

HELSINKI
BIENNIALE
2009
WORLD
FAIR

PRESS & MEDIA

**HELSINKI BIENNALE 2008
DESIGN MUSEUM
OCTOBER 25TH 2008-JANUARY 25TH 2009**

Helsinki Biennale 2008 is a World Fair. In the basement of Design Museum 13 pavilions typical for World Fairs are built by 50 Finnish and almost 100 foreign artists. Installations, drawings, paintings, photography, video and audio works will be seen among others.

Helsinki Biennale is an independent art organisation that operates on the border zone of art and design. The basement of Design Museum came to be the place for our World Fair almost by itself. The first items of the Design Museum Helsinki collection was purchased in 1873 from the World Fair in Vienna. Now, 135 years later the basement of Design Museum seemed like the only right place to put up Helsinki's own World Fair. In the space you will find the dignity typical for Expo's combined with the underground vibe of Helsinki Biennale.

The outcome of the exhibition will be rich and full-packed. We have invited the, in our view, most interesting artists at the moment and have asked them to build a pavilion for a country of their choice – either imaginary or existing.

For this exhibition we have not curated already existing artworks, as usually is done, but the artists instead. Helsinki Biennale sees at its operational principle to create frames within which the selected artists can operate without any predetermined artistic boundaries. The most exiting stuff is usually found in the boarder zones of things and phenomenons. We have consciously chosen a form of exhibition that forces the artists away from their safe zone. Therefore you can expect to see sculptures made

by photographers, and artworks made by people usually working with design here. The forms to create are free and the Biennale doesn't force any commercial expectations on the artists. We hope that working this way will be experienced as rewarding and creative by the artists. We hope that Helsinki Biennale will be kind of a test laboratory that creates new and interesting border zones, ideas, forms of collaboration and "good stuff".

The first Helsinki Biennale exhibition was arranged in the Myymälä2 gallery in 2006. The exhibition got a lot of positive response and was the most visited exhibition in Myymälä2, ever. The most rewarding thing for Helsinki Biennale is though to hear how ideas and works that at first seemed like bypaths for the artists, later refined and took the artists' work towards new directions. We find a lot of pleasure in acting as a test lab for new and upcoming ideas. We hope that Helsinki Biennale won't show "dead art", but rather be a place where ideas can evolve and grow, and continue stronger than ever. As well among the artists participating as in the minds of the exhibition visitors.

Organiser and curator of Helsinki Biennale since 2006 is Aki-Pekka Sinikoski.

Interview requests and additional information:

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HELSINKI BIENNALE 2008

WORLD FAIR PAVILIONS

Pavilion: Internet

Artist Group: Beetlehem

Artists: Maija Louekari, Inka Järvinen, Johannes Ekholm, Jenna Sutela, Jonatan Erikson, Hella Hernberg, Matti Kunttu, Antti Uotila, Jaakko Pietiläinen

Pavilion: Kutikutiland

Artist Group: Kutikuti

Artists: Sami Aho, Aapo Rapi, Benjamin Bergman, Kari Sihvonen, Anna Sailamaa, Janne Tervämäki, Jari Vaara, Amanda Vähämäki, Tommi Musturi, Pauliina Mäkelä, Jarno Latva-Nikkola

Pavilion: Peep

Artist Group: Kasino A4

Artists: Pekka Toivonen, Jussi Puikkonen, Jonathan Mander, Antti Routto

Pavilion: Hyäryyllistä

Artist Group: Hyäryyllistä

Artists: Jouko Korkeasaari, Harri Lukkari, Sari Koski-Vähälä, Heli Kurunsaari

Pavilion: Antarctica

Artist Group: YKON

Artists: Sasha Huber, Tomas Träskman, Oliver Kochta, Tellervo Kalleinen

Pavilion: Nada Go-Go

Artist Group: Nada Go-Go

Artists: Nada Go-Go

Pavilion: Hidden War Treasures from Sweden

Artist Group: Superkasi

Artists: Kasper Strömman, Juliana Harkki, Aki-Pekka Sinikoski, Jussi Karjalainen, Ilja Karsikas, Pekka Neuvonen, Ville Repo, Matti Riikonen, Gareth Hayes

Pavilion: Kingdom of Later Days

Artist Group: Turbo 10

Artists: Pekka Niittyvirta, Ville Palonen, Eero Kokko, Juuso Westerlund, Tatu Hiltunen

Pavilion: Thingland

Artist Group: Vallilan Bingo

Artists: Heli Sorjonen, Hanna Koikkalainen, Sanna-Mari Pirkola

Pavilion: Chechnya

Artist: Teemu Mäki

Pavilion: Melmac

Artist: Anssi 8000

Pavilion: Land of Estranged – private emotions

Artist: Jari Silomäki

Pavilion: Sounds for the Homeless Dictators

Artist: Silje Nes

Artist bios available on:

www.helsinkiennale.com/artist.htm

HELSINKI BIENNALE 2008

WORLD FAIR PAVILIONS

Pavilion: Homeless Dictators

Artist Group: Friends of Helsinki Biennale

Artists: Kinpro, Zven Balslev, Ray Bartkus, Stine Belden Røed, François Belot, Gam Bodenhausen, Vanna Bowles, Davin Wade Brainard, Sushan Chan, Francesco Manuel Defourny, Simone van Dijken, Björn Hegardt, Michael C. Hsiung, Husmann/Tschäni, Espen Friberg, Anneli Furmark, Talita Hoffmann, Cody Hoyt, Johannes Høie, Vytenis Jankunas, Bendik Kaltenborn, Kolbeinn Karlsson, Jonas Liveröd, André Lemos, Arnaud Loumeau, Nicolas Mahler, Antje Majewski, Ilan Manouach, Mike Maxwell, Sex Tags, Marko Mäetamm, Luke Ramsey, Rex Koo, Maja Sten, Michael Swaney, Ceren Oykut, Erik Mark Sandberg, Koren Shadmi, Silke Schöner, Jasper Sebastian Stürup, Toby Tam, Liv Tandrevold Eriksen, Till Thomas, Franziska Wicke, Balint Zsako

Pavilion: Greetings from Thingland

Artist Group: Friends of Helsinki Biennale
Biennale

Artists: TBA Oct 20th 2008

Artist bios available on:

www.helsinkiennale.com/artist.htm

Helsinki Biennale 2008 graphics and visuals for the webpages by Bergen and Berlin based BlankBlank, in collaboration with Helsinki Biennale.

Helsinki Biennale 2008 graphics and visuals for the exhibition by Helsinki based Hungarian graphic designer Reka Kiraly, in collaboration with Helsinki Biennale

