

"Time to Celebrate"
- Finnish naivistic artists on Riviera 20.10.-17.11.2017



Erkka Auermaa (b. 1943 in Salo)

Erkka Auermaa has held numerous private exhibitions and has participated in joint exhibitions both in Finland (eg the largest yearly exhibition of naive art in Iittala since 1994) and in Norway, Germany, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Scotland.

He has received numerous state awards and scholarships and has worked as a county artist. His works are in many private and public collections.

"Life is changing. Every new work changes my environment, the construction of which is an integral part of my work. I guess I've always done it. If it were possible, I would not part from any of my work. I would probably play endlessly by carrying them around and combining them in different ways to each other.

That entirety generates a story which is called my life."

Anna-Liisa Hakkarainen (b. 1946 in Nivala)

Arts Studies under the leadership of Veikko Hirvimäki. Solo exhibitions since 1983, group exhibitions since 1985. Graduated from Oulu University in 1968. She became a full-time artist at the end of the 80's. She has also illustrated many award-winning books.

"Elk and deer are my favorite subjects. They are enchanting with their eyes and show us the secrets of the nature. We go and visit the forest and the forest gives us peace of mind and strength and relieves stress. The forest is to me an endless source of inspiration. In the forest the wind is playing and animals are singing. You may find a solution to a problem, which you have in vain tried to sort out in front of an easel, from the forest path.

From my home window you can see the Ridge of Jyväskylä, the sun sets in the evening behind its trees. The next morning, the sun rises from the other direction and fascinates with the light and energy. It is said that you are not old if you can be enchanted. You can also start the morning chores if you see something orange, for example the sun, when you wake up."

In Jyväskylä 30.09.2017
Anna-Liisa Hakkarainen

Katja Mesikämnen (b.1968)

Katja Mesikämnen has studied at the Pori Art School and as a craft instructor at the Kankaanpää College.

She has worked as a school artist in elementary school, as an art director in the art school, in youth centers and in various art clubs.

Her works have been featured in many exhibitions both in Finland (eg the largest yearly exhibition of naive art in Iittala since 2016, the Kouvola City Art Museum and at the Kemi Art Museum) and abroad (eg in Israel, Tel Aviv Gallery of International Naive Art GINA). Her works are in private collections and collections of various foundations and communities (eg at the Mikkelin Art Museum and at the US Embassy in Rome).

The painted works of mixed technique and acrylic paints (including serigraphs) are filled with joyful and eventful stories. The paintings are fairytale-like, sympathetic, poetic and rich in color descriptions of dreams between earth and heaven. The works tell about the positive aspects of life, the ability to see the world with the carefree child's eyes. The paintings all the characters are in harmony and are happy. Nobody is discriminated against or bullied.

Raija Nokkala (b. 1956), lives and works in Uusikaupunki

Raija Nokkala's life has been very functional: she has worked as a speech therapist, a special teacher, a dramatist and a teacher and instructor of theatrical art. However, the fire of art has been so powerful that even in the midst of the worst rush she has painted, if necessary, during the night. Her first solo exhibition was held in 1986, and thereafter there has been over hundred. In foreign exhibitions she started participating in the early 1990s. She became a full-time visual artist in 2002.

Her art is described by words joyful, colorful, surprising, cheerful and soft. The artist herself has stated that her art is a declaration for a better world, a world where everyone is friends with each other. For that she needs the help of the people from the fairy-tale forest.

Many people know Raija Nokkala's paintings best of her art cards. She started making them in the late 1980's. Each year new cards are created of the paintings that are most important for her. Now the series includes more than 500 different cards.

The complete CV's of the artists on our homepage
[www.nordicartgallery.com/exhibitions/naive art](http://www.nordicartgallery.com/exhibitions/naive-art)