

## The artists for the XXVII Mänttä Art Festival are announced. *Out of Nowhere* promises to deliver a surprising summer.

*Out of Nowhere* is the title for the 2023 Mänttä Art Festival. This year, the curators **Minna Suoniemi** and **Petri Ala-Maunus** have invited many young artists. – Most of our artists are showing in the Art Festival for the first time, the curators are happy to announce. We wanted to invite some well known artists such as Ars Fennica winner **Kari Vehosallo**, alongside emerging artists such as **Sasha Rotts** and **Mariam Falaileh**.

In this summer's exhibition, 36 artists or artist groups were invited, for a total of 44 participants. – The exhibition's name, *Out of Nowhere* alludes to an unexpected surprise, that even we, as the curators, are waiting to see. What will happen when the artists install their work in the space? Even the artists are not yet aware of what will happen when the audience encounters the artwork. What will happen between the exhibition and the audience?

Many of the artworks look for our place in and as a part of nature. Using materials such as wood, stone or water, the artists explore our relationship with nature and our ability to live with different species. *Out of Nowhere* exposes Mänttä as a community with an interesting history starting in forestry to becoming a well known art hub.

– The most exciting part about the artwork is what you don't expect or realise. This exhibition offers an embodied experience of art, which communicates with the viewer on a kind of instinctual level. We chose the artists for this exhibition according to how their work affected us.

Included in the exhibition are several artists who work in pairs such as **Linda & Aura**, **Elina Nissinen & Max Hannus**, **Pasi Autio & Saku Koistinen** and the artist couple from Kittilä **Raisa Raekallio & Misha del Val**. The curators also invited several artists to work together by suggesting collaborative projects. **J.P Köykkä**, **Peetu Liesinen** and **Kim Somervuori** will create a large collective painting together, both in downtown Mänttä and at Pekilo. A collective installation will also be made by the sisters **Jenni Hiltunen** and **Piia Hiltunen**.

– Painting as a medium is particularly important to us. For this summer's exhibition we invited well known painters such as Kari Vehosallo, **Emma Ainala** and **Eeva Peura**, along with new talents such as **Sirkku Rossi** and **Hanna Hyy**.

Some specific materials play an important role for several artists, as in the work by **Aleksi Martikainen**, **Sari Palosaari**, **Hanna Kanto**, **Jesse Avdeikov** and **Antti Kytömäki** – wood, stone, metal, ceramics, water and sound form bodies of work in the Pekilo space. Music will have a strong presence in the exhibition's numerous moving image pieces, and in the work by artists known for their music, such as **Laura Naukkarinen** in the Chorus Sinensis collective, a musician by the name of Elatu Nessa: the renowned **Rusto Myllylahti**, **Ninni Luhtasaari**, **Maria Stereo** and **Yeboyah**.

– We pay homage to the art of photography in memory of pioneer **Raakel Kuukka** (1955–2022) by bringing in work that greatly affected us years ago. Here, Raakel's work will be shown alongside the work of her daughter, Yeboyah. The curators also invited artist and collector **Seppo Fränti**, whose delicate drawings made as a hostage 20 years ago, now take on new meaning.

Suoniemi and Ala-Maunus also wanted to bring attention to experienced artists whose work they felt was important to share with a larger audience such as the work of **Tuukka Peltonen**, **Veera Kulju**, **Risto-Pekka Blom**, **Anneli Nygren** and **Terhi Heino**. Some of the artists in this exhibition were discovered by the curators more recently, in the last few years or last few months, such as **Hinni Huttunen**, **Sasha Rotts** and **Pavel Rotts**, **liri Poteri**, **Venla Helenius**, **Ida Palojärvi** and **Mariam Falaileh**.

– We fell in love with the artists' work, and we hope the audience will also find something new and unexpected in them. Something that they weren't aware of.

The first Mänttä Art Festival was organised exactly 30 years ago. Since then, the festival has risen to become Finland's largest survey of contemporary Finnish art and awarded with the Finnish National Prize in 2017. The XXVII Mänttä Art Festival will be open every day from June 11th until August 31st, 2023.

## List of Artists

Emma Ainala  
Pasi Autio & Saku Koistinen  
Jesse Avdeikov  
Risto-Pekka Blom  
Jan Eerala & Laura Naukkarinen & Ulla Taipale + Chorus Sinensis collective  
Mariam Falaileh  
Seppo Fränti  
Terhi Heino  
Venla Helenius  
Jenni Hiltunen  
Piia Hiltunen  
Hinni Huttunen  
Hanna Hyy  
Hanna Kanto  
Veera Kulju  
Raakel Kuukka  
Antti Kytömäki  
J.P Köykkä & Peetu Liesinen & Kim Somervuori  
Linda ja Aura  
Ninni Luhtasaari  
Aleksi Martikainen  
Rusto Myllylahti  
Elina Nissinen & Max Hannus  
Anneli Nygren  
Ida Palojärvi  
Sari Palosaari  
Tuukka Peltonen  
Eeva Peura  
Iiri Poteri  
Raisa Raekallio & Misha del Val  
Sirku Rosi  
Pavel Rotts  
Sasha Rotts  
Maria Stereo  
Kari Vehosalo  
Yeboyah

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