



Finland 100 years - Strong Finnish expat artists in France

Nordic Art Gallery is celebrating Finland's centenary year 2017 by presenting Finnish expat artists' know-how in France with the exhibition "Finland 100 worldwide - strong Finnish expat artists in France"

Four artists, who permanently live and work in Provence region, were selected to the exhibition: ceramist Anitta Asunta-Plane, photographer Irmeli Jung, painter Anneli Palsa and painter Liisa Wartio-Corbiere. These Finnish women have bravely went out to the world, adjusted and adapted to the new environment. Art tells their story:

Why are the works of art what they are? How does the new home country affect on the artists' production? Does homesickness appear or have new influences invaded their thoughts?

The exhibition also visits Finland 100 years cultural celebration in Nice on the 8th April. In the Theatre Francis Gag, 4 rue de la Croix, Nice, the works of art will take over the theater's corridors and rooms

Anitta Asunta-Plane was born in central Finland and has lived in France for 33 years. First she was influenced by her years as a stylist in Paris in Louis Féraud's Haute Couture –house surrounded by flowers and geometric printed and embroidered fabrics. Then after living 16 years in French-Riviera, learning different techniques and knowledge of clays, glazes, enamels and firings of ceramic in Vallauris and Valbonne, she makes art when French colours, tones, motifs together with Finnish subjects such as animals and birds from Finnish forests make a special mix.

In this « Finland 100 years»-Art Exhibition, Anitta's ceramics - bullfinchs, -blue tits, -waxwings, - northern lapwings play around the big « embroidered » moose.

Raku –firing is a technique of firing where heat, thermal shock, « oxydoréduction » and smoke give to the enamel ceramic pieces a happy hasard result.

Irmeli Jung travelled at her twenties to Hanover, Germany, where she earned a journeyman's degree in the end of the 1960's. She moved to Paris in the early 70's, where she worked as a photographer. Her specialities are portraits, She is particularly famous for the portraits of a French chanson singer Juliette Gréco. Her first exhibition was in Bielefeld, Germany in 1979. After that she has had exhibitions in the Centre Pompidou in Paris, Amos Anderson Art Museum in Finland, Gothenburg Book Fair etc. Her career's 30-year anniversary exhibition was held in Paris at the French Institute of Finland.

She has published several photo books, for example one of a philosopher E. M. Cioran (1989) and of Juliette Gréco (1990). Jung has specifically photographed artists and writers for different publishers and magazines all around the world, among others Le Monde literature Annex.

She was invited as a visiting teacher in the French State school photography in Arles in 1994. Jung has worked in Finland since 2003. She has taken the official portrait of the president of Finland Tarja Halonen at the beginning of the president's second season.

During more than thirty years in Paris Jung developed an international reputation as a photograph artist, whose permanent theme is the human visage and the eyes. In autumn 2016 her lifework was published as a book called "Amours instantanées" featuring stunning photos of the world stars such as Lauren Bacall, Juliette Gréco and Liv Ullmann.

Anneli Palsa studied in Paris in the La Grande Chaumière art school in the 60's. 1986-1987 she carried out the wall paintings in the St.Antoine chapel in Le Broc in accordance with the 1500-century traditions but adding her own: the poetic and mysterious world, where the colors are glowing, and where there is a mystical beauty of the nature, peace and the joy of creating. These qualities characterize all her art. Since 1998, Anneli Palsa has lived in Finland.

Liisa Wartio-Corbiere grew up in Finland and was attracted to art from a very young age. While she was still unaware of which technique she would choose, she did know that she wanted to study art. In addition to her fine arts studies she also learned the trade of weaver.

She arrived in France at the age of 25 and discovered Corsica, Provence and the region's backcountry. To make a living, Liisa did various odd jobs, however she never forgot the artistic training of her youth. She became interested in the Provençal painting of Ambrogiani and she was fascinated by the way the painter applied very lively colours in thick layers. Such boldness is unknown in Finland. And so she developed a taste for warm colours applied with a knife.

Liisa then met her artist husband who recognised her talent and encouraged her to return to her first love: painting. He showed her different styles to work in and after a period of investigation, Liisa began to concentrate all her efforts on her personal expression. One single topic inspires her: the natural environment of Provence and the sea. She expresses on canvas the essence of Provence, where she has lived for thirty years.

Liisa takes walks in the countryside, where she makes sketches, watercolours and takes photos. These various mediums are a starting point for the paintings that she will work on in her studio. Her choice of painting in the studio, other than for practical reasons, allows her to simplify and stylise the composition, and to move away from a too descriptive way of painting. The artist prefers a freedom of interpretation and to give free rein to her impressions.

Oil colours are applied in a generous paste. Her use of the knife rather than brushes allows her to simplify forms and to give strength to the canvas.

Today, Liisa has a workshop on a street in Marseilles. This open creation space is also a place that people can visit, enticing the public and art collectors alike.