

## Heli Ryhänen chosen as curator for the Mänttä Art Festival 2024

The curator of the Mänttä Art Festival 2024 has been chosen. Heli Ryhänen, a Tampere-based sculptor, boasts a long and impressive career.

Ryhänen has a long-standing and warm relationship with the Mänttä Art Festival. She visits the exhibition every summer, and she has also exhibited her works at the Art Festival several times, last in 2013.

“I hail from a small town myself, so I respect the way Mänttä has firmly established itself as an interesting art town. I think of the Art Festival extremely highly, and being invited to curate it is a great honour”, Ryhänen says.

“The world of art is so vast that it fascinates me endlessly. I visit exhibitions often, and I always look forward to the moment I find something surprising in a piece. What I love about art is that new insights kind of readjust my brain a little every time. They drive my own work, as well”, Ryhänen explains.

Ryhänen’s sculptures are often installations that affect the entire exhibition space. New materials are a source of inspiration for her, and working with them feels like an endless adventure. She is currently working on several pieces for public city premises. The first such piece, *Lentoratoja* (“Trajectories”), created for Tampere University Hospital, is almost finished.

At the time of writing, approximately half of the artists for next summer’s exhibition have been chosen. “I have been thinking about the whole from the point of view of spatiality. I’ve chosen artists who’ll take strong possession of the space and make use of different scales and perspectives”, Ryhänen reveals.

“And since I now have the opportunity to have a say, I’ve also chosen people whose art enchants me personally. I want the artists to be of varying ages and to come from different parts of Finland. I feel somewhat troubled by the Helsinki-centricity of the Finnish art scene, and my aim is to bring together an array of artists that will attract exhibition visitors from all over Finland”, she continues.

“Being a sculptor has, of course, affected my choices, since three-dimensional thinking is in my blood. So I can guarantee that there’ll be plenty of sculptures and spatial art, but in a light style. When you look back at the practice of sculpture in Finland, the touch has been quite heavy and masculine. The exhibition I’m curating won’t be like that”, Ryhänen promises.

### Further information

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