

ANNE KATRINE
SENSTAD

Radical Light

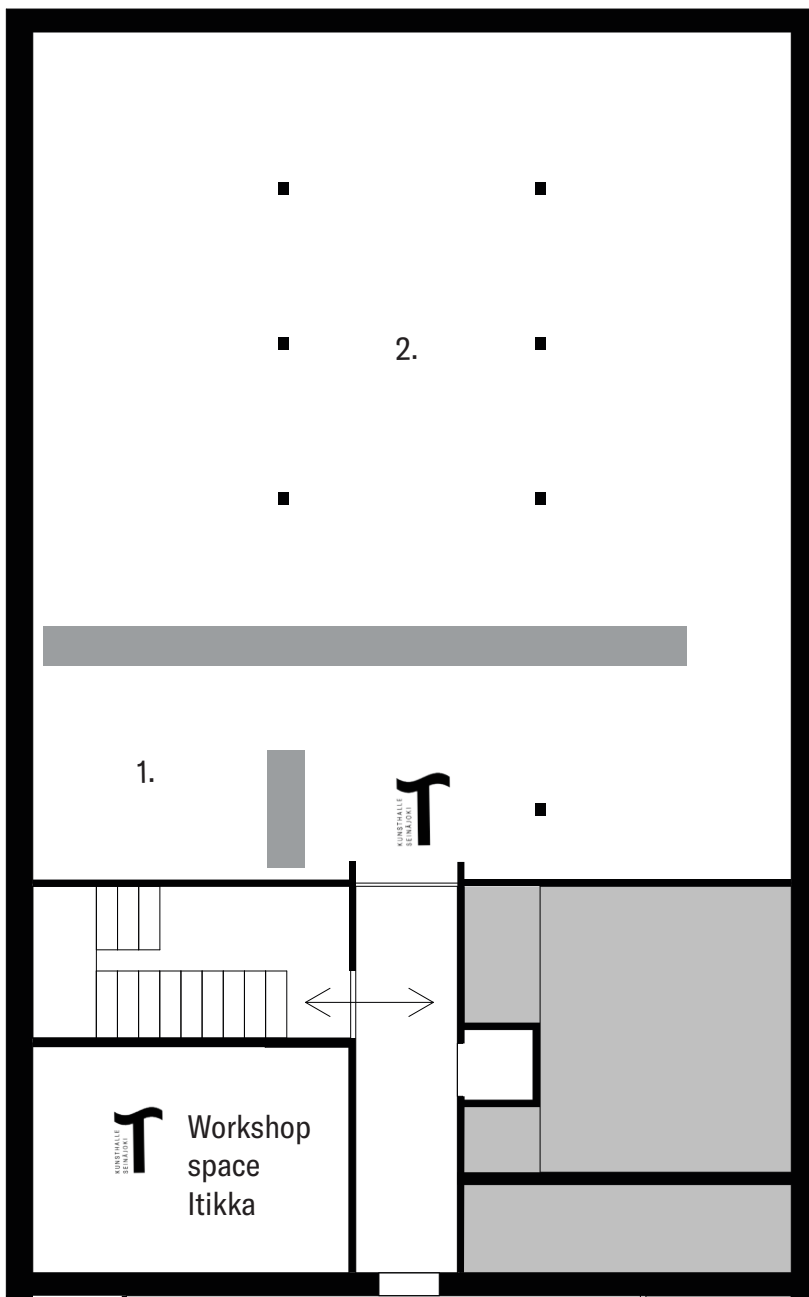
Elements VI

16.6.-4.9.2021

KUNSTHALLE
SEINÄJOKI

Exhibition Guide

Exhibition space HALLI



1. The Sensory Chamber IV
2021
111 min loop
16:9
Salt in Birch bed
Sound by JG Thirlwell

2. Elements VI
2021
Neon, transformers,
transparent columns,
architectural space
Sound by JG Thirlwell

#annekatrinesenstad

#kunsthalleseinajoki

More information: taidehalli@seinajoki.fi

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Radical Light

– Elements VI

In Radical Light – Elements VI by Norwegian artist Anne Katrine Senstad we encounter abstract light sculptures accompanied by ambient sound – a space filled with particles of white light that produce a total environment, encompassing all the senses. Upon entering, the viewer is welcomed by The Sensory Chamber, an intimate video installation or “ante-chamber”, where the hypnotic moving images are projected onto a bed of white salt crystals moving through hues of blues, red, pinks, whites and turquoise.

In the grand space, the installation Elements VI is defined by the unity of chromatic white neon composed of twenty-nine vertical light columns enveloped by a white horizon that stand amidst the concrete columns of the former industrial and military warehouse. Slender glass tubes filled with neon and argon, illuminate the space at color temperatures between 3500 to 8300 Kelvin degrees, ranging from warmer satin and egg-shell whites to colder green and icy blue hues, indicating simultaneously the physical character of the color white and its cosmology of cultural narratives.

Enveloping the public in a sound environment created specifically for Radical Light by electronic music composer JG Thirlwell, the abstract aural experience embodies the spatial sensations of electrical particles, luminosity and noble gases. In composing a sensory environment of pure light, Senstad is primarily examining the emotional and semiotic connotations produced by white as a color: bright white light as eternity, purity, perfection, a symbol of death and rebirth; or naturally clean white as something that departs from reality and approaches the surreal – the white tiger, the albino moose, the great white whale.

On the other hand, Senstad’s installation produces a separation between the light source as an information channel and its cultural meanings, demonstrating how various shades of white are nothing more than sensations of electromagnetic wavelengths that can be altered by changing the ratio of noble gases harnessed within the glass tubes.

The physical properties of neon and argon facilitate the transportation of electricity that produce luminal spectrums with a discrete durational hum. Light is always physically present in space, similar to its transformative effects

on surrounding objects or enclosing walls. The use of light as material, its scale and the purity of the white hues, refer to a radicalization of space and color, striving towards their zero-degree, making it possible to pose questions on the character of the artwork and challenge its place within the gallery.

The idea of a pure white color has enthralled 20th century avant-garde artists like Kazimir Malevich or Robert Rauschenberg. It signified for them an endpoint of previous artistic developments and a transgression beyond the canonic rules of the artworld. But a white canvas was simultaneously a mirror and a blank slate, receiving signals from its environs and registering its temporary interventions. From that point, there was only one step towards art that undid the separation between the artwork and its surrounding space. Senstad's work is situated in the tradition of installation art, where the surrounding environment and the viewer become part of the work itself. By moving between the light columns, at different speeds, on different days or at different times, observing the change in light and shadow, the gallery space acquires an equal role with the installation elements and sounds.

Elements VI bears a relationship to the geographic location in Seinäjoki – with the silvery and white hues of the northern hemisphere during the peak of the sun's atmospheric presence – but it also makes a reference to the built history of its location. Not far from the Kunsthalle stands the civic and administrative centre of Seinäjoki by Alvar Aalto, crowned by the monumental Lakeuden Risti Church (1957-60). Its white interior creates emotional effects for the viewer through the sculpturality of its vertical tectonic elements, gently curving vaults and the seamless transformation between the ceiling and the apse.

Representing Scandinavian modernism, the spiritual is mediated there through reduced geometries, volumetric spatial vision and perhaps most importantly, the light from vertical windows reflected off from the bright white interior walls.

Unlike the church, the Kunsthalle closes itself off from the external light and transports the viewer to a sensorially immersive space of an artificially controlled light and sound environment, encapsulating the human body in a system of matrices, electricity and glass tubes. Senstad's invitation to contemplation and introspection is detached from any institutional or instrumental function. The installation becomes a counter-environment that transforms the visitors' perception of space and time and provides potential for a radical cultural experience.

Text by Andreas Kurg, Art historian

ANNE KATRINE SENSTAD

Norwegian artist Anne Katrine Senstad's practice lies in the multi disciplinary intersections of light art, photography and video, immersive installation and site specificity, with a focus on the phenomena of perception and the human cognitive system through the properties of light, sound and color. Within the language of aesthetics and the sensorial, Senstad examines our transformational processes - the transcendental elements inherent in art and philosophical practices. Through advanced in depth research she has examined spatial, topological and scientific phenomena of light, sound and color since the mid 1990's - a foundation for her explorations of the experiential and experimental.

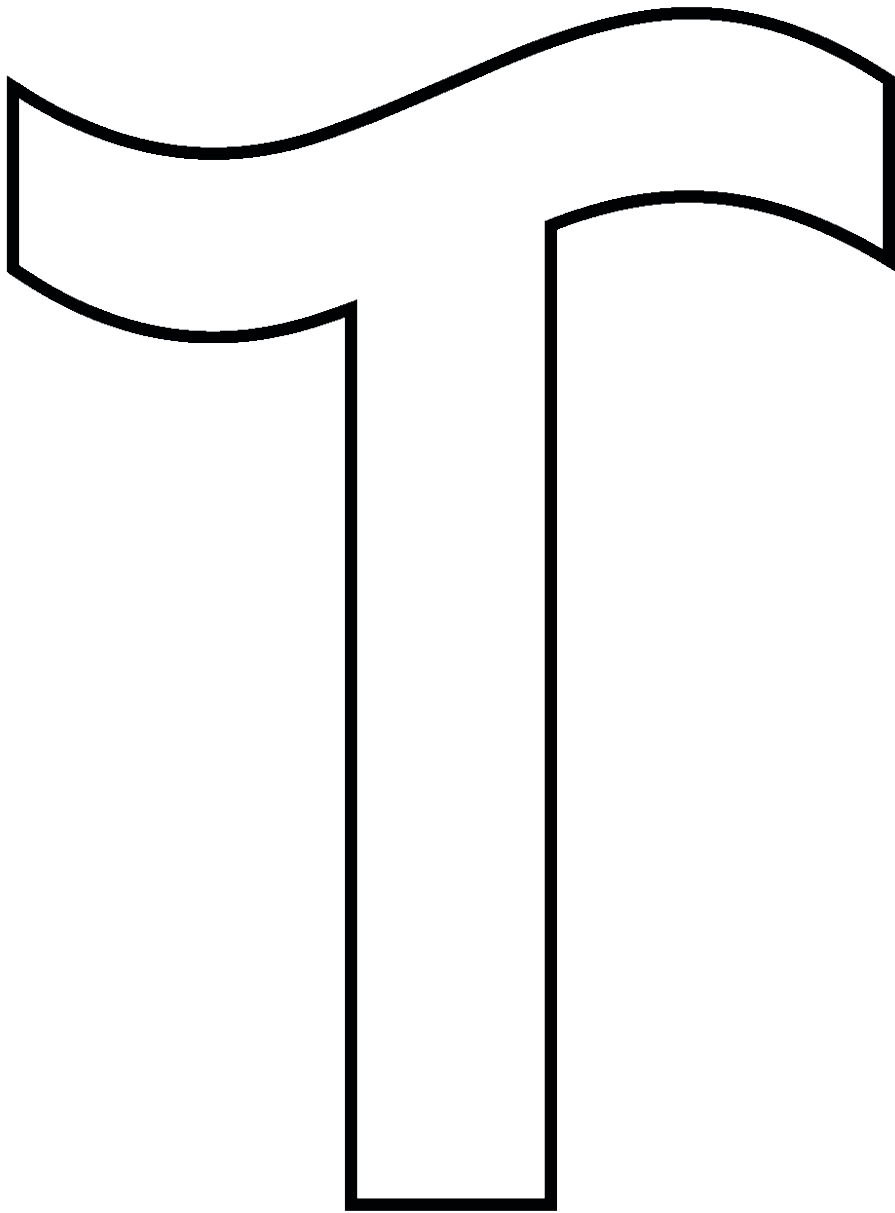
In her text works Senstad addresses ethics and philosophy through text installation statements and word play, utilizing commercial signage and neon. Senstad's practice on socially engaged field projects and land art works, includes cultural, social and political interactions, performative interventions

and feminist collaborations to create wider educational and cultural platforms between diverse ideologies. Through this, Senstad seeks to develop the possibility for what she sees as a new folklore and an amalgamation between post-modern individualism and internationalism.

Select exhibitions include: Seinäjoki Kunsthall in Finland, Kai Art Center in Estonia, He Xiangning Art Museum in Shenzhen, Zendai MoMa in Shanghai, S12 Gallery and Trafo Kunsthall in Norway, Freight and Volume Gallery and Yi Gallery in New York. Biennales include Bruges Art and Architecture Triennale, Prospect 3+ New Orleans, 2015, 56th Venice Biennale and 55th Venice Biennale.

Anne Katrine Senstad was raised in Singapore and Norway, today she lives and works between New York and Oslo. She received her art education at Parsons School of Design and The New School for Social Research in New York 1994 and 1999.

annesenstad.com



The exhibition is produced
by Kunsthalle Seinäjoki
together with Kai Art Center
in Tallinn, Estonia.

Collaboration with
The Finnish Art Promotion
Centre and The Royal
Norwegian Embassy in
Helsinki have made the
exhibition possible.

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Kunsthalle Seinäjoki



Norwegian Embassy



Taiteen edistämiskeskus
Centret för konstfrämjande
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

Kai__center

EVENTS

More information:

<https://www.seinajoentaidehalli.fi/en/program/#oheisohjelma>

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 Silber
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.

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.

KUNSTHALLE SEINÄJOKI

Mon-Fri at 11am-7pm

Sat at 11am-3pm

Customer service is open on opening times.

Tel. 050 514 3407

taidehalli@seinajoki.fi

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

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Taidehalli Seinäjoki

