



Art Blooms in May – Welcome to CreArt European Month of Creativity in Oulu, Finland on 2-26 May 2024!

Trio of Artists Exhibition in the Oulu Market Hall

2-26 May 2024, Open Monday to Friday from 8.00-18.00 and on Saturday from 8.00-16.00. Kauppatori, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

The opening of the exhibition is celebrated on 2 May 2024 at 17.00-18.00.

Joint exhibition of three Oulu based artists in Kauppahalli Café. In May, art will surprise the visitors of Oulu Market Hall, who get to enjoy paintings by Hanna Holopainen, Hanne Torvinen and Lauri Ahtinen during their coffee and food breaks. The exhibition is organized by Galleria MABD.

Hanna Holopainen

Hanna Holopainen is a visual artist from Oulu. She is known as an action painter, but in recent years she has also focused on exploring the flexibility of aquarelles and familiarized herself with various combination techniques. Holopainen looks for versatile solutions to express subjects and themes yet keeping the abstract expression in its own context. Her new paintings are small thoughtful oddities that breathe in abundant space. These works won't save the world, but hopefully they make you smile when you look at them.

www.hannaholopainen.com

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Hanne Torvinen

Hanne Torvinen is a young artist based in Oulu. She has always been touched by the strong moods created by colors, lights and shadows, which may only linger in the mind for a moment and then fade away back into the unreachable. Her aim in art is to capture this disappearing feeling. Torvinen paints abstract color combinations, or more expressive portraits, in which she also plays with abstract effects. She mainly paints with acrylics.

[Instagram](#)

Lauri Ahtinen

Lauri Ahtinen is a visual artist and cartoonist from Oulu. Ahtinen's works often have collage-like elements, broken sentences and a colorful crazy-mood. Ahtinen thinks that painting is like composing a free jazz piece: everything starts

with a rhythm and the rest is free improvisation and straying on side paths. When he paints, he is always serious, but never humourless. In this exhibition, stray maximalism is combined with minimalism: some of the works explore the question of what is a little more than nothing - how minimally can you leave traces on the canvas that it still is "something"? The focus is nevertheless on tempo, rhythm and the mutual dynamics of the elements.

At the moment he is interested in floral arrangements, sad boy-aesthetics and wild animals.

[Instagram](#)

Pikigalleria Opening and Invitational Exhibition with Art Disco

Friday 10 May 2024 at 18.00-20.00, Pikigalleria, Pikisaarentie 15, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Opening in May 2024, Essi Talvisara's watercolour exhibition gives viewers a fascinating insight into Talvisara's unique art and offers the opportunity to experience the joy of creation in an art neighbourhood of Oulu, the creative village Pikisaari.

The newly built gallery space is officially inaugurated with an opening ceremony during European Month of Creativity, which will also serve as the opening of the invitational exhibition - on the verge of something new, as in addition to the space itself and the artist selected for the exhibition. The opening exhibition combines a new beginning with a passion for art. and passion for creation. The evening is a celebration of art and encouragement of new creative experiences.

The evening's programme kicks off with the opening of the exhibition, and the official opening of the Pikigalleria of the non-profit art and culture organization Kulttuurikiihdyttämö. As the evening darkens, the ambience alters with music and lighting towards an art disco. Guests can indulge in the music and try their artistic skills during the evening, leaving their mark on the big screen and on large sheets of paper with watercolours, experiment with the creative process in a spontaneous way. These papers float in the air on strings, celebrating watercolour painting in a non-traditional setting.

Essi Talvisara

Essi Talvisara is a visual artist and aquarelle painter / interior architect from Oulu.

[Instagram](#)

Art and Oulu2026 Panel Discussion at Gallery MABD

Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 18.00, Galleria MABD, Torikatu 4, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Bringing art talk and light cultural debate to the gallery environment. The main theme of the discussion will be Oulu's upcoming European Capital of Culture year and related issues. The discussion will also expand from Oulu and its European Capital of Culture to a broader discussion on the relationship between art and the surrounding society.

How does the artist relate to the world around him or her? Does the artist have a responsibility to highlight the injustices of his or her environment, or are they allowed to do whatever they like? Are there any subjects that the artist does not want to deal with in his or her art?

Featuring regular panelists gallerist Hanna Manninen and cartoonist Lauri Ahtinen. In addition, the panel will invite two interesting guests to discuss the topic.

[Facebook](#)

Performance Clump

Thursday 16 May 2024 at 19.00, Mallassauna, Pikisaarentie 15, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Performance Clump is a performance and networking platform. It gathers artists of Oulu Artists' Association and all friends, who love to share and witness performances and new pieces. Clump was born in 2021 and it celebrates the 10th time during the CreArt European Month of Creativity. The Clump works on an open stage principle - you can also sign up as a performer in advance at performanssilupi@gmail.com.

The team of Performance Clump includes:

Ilona Kivijärvi

Artist Ilona Kivijärvi works in her studio in the Hiukkavaara neighbourhood in Oulu. There she creates her installations and multimedia artworks, solos and series. Performance practices is part of her working. "I aim to reach universal, never the less".

Kivijärvi works symbiotically with energies that flow from her inner self and from outer world. "I live in the moment (carpe diem) and work with momentum." Performance is an artform of moment. Settling up for the moment of perform and establish is part of the artwork itself.

Sirpa Heikkinen

Sirpa Heikkinen lives and works in Oulu, as an independent artist with a journalistic and critic background. Her field of artistic expression extends from performance to digital work. Heikkinen graduated as a visual artist in Turku, also studied at the universities of Jyväskylä, Tampere and Lapland in Rovaniemi. For her, being an artist means a life-long search, encountering what she has learned and experienced to her being.

Tessa Astre

Tessa Astre is a visual artist and an art teacher from the town of Liminka, south of Oulu. In her artworks she uses themes from relationships of an individual and community, nature and confluence. Her preferred visual techniques are drawing and stage arts.

Croquis Drawing Workshops

Saturday 18 May 2024 and 25 May 2024 at 15.00, Galleria MABD, Torikatu 4, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Hour-long live model drawing workshops at Gallery MABD. Drawing sessions consist of short 1-2-minute exercises and the model is clothed. There is space for 10 participants.

No drawing skills or previous model drawing experience is required. Gallery MABD will provide participants with drawing pads and pens. The workshop will be facilitated by visual artist Pekka Homanen. Homanen is a long-standing visual artist who has taught Croquis drawing for 20 years at the Liminka Art School, Oulu University, Vuolle University, Oulu Art Museum and for various companies.

Pekka Homanen constructs his work using the mathematical formula $1+1=3$. There are so many variables that the absolute truth is up to you. Homanen's works are like life itself, well planned but with a completely unpredictable outcome.

[Galleria MABD](https://www.homanen.art)
www.homanen.art

Heidi Toivainen, Lauri Ahtinen & Tiina Seppälä: WANDERING

21-26 May 2024, opening on Tuesday 21 May, after work with art on Friday 24 May at 17.00-19.00. Real Deal gallery Yläkerta, Pakkahuoneenkatu 9, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Three Oulu-based artists Heidi Toivainen, Lauri Ahtinen and Tiina Seppälä bring a week-long intensive art experience to Real Deal gallery Yläkerta. This is their first joint exhibition, in which you get to know the recent works of three very different artists.

WANDERING is a characteristic element for all three artists in the philosophy that guides their work. In addition to the opening, the program also includes Friday afternoon's After Work with an artistic program and artist meetings.

Lauri Ahtinen

Lauri Ahtinen (born 1983) is a visual artist and cartoonist from Oulu. Ahtinen's works often have collage-like elements, broken sentences and a colorful crazy-mood. Ahtinen thinks painting is like composing a free jazz piece: everything starts with a rhythm and the rest is free improvisation and straying on side paths. When he paints, he is always serious, but never humourless. In this exhibition, stray maximalism is combined with colorful story-telling compositions. The focus is on tempo, rhythm and the mutual dynamics of the elements.

Heidi Toivainen

Heidi Toivainen is an artist from Oulu who works every weekday at Komu's house in the Tuira neighbourhood. Toivainen's relationship with painting is immediate and playful. In her opinion, it is good for a painter to be a little on their feet, too much certainty as a constant state of being is not good for an artist.

"I have painted things from my studio. The rooms in the paintings, with their lamps and furniture, are as real as dreams; the things I see around me are mixed with the rooms of the mind. I have played with colors, shapes and their mutual rhythm. The works are born out of love for painting, my studio and the freedom of imagination around everyday things."

Tiina Seppälä

Tiina Seppälä (born 1983) is a sculptor who graduated from Kankaanpää Art School in 2007 and currently lives and works in Oulu. In her works, she deals with the vulnerability of the environment and its organisms, time and change, often using the contradiction between the material and the subject as effective means. The starting point is always a three-dimensional shape, the working of which creates a connection to the final subject. The message can be serious, but it is often seasoned with a touch of humor.

The works in the exhibition all deal in some way with the distortion that forms when the surface is broken or is about to be broken and there is a desperate attempt to repair it. Ticking beehives, cracked protective shells and hollow stones bring echoes of both the past and the future. The works are serial, and the materials used are paper and ceramics.

UNESCO Creative Cities & Oulu City of Media Arts: Local Network Seminar

Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 9.00-16.00, Cultural Centre Valve, Valvesali, Hallituskatu 7, 90100 Oulu.

"Oulu's resilience as an Arctic city is about the ability to renew: it's time to build a bridge from our hi-tech past to our present-day Art&Tech competence and re-imagine future with media arts."

In November 2023, City of Oulu was selected to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of Media Arts, as the third Finnish city in the world-wide network which recognizes creativity and culture as one of the topmost strategic factors in sustainable urban development. Oulu's work in the UCCN frames the legacy work of city's upcoming European Capital of Culture year Oulu2026, and opens a new horizon also for the field of visual art.

To connect Oulu's creative field to the global narrative and launch collaboration between local actors in the field of media arts, we arrange an open seminar with inspirational keynote speakers and facilitated workshops. Registration to the seminar starts in the end of April. Requirements and additional info: Project Manager Hanna Jakku, tel. +358 50 3468 537 and hanna.jakku@ouka.fi.

ArtUp: Saara Halminen

Urban artwork at the Pikisaari and the old wool factory courtyard (Villatehtaant, Pikisaarentie 13-15, 90100 Oulu). The artwork is published on Saturday 25 May 2024 at 14.00. Free entry.

The Untamed Office, implemented by Oulu Urban Culture Association, launches the ArtUp concept as part of the CreArt European Month of Creativity program.

ArtUp is a next-generation funding concept supporting professional activities of young artists, offering opportunities to carry out their own art projects while learning project management skills emphasized in the arts and culture sector in Oulu, Finland.

As the pilot art project, we present Saara Halminen, a visual artist who has moved from Oulu to Helsinki. Halminen creates and re-connects to their hometown with an urban artwork combining painting and installation. The artwork will be realized in May in the courtyard of a cultural center located in Pikisaari, Oulu.

Saara Halminen

Born in 2003 in Oulu, currently lives and studies in Helsinki.

"I mainly work with painting, and my primary materials are oil paints. In addition to painting, I create installations, murals, and sculptures using natural materials. My love for queer themes, discussions and questioning divides my life into periods that guide my artistic practice. I study at the Academy of Fine Arts Helsinki."

[Instagram](#)

www.urbanculture.fi

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

EMOC Wrap-Up with TSEIM

Saturday 25 May 2024 at 18.00-20.00, Cultural Centre Valve, Valvesali, Hallituskatu 7, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

To wrap up the Oulu's edition of the European Month of Creativity, we introduce a new collaborative project of the visual artist and DJ TSEIM in Valvesali, the blackbox of the Cultural Centre Valve. Come and bloom!

TSEIM

The definition of TSEIM is a self-taught and non-conformist artist whose passion for art started in the beginning of 1990's in the form of graffiti. He's born and raised in Oulu.

TSEIM respects the roots of all types of art, yet he does not strictly follow any guidelines. He believes in individual expression. The art of TSEIM evolves in time: how it is now, how you will see it in months, how it will feel in years to come. His works are abstract, contemporary geometric forms with vibrant colors. His inspiration comes from nature, people, contemporary art, urban culture, street art and installations of other artists. TSEIM is not particularly limited to fine arts, his methods also include murals, digital art, drawings, paintings and mixed-media installations.

When he's not working on visual art, he is an avid DJ of electronic music.

[TSEIM](#)
[Instagram](#)

Oulu Edition of the CreArt European Month of Creativity also features:

Henri Honkanen & Marianne Kauppila: Paintings

3-26 May 2024 Wed-Fri at 11.00-17.00 and Sat at 11.00-15.00 & Sun at 12.00-16.00, Neliö-Galleria, Asemakatu 37, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Neliö-Galleria, located in Oulu, is the oldest art gallery in the Northern Finland. Starting in 1985 in a town of Raahе and moving to Oulu 1991, the gallery changed to artist-run in 2018 when visual artist, painter Kirsi Tervo started as the gallerist. At the same time, Neliö-Galleria took a step towards a more international program and activity by starting cooperation with international artists and artist groups as well as artist-run spaces and galleries. Through the cooperation, the gallery brings new interesting contemporary art to Northern Finland and offers local artists opportunities to present their work in even more international arenas.

[Neliö-Galleria](#)

Pekka Homanen: Lesson 60

8-26 May 2024 Wed-Fri at 13.00-18.00 and Sat-Sun at 12.00-16.00, Galleria MABD, Torikatu 4, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Lesson 60 is an exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of Oulu-based visual artist Pekka Homanen. The exhibition features paintings and croquis drawings.

In the exhibition, Homanen explores a familiar theme: the problem of bullying and its diversity. The artworks do not provide answers per se, but the responsibility shifts to the viewer, who forms his or her own interpretation of the subject while looking at the work.

[Exhibition page](#)
www.homanen.art

Gallery Walk

Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 18.00, Galleria MABD, Torikatu 4, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Gallery Walk offers a relaxed evening with visual art. The gallery walk is organized by Galleria MABD and Neliö-Galleria. During the evening, you will be guided by artists and gallerists through the galleries' exhibitions. The May Gallery Walk will feature exhibitions by Pekka Homanen, Marianne Kauppila and Henri Honkanen, and a studio visit of Oulu-based artist Kirsi-Maria Perkkiö. Admission to the gallery walk is always free.

[Facebook](#)

AGF: kuu-tee listening session #2: Non-hierarchical listening curriculums

Visiting artist: Jessica Ekomane (Berlin)

Thursday 16 May 2024 at 16.30-18.00, Oulu Art Museum, Satula, Kasarmintie 9, 90100 Oulu. With a museum ticket.

What does it mean to listen in a time when there is a variety of information on the go? And what does it mean to listen and to be heard? What kinds of voices are generated by dissent? Can we find common ground? The session is hosted by artist AGF (Antye Greie-Ripatti) and the visiting artist Jessica Ekomane, and will include listening exercises, presentations, and workshops.

Jessica Ekomane, based in Berlin, Germany, is an electronic musician and sound artist. Her quadraphonic performances seek a physical affect through the interplay of psychoacoustics. Her ever-changing and immersive sonic landscapes are grounded in questions such as the relationship between individual perception and collective dynamics or the investigation of listening expectations and their societal roots. Ekomane's works have been presented by Hamburger Bahnhof (Berlin), Centre Pompidou (Paris) and Art Basel (Basel).

AGF, Antye Greie-Ripatti (b. 1969 Ebersbarch), is an internationally recognised contemporary artist based in Hailuoto who works with sound. Her artistic work focuses on language, sound, listening and politics. AGF's works range from live audiovisual performances to sound installations, radio programmes and films. Her work draws on feminist sound technologies and in 2020 AGF founded RECon (rec-on.org), a sound and listening exhibition space that focuses on political sound and the activist community around it.

AGF works locally and internationally and has made works at the Centre Pompidou (Paris), ICC (Tokyo), ICA London and Southbankcenter. As a performing artist she has been participating in Ars Electronica Linz, Sonar Festival Barcelona, CTM Berlin and AudioVisiva Milan. In Hailuoto, she launched Hai-Art in 2010, which e.g. commissioned public art and organised the Hailuoto iPad Orchestra for school children.

Community listening sessions for all ages are in English and can be attended with a museum ticket. Informal interpretation is available in Finnish. Each meeting lasts 1.5 hours, after which we can enjoy a topical tea together.

More info at Oulu Art Museum's website: <https://oulunaidemuseo.fi/en/exhibition/agf-kuu-tee-listening-sessions/>

<https://www.jessicaekomane.com>

<https://antyegreie.com/>