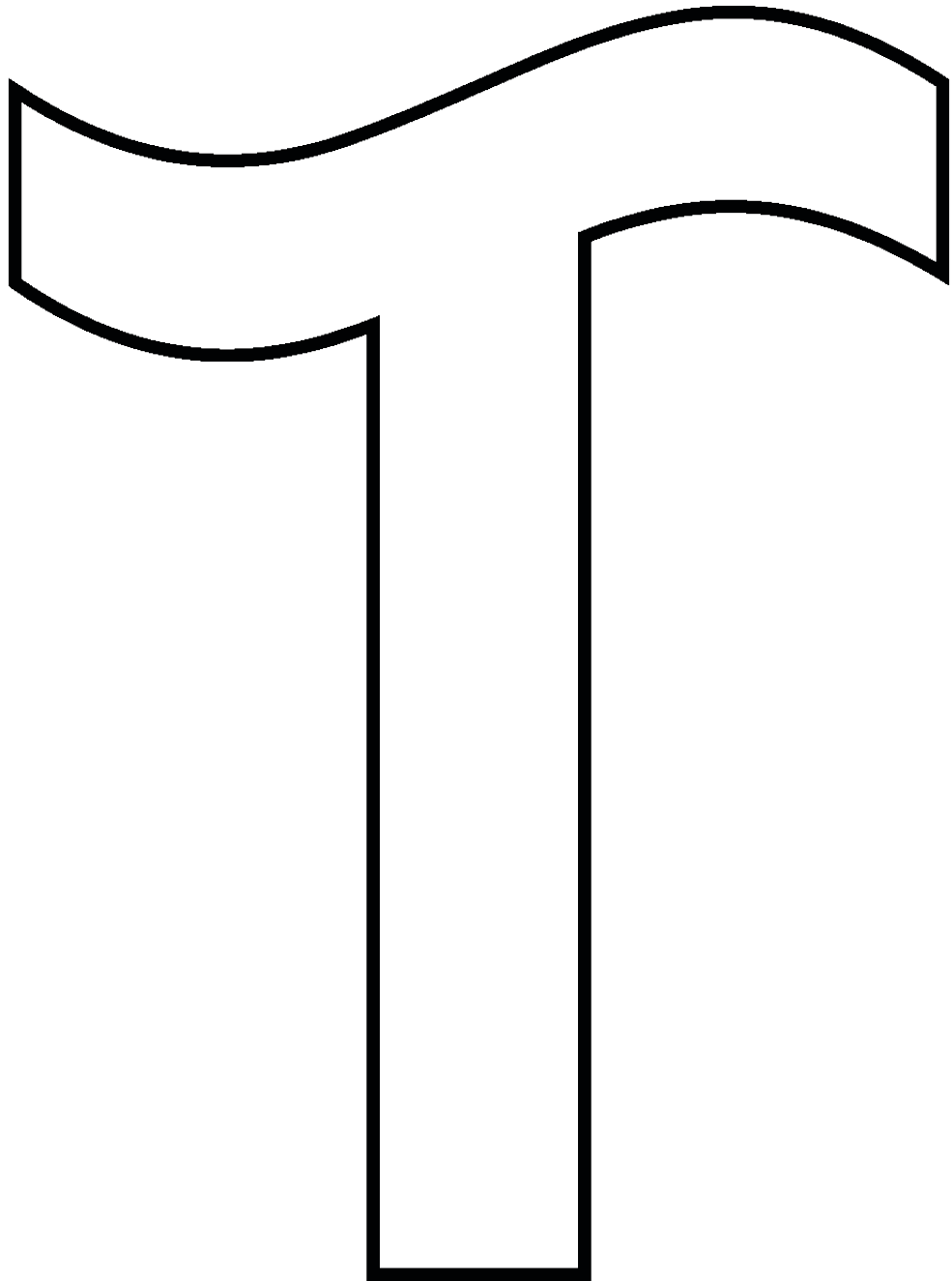
Ninni Luhtasaari (b. 1987) makes ceramic fountains and hand-embroidery. Her works are embroidered with yarn, beads and sequins. She is interested in contrasts: using a traditional technique and combining it with contemporary imagery. The works address primitive emotions, confusion and feeling comfortable in your own skin. Ninni's long time dream has been to build a contemporary art water park.

@ninniluhtasaari | ninniluhtasaari.com

Anna-Karoliina Vainio

Anna Karoliina Vainio's (b. 1995) works are hand sewn rugs on jute fabric. She works with a very traditional technique. Anna-Karoliina's works continue the long craft tradition: the rug has a strong connection to the Finnish cultural history. The recognized historic and feminist load is present also in the titles and content of her works. The yarn gushing works are safe havens and utopias – worlds with serene peace.

@annakaroliinavainio | annakaroliinavainio.fi



OHEISOHJELMA

MEET THE ARTIST

17.6. at noon until 1 pm

Artist from the Pisto. exhibition are telling about the work to the audience in the exhibition space. Artists Erika Hirsimäki, Ilai Elias Lehto, Ninni Luchtasaari and Anna-Karoliina Vainio are present.

THE STITCH WORKSHOP:

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

19.6.2021 at 9-3pm.

First floor workshop space Kässä

45 € | Sign up at www.arvi.fi

You are warmly welcome to the fabric book making & sketching workshop by artist Anastasia Artemeva. This process-based project invites the audience to experiment with using textiles to record our immediate environment. Each participant will make a portable artistic sketchbook out of fabric. The morning will be spent preparing the materials and sharing ideas and skills. In the afternoon we will get to experiment with sketching using the current exhibition as well as the building itself as a source of inspiration. At the end of the workshop, you will have learnt to sketch using only a needle and thread, look carefully and recognise the patterns in your environment and translate them into fabric forms. Anastasia Artemeva is a visual and socially-engaged artist and researcher based in Helsinki

THE SUMMER ARTIST

On Wednesdays and Thursdays

at the Seinäjoki Market Square

23.6-29.7. 2021

The Summer Artist Riikka Gröndahl runs an artistic project Silent Portrait, where she films video portraits of people at the Seinäjoki market square. The art work is participatory and open for everyone. After the summer the work will be stored in the archives of the Seinäjoki Museums. Later it can be presented to the future generations. The City of Seinäjoki has employed an Summer Artist each year since 2017.

KALEVAN NAVETTA SUMMER PARTY

Wed 30.6.2021 at 6-8pm

Free entrance to Kunsthalle Seinäjoki, conversation guide and the Summer Artist Riikka Gröndahl. are present. Äärellä Restaurant and Taito Shop Seinäjoki are open. Craftwork Picnic, exhibition by Sirkka Könönen on the first floor. Craft & Design pop-up sell booths. Sound environment and camera obscura at the Kammio space.

TAIDEHALLI VÄLITTÄÄ: CONVEYOR BELT PRODUCTION

26.-28.8.2021 at the workshop space Itikka

Artists: Arttu Isotalo, Heikki Korkala, Iina Vartia,

Jere Kilpinen, Milla Tervakangas, Rosalia Silfer

Production: Kulttuuripumppu ry

Kulttuuripumppu is a performance group. They will demonstrate a contemporary baize factory. Artists are creating a conveyor belt, where they modify the fabric donations from the audience to a site-specific art work.

KUNSTHALLE SEINÄJOKI

Mon-Fri at 11am-7pm

Sat at 11am-3pm

Customer service is open on opening times.

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Art and Culture Centre Kalevan Navetta

Nyykoolinkatu 25, 60100 Seinäjoki

Tickets:

Adults 6 €

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.

Free admission for everyone on the first Friday of the month.

Free admission with Museum Card.

Tickets for the Kunsthalle Seinäjoki can be purchased from the Taito Shop Seinäjoki located on the first floor of the Kalevan Navetta during the opening hours.

Tickets can also be booked in advance from the online store. Kunsthalle also offers various service packages in cooperation with the restaurant Äärellä.

www.kalevannavetta.fi

seinajoentaidehalli.fi



@seinajoentaidehalli



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Taidehalli Seinäjoki

