



ANNE LEHTELÄ
TEEMU MÄKI
ALINA SINIVAARA
MARIA STEREO
KRISTER GRÅHN
HANNAMARI MATIKAINEN

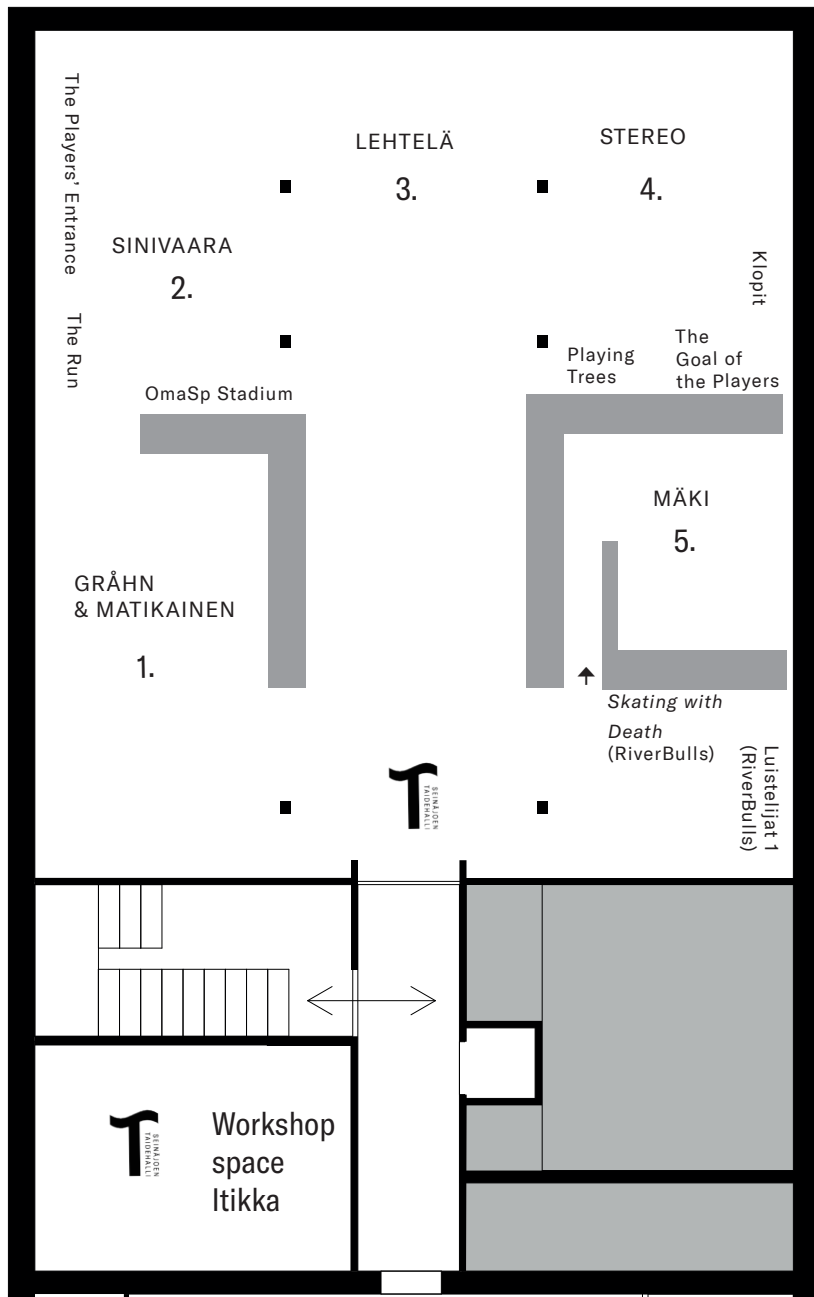
DERBY

21.1. – 27.5.2023

KUNSTHALLE
SEINÄJOKI

Exhibition guide

Exhibition space HALLI



21.1.-27.5.2023

DERBY

Derby is an art exhibition about sports. The exhibition studies the numerous sports activities in Seinäjoki and asks what art and sports have in common.

Kunsthalle Seinäjoki invited six artists and five local sports communities to join the exhibition project. During the process, the artists have had the opportunity to get to know the characteristics of various sports and their importance to their enthusiasts. In the exhibition, the artists' observations and interpretations take the form of paintings, spatial and sound work, sculpture, and documentary film.

Derby is a term used in sports, which most often refers to a local match and the meeting of traditionally rivalling teams. What are the underlying assumptions concerning the antagonism between sports and art? After all, they have a lot in common. Both include passion, technical skill, training, unique aesthetics, and creativity. Derby explores what these rivals give each other.

Curator
Sanna Karimäki-Nuutinen

Exhibition Production
Pii Anttila

Public Production
Elina Teitti
Minna Peltoniemi
Ruusu-Maria Lappalainen

Technicians
Miika Vainionkulma
Alan Bulfin

Exhibition side events have been funded by
Kuortaneen Säästöpankkisäätiö



**1. KRISTER GRÅHN
JA HANNAMARI MATIKAINEN**

*How much stick tape
is too much stick tape?*
2022

Installation

Audio works:

4-channel sound installation
throughout the space,
duration 1.51 min,
the sounds of baseball
practice at Seinäjoki Areena.

Headphone 1:

Duration 8.28 min,
coach Jussi Järvinen's
voice during training.

Headphone 2:

Duration 2.41 min,
game sounds from
Seinäjoen Maila-Jussit
T06-08 team's home
games.

Gold and stick tape-
covered objects on
Ikea Kallax shelf units:
Sunscreen bottle, hamburger
box, wall calendar, baseball,
disposable mug, protein drink
can, alarm clock, gas receipt,
bank card, playing pants,
the book *Urheilulajien synty*
(the Birth of Sports), deodorant,
stick tape roll, soccer
ball.

Gold medal, jersey,
smartphone, game fan, heart
pillow, referee's whistle, foam
bat, tissue pack, water bottle,
hair tie, panty liner, baseball
cap, tennis ball.

In cooperation with:

Laura, Vilma, Elise,
Noora and Enna from
the SMJT06-08 team,
and coach Jussi Järvinen.

Sound recording and
processing: Sami Silén.

2. ALINA SINIVAARA

OmaSP Stadium
2022, oil and acrylic
on canvas.

The Run
2022, oil and acrylic
on canvas.

The Players' Entrance
2022, oil and acrylic
on canvas.

"Klopit"
2022, oil and acrylic
on canvas

*The Goal of
the Playing Field*
2022, oil and acrylic
on canvas.

Playing Trees
2022, oil and acrylic
on canvas.

More information
alina.sinivaara@saunalahti.fi

3. ANNE LEHTELÄ

*"absorption of the entity
(which used to have a
distinct and independent
existence)"*
2023
Installation

Tent structure, forest turf,
scent, video projections,
breathing sound

Video recordings:
Rasti-Jussit

4. MARIA STEREO

Holy Arch
2023
Sculpture

Wood, porcelain,
ceramic objects, and glue.

More information:
mariastereo@gmail.com

5. TEEMU MÄKI

*Skating with Death
(RiverBulls)*
2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas.

*Skaters 1
(RiverBulls)*
5.1.2023
Watercolour and
Indian ink on paper

*RiverBulls
(A letter to Putin)*
2023
A documentary film
58 min.

Part 1: RiverBulls, 29 min.
Part 2:
A letter to Putin, 18 min.
Part 3: Postscript, 11 min.

Script and direction:
Teemu Mäki

Production company:
ISLE Art Industries Oy.
Producer Janiv Oskár

Edit:
Teemu Mäki & Janiv Oskár

Cinematography:
Rasmus Hasu, Janiv Oskár,
Santeri Norrbacka

Photography:
Rene Luhtala

Sound recording and mixing:
Janiv Oskár & Joel Riskumäki

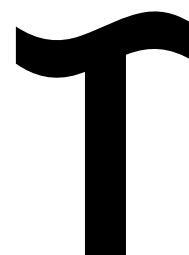
Color grading:
Santeri Norrbacka

Funding:
Kordelin Foundation
Kunsthalle Seinäjoki
Art Promotion Centre
Finland

More information:
teemu@teemumaki.com



**Kuortaneen
Säästöpankkisäätiö**



Is art a team sport?

Kunsthalle Seinäjoki's perspectives on art and sports

by curator Sanna Karimäki-Nuutinen

The initial idea for the Derby exhibition arose among the Kunsthalle Seinäjoki team in September 2020. The idea started from the consideration of the juxtaposition of art and sports. Why are these aspects of life and culture often thought to be contrasting? From the beginning, one of the exhibition projects' dimensions was reaching out to new audiences and experimenting with cooperation models. Are there active exhibition visitors among sports enthusiasts? What happens when artists and athletes meet, cogitate, and work together? What do art and sports have to offer each other?

The starting point was, therefore, communal and local, although it was not assumed that the artists would work via a community art practice. The artists were given free rein to draw inspiration from the sport proposed to them with its local ties. Some of the invited artists already had a previous relationship with sports in their artistic practice. **Anne Lehtelä** uses her running body and the effects of running on the environment as material for her conceptual works. **Alina Sinivaara**, on the other hand, is an expressive interpreter of football events, and **Teemu Mäki** has published a collection of poems, *Poika ja Pallo* (2020), which contain football poems. However, the artist's relationship with physical training or sports was not the only, or even the most central, starting point for the choice of artists. For all artists, cooperation with sports clubs brought a new approach to their art-making. Our idea was that the exhibition would examine the connections between art and sports from several perspectives and in many forms.

Maria Stereo's distinctive visual world was hoped to bring a compelling contrast to the sports imagery. The teamwork of **Krister Gråhn** and **Hannamari Matikainen** and their practice of developing new techniques opened an opportunity for something unpredictable. We are grateful that the artists came with an open mind and met the local people from the sports communities—listening, asking questions, and exploring the context through their own interpretations. The result of a couple of years of work is an exhibition where the experiences and dialogue are revealed in paintings, sculptures, installations, and a documentary film.

As the exhibition approaches, any anxieties the curatorial team had around confrontation seem distant. Art and sports have a lot in common. Both include passion, emotions, technical skill, training, unique aesthetics, and creativity. Both can be practised as a hobby or as a profession. Art and sports have a social significance for people's well-being, self-development, and community spirit—supporting a healthy work, economic, and political landscape. Aspects related to sports have been a subject of interest in art for a long time. In antiquity, sculptures depicting athletes' bodies produced notions regarding the human forms' ideal proportions. Via contemporary art, a myriad of social conditions can be explored through the lens of sports—from the political to the personal level, as the present exhibition explores.

Art and sports are inseparable parts of modern culture. Through Derby's works arise contemporary discussions around gender norms, the state of nature, the lives of today's youth, and warfare. Topical struggles in society are reflected in the practice of art and sports. For example: when talking about gender diversity and equality, the same questions extend to the examination of different sports and art practices. Practitioners in art and sports are often among the first to take a stand on issues that anticipate change. There are examples of expressing a strong position in this exhibition, most clearly in connection with Teemu Mäki's body of work and in recent events, e.g., regarding the football world cup last year in Qatar.

Derby is also more than an art exhibition about sports. I believe the artworks open new perspectives on the presented sports. On the other hand, the fact that the subject of the work is sports does not make the work "just" about sports. In Alina Sinivaara's painting, the crowd of fans supporting the football game appear to the artist as shapes, movements, and colours. The enthusiasm of skateboarders, and the gestures and acrobatics of the sport, inspired Maria Stereo to make an amazingly delicious sculpture—which is not only a song of praise for skateboarders but also an impossible ramp to skate on. Purely an aesthetic piece. The sound heard in the exhibition space, part of Krister Gråhn and Hannamari Maticainen's work, has been recorded during routine baseball practice. When brought into an art context, it creates not only a sports atmosphere for the whole exhibition but also channels thoughts to branch out unpredictably. Anne Lehtelä wanted to use the video material filmed by the orienteers themselves and bring real forest vegetation into the exhibition space. (Despite the season, this was successful - thanks to the professional help of Piiraisen Kuntta!) Now, these ordinary elements of orienteering are read entirely differently—as parts of a work of art.

We are delighted and grateful that all the invited sports clubs participated without prejudice—giving their time and sharing their thoughts. A very heartfelt thank you! Working together creates bonds between people, and through that, different areas of life also come closer to each other. Even more fruits of cooperation can be expected in the side program of Derby. It is also great that the Lapua Art Museum has become inspired by the sports theme. They will display the Tuuletus! -exhibition from 11.2.-27.5.2023. Lapua and Seinäjoki are derby-like rivals in many ways; maybe we will arrange something fun together during the spring as one team!

References and further reading:

Mäki, Teemu (2020) *Poika ja pallo*.

Poems. Gummerus.

Tainio, Matti (2015) *Parallel Worlds*.

Art and Sport in Contemporary Culture.

Doctoral Dissertation. Aalto ARTS Books.

Salo, Maaria (2020) *A Playing Field as a Painting*

– *Painting on a Playing Field*. Alina Sinivaara's

Colourful Expressionism. In: Alina Sinivaara

– *By the Playing Field*. Mikkeli Art Museum.

Murakami, Haruki (2012) *What I Talk About*

When I Talk About Running.

Published in Finland by Tammi.

Karimäki-Nuutinen, Sanna (2022) *Onko taide*

joukkuelaji? (Is art a team sport?)

A column in Seinäjoen Sanomat 28.12.2022.

Can be read in Finnish: <https://www.seinajoensanomat.fi/paakirjoitus-mielipide/5619788>

**KRISTER GRÅHN JA
HANNAMARI MATIKAINEN**

How much stick tape is too much stick tape?

Krister Gråhn and Hannamari Matikainen wanted to try something completely new in Derby. They set out to implement their work without personal experience in Finnish baseball. In baseball, teamwork is essential. The artists equated this feature with the methods of community art: could art be a team sport? The body of work is the result of discussions with the players of Seinäjoki's Maila-Jussit T06-08 team. In the work, the expertise and personal experiences of junior high-school-age youth are combined with the artists' external observations and interpretations. The voices of playing, training, the coach, and the audience form a leading part of the piece based on the young players' wishes. The sound heard in the space repeats and recurs, reflecting the holistic essence of the hobby and creates a sports hall-like atmosphere for the entire exhibition. Coach Jussi's advice and encouragement in the headphones, and the audience's applause in the other give personal strength and motivation. The core of the work is the comprehensiveness of active pursuits in a young person's life. Assembled on Ikea's shelves like a trophy cabinet, the objects coated with gold and tape in the workshops symbolise winning, sacrifice, injury, home, friends, emotions, and memories of baseball.

Krister Gråhn (b.1979) is a sculptor living in Mänttä, who in recent years has mainly focused on realizing joint works with different working couples. He treats art as a natural means of communication for humans. Gråhn has an MA from the Academy of Fine Arts and is currently studying in the Praxis curatorial program.

Hannamari Matikainen (b. 1976) is an artist from Tampere. She mainly uses different graphics techniques and painting as tools. In her works, Matikainen mainly deals with the themes of humanity and empathy. Matikainen graduated as a visual artist from Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

Gråhn and Matikainen have worked together since 2008 and they have developed e.g. of a new graphics technique, silicone printing, which combines the casting techniques of sculpture with the methods of gravure graphics.

ALINA SINIVAARA

OmaSP Stadium / The Run / The Players' Entrance / "Klopit" / The Goal of the Playing Field / Playing Trees

Alina Sinivaara has been painting football subjects for a long time. Derby brought a new dimension to her work—cooperation with a football club. The artist collected material by getting to know football club SJK's activities. She was shown the training and maintenance facilities and could sketch in the stadium and move from one location to another while the representative team trained on the field. While watching the home game at OmaSp Stadium, she observed not only the game but also the crowd's behaviour and general mood. The thematic starting points of the series of paintings in the exhibition are the stadium, its entrances, movements and encounters between players, and the audience's conduct.

For Alina Sinivaara, painting is a bodily activity. Variations in movement, rhythm, and speed combine the work of an artist and the dynamics of a team sport. In the paintings, the artist uses the players as her pawns, as the colourful and spatial events and narratives of the football world are transferred to the paintings. Painting football is not only about illustrating the subject but extends more broadly to examining private and public interfaces, encounters, and interactions.

Helsinki-based painter **Alina Sinivaara** (b. 1978) has been painting sports for a long time. The elements of playing fields— such as nets, fences, balls, goals and stadiums—often slip into the paintings. Sinivaara studied at Vapaa Taidekoulu and the University of Art and Design Helsinki (now Aalto University School of Arts, Design, and Architecture).

The artist's work is supported by Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

ANNE LEHTELÄ

"absorption of the entity (which used to have a distinct and independent existence)"

For Anne Lehtelä, running is a form of artistic work. To realise the artwork on display in Derby, she worked with orienteers to consider what experiences she and they share about moving and running in the forest. In the work, you can see material filmed by Rasti-Jussit orienteers from orienteering competitions and training situations. The video recordings not only document the event but convey the overall experience of moving in the forest to the exhibition visitor.

The feeling of movement is combined with stimuli that awaken the senses through the forest turf and the runner's breathing sound. But to what extent can the experience be conveyed via a recording of exercise performances, and what methods does art use in that effort? Like Lehtelä's previous running works, the piece features reflections on the consuming effect of human activity on nature and the study of the material and physical ways of making art.

Anne Lehtelä (b. 1986) is a visual artist who lives and works in Tampere. Lehtelä works with conceptual and installation art. Her practice involves observing social structures that focus on inequality, political systems, boundaries, and change processes. An essential question behind her works is the concept of freedom. Lehtelä holds an MA and works as a regional artist at the Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

MARIA STEREO

Holy Arch

Maria Stereo got to know the local spots and skateboarding culture of Seinäjoki with the guidance of members of the Lakeuden WallRiver SK8boarding association. The artist's observations about community spirit, the do-it-yourself culture, and comprehensive physicality—balancing speed and fragility—are combined with her own aesthetic starting points. The sculpture displayed in the exhibition is like a song of praise or an altar for skateboarders. It takes the viewer to a different kind of extreme of skater imagery that the audience knows, where the decorativeness of the rococo and baroque styles meets different topographies, colour combinations, and the tensions and harmonies of shattered objects. The trajectories imitating gliding, even flying, are the figurative language of the sport, the symbolism of which is carried by the birds seen in the sculpture.

Maria Stereo (b. 1979) lives and works in Kangasala. She is known as an artist who uses richly decorative visuals and insightful recycled materials. Stereo's world is full of rococo, kitsch, and surrealism. The works are strongly related to the artist's childhood in the 80s and her image of those times. Stereo graduated as a visual artist from Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

The artist's work is supported by Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

TEEMU MÄKI

RiverBulls ((A letter to Putin)

Skating with Death (RiverBulls)

Skaters 1 (RiverBulls)

For Derby, Teemu Mäki has made a documentary film and paintings about the RiverBulls team of Seinäjoen Taitoluistelijat. Before getting to know the team, he hadn't even heard of their sport. The works describe the men's synchronised skating team as a unique phenomenon and reflect on the ways of being a man in this world. The first part of the documentary shows the team's competition program for the 2022–2023 season and brings out the skaters' thoughts about their hobby. This time, the competition program was based on the artist's proposal to Toivo Kuula's adaptations of two southern Ostrobothnian folk songs *Niin Kauan Minä Tramppaan* (I Am Gonna Trample) and *Tuuli Se Taivutti Koivun Larvan* (Wind Bent the Birchtop). In the second part of the film, the perspective expands. The artist's memories of what it was like to be a man in southern Ostrobothnia in his youth are brought into the narrative of the film, alongside the current Russian president Vladimir Putin, who is known to enjoy judo, ice hockey, and warfare, among other things. At the end of the letter heard in the film, Teemu invites Vladimir to Seinäjoki to try a different way of being a man on skates. The film's third part introduces two composers who died because of the war—Toivo Kuula and the Ukrainian Hanna Havrylets—and shows a duet between two male skaters.

Teemu Mäki (b. 1967) is a writer, visual artist, theatre and film director, and researcher. In his doctoral dissertation, Mäki considered the intersections of art, philosophy, and politics. In his book of essays, *Taitteen tehtävä*, he discussed the role of art for both the individual and society. In recent years, he has examined, e.g. themes of gender diversity, the concentration of power and wealth, and human-caused mass extinction. Mäki is currently the chair of the Artists' Association of Finland.

The artist's work is supported by Alfred Kordelin Foundation and Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

Events

seinajoentaidehalli.fi → events

FREE ADMISSION DAYS AT THE KUNSTHALLE
The first Friday of the month is always a free admission day at the Kunsthalle. Free admission days in spring 2023 are Fri 3rd Feb, 3rd March, 31st March and 5th May.

GUIDE PRESENT AT THE EXHIBITION

(available in English)

On free admission days you can meet our guide in the exhibition space from 12 to 3 pm. Feel free to ask questions about the art and the Kalevan Navetta building.

ARTIST TALK

Sat 21st Jan, 12 o'clock

Meet the artists of the Derby exhibition and hear their thoughts about their work. Free of charge.

SKATING CROQUIS WORKSHOP

Fri 3rd Feb, 5.30 – 6.30 pm

An open non-stop croquis workshop modeled by the skaters of the RiverBulls synchronised skating team. The workshop belongs to the Afterwork Art program.

AFTERWORK ART

Fridays Fri 3rd Feb, 3rd March, 31st March and 5th May.

Kalevan Navetta's Afterwork Art event with program from various organisations of the art and culture centre.

More information: kalevannavetta.fi

K65 ART THURSDAY (in Finnish)

Thu 9th Feb, 1 pm

A guided tour in the exhibitions targeted for the elderly participants. Included in the entrance fee.

BABIES COLOUR WORKSHOPS (in Finnish)

Art workshop for babies and toddlers are held from February to March.

Tickets and information:

netticket.fi/seinajoen-taidehalli

ADULT AND CHILD ART COURSE, SPRING 2023 (4-6-year-olds, in Finnish)

4 workshops on Tuesdays from March 7th to 28th. In creative moments for adult and child we draw inspiration from the Derby exhibition and make art together. Tickets and information: netticket.fi/seinajoen-taidehalli

EXHIBITION OPENING

Fri 24.2. at 5 pm–7 pm

Exhibition Space Vintti | Free entrance

Trinitas, Ville Kirjanen, Aleksii Kolmonen and Aeon Lux

Trinitas is a rich and storied exhibition that discusses the questions of humanity and manifests the importance of maintaining connections. Combining sculptures, photography, and video, the show places images and findings from modern humanity onto a kind of altar.

LAPUA ART MUSEUM 11.2. – 27.5.2023

TUULETUS!

Art–Emotion–Sport

Anni Arffman, Mikko Auerniitty ja Harri Heinonen, Erno Enkenberg, finnfemfel (Albert Braun, Marcus Lerviks ja Oskar Lindström), Christine Jalio, Eetu Kevarinmäki, Gaku Nakano, Mika Taanila, Matti Tainio and Pyhälähden valokuvaamo.

Open on Tue-Fri at 11am–5pm, Sat at 11am–3 pm

Free entrance | Culture Centre Vanha Paukku

Vanhon Paukun tie 1, 62100 Lapua

www.lapuantaidemuseo.fi

www.kulttuurikeskusvanhapaukku.fi



@lapuantaidemuseo



Lapuan Taidemuseo

More art about sport!

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.

seinajoentaidehalli.fi kalevannavetta.fi

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 Ääreellä.



@seinajoentaidehalli



seinajoen taidehalli



Taidehalli Seinäjoki

