

VAPPU ROSSI



Portfolio of selected works

VAPPU ROSSI (1976) is a visual artist based in Helsinki, Finland. Her work has been exhibited in museums, galleries, and festivals around the world since the late 1990s. Rossi was nominated for Below Zero Finnish Art Award 2025, and for Fine Arts Academy of Finland Prize 2022. She has taken part over 70 group exhibitions, invitation exhibitions and festivals, and held 24 solo exhibitions.

Rossi is a pioneering artist in the field of Finnish contemporary drawing. Her style is both original and relevant. She combines excellent drawing skills, contemporary issues, and new media. Rossi constantly pushes boundaries through various experimental techniques, three-dimensional installations, and interdisciplinary collaborations across diverse fields of arts and sciences. She excels in large-scale artworks and complex, long-term projects involving multiple partners and collaborators. In her cross-art projects, she has worked with prominent choreographers, dancers, and musicians, as well as with many theaters, museums, and other art institutions.

Rossi has a Master's degree from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts. Besides her work as an independent artist, she leads the Art Room in the University of Helsinki, being the first female Drawing Master in the university's history.

www.vappurossi.fi

On the cover: upcoming project

Vappu Rossi, Tuomas Norvio & Ensemble Gamut: FLOS, 2025



An interdisciplinary concert concept themed around arctic flowers, bridging together Vappu Rossi's live large-scale drawing, Ensemble Gamut!'s music & Tuomas Norvio's sound art.

*World premiere: Graphica Creativa international exhibition 2025, Jyväskylä Art Museum.
Rossi and the FLOS concert will be as Finland's representatives.*

International premiere: Musica Divina Festival, Belgium 2025.

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/995722060>



Vappu Rossi: Generatio spontanea, 2024

Media art animation, loop 3 min 24 sec, stereo

Original music by Susan DiBona & Salvatore Sangiovanni, The Villa Studios, Italy

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/922392355>

Behind the Score: documentary video clip about the music: <https://vimeo.com/904798073>



Generatio spontanea, 2024

The poetic media art animation shows a shadow of a small tree sapling, magically growing and evolving as the light travels during the day, from dawn to dusk. The film combines frame-by-frame edited still photos with hand-drawn stop-motion animation. The background theme is the arc of life: a day begins, a day ends, and something small but miraculous might happen in between.



The artwork is suitable for both outdoor and indoor locations. In the Aarhus Festuge, Aarhus, Denmark, August 2024, the venue was a super-urban outside location. The film was projected on the concrete wall of the public library DOKKI. In an urban outside location, the cinematic quality of the music makes the piece very special.





Off Gravity

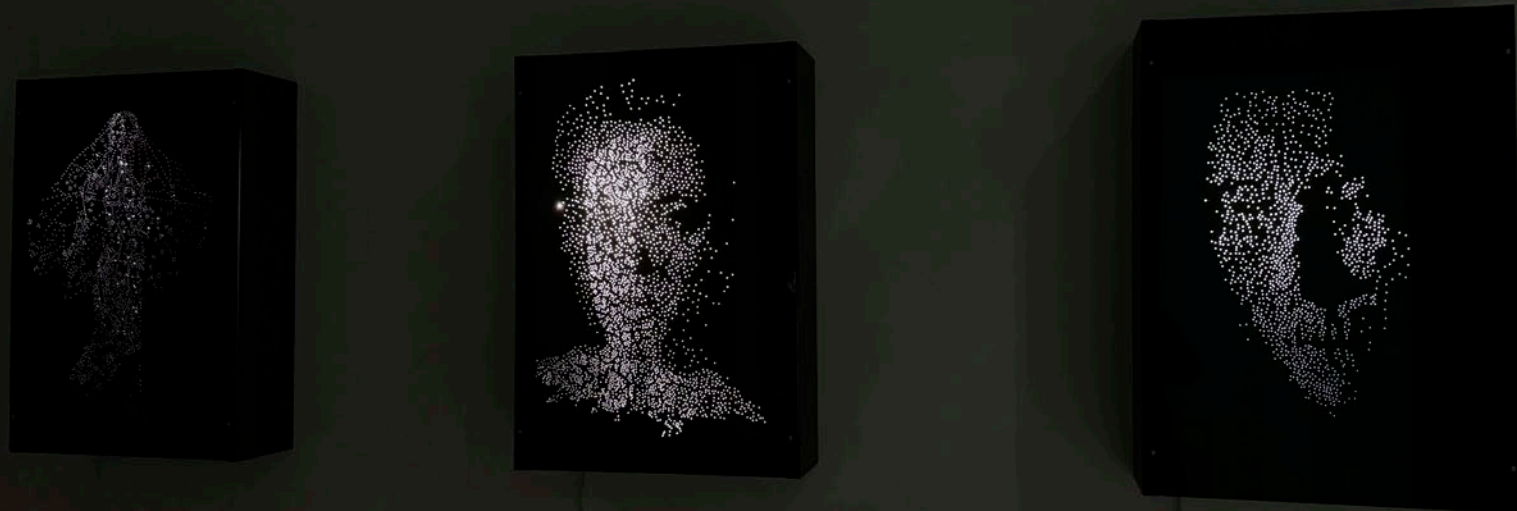
Roll fabric drawing, 1100cm x 280cm

*Serlachius Museums, Mänttä, Finland
Catch exhibition 2023–2024*





Video documentation of the piece:
<https://vimeo.com/927662567>



Light box artworks

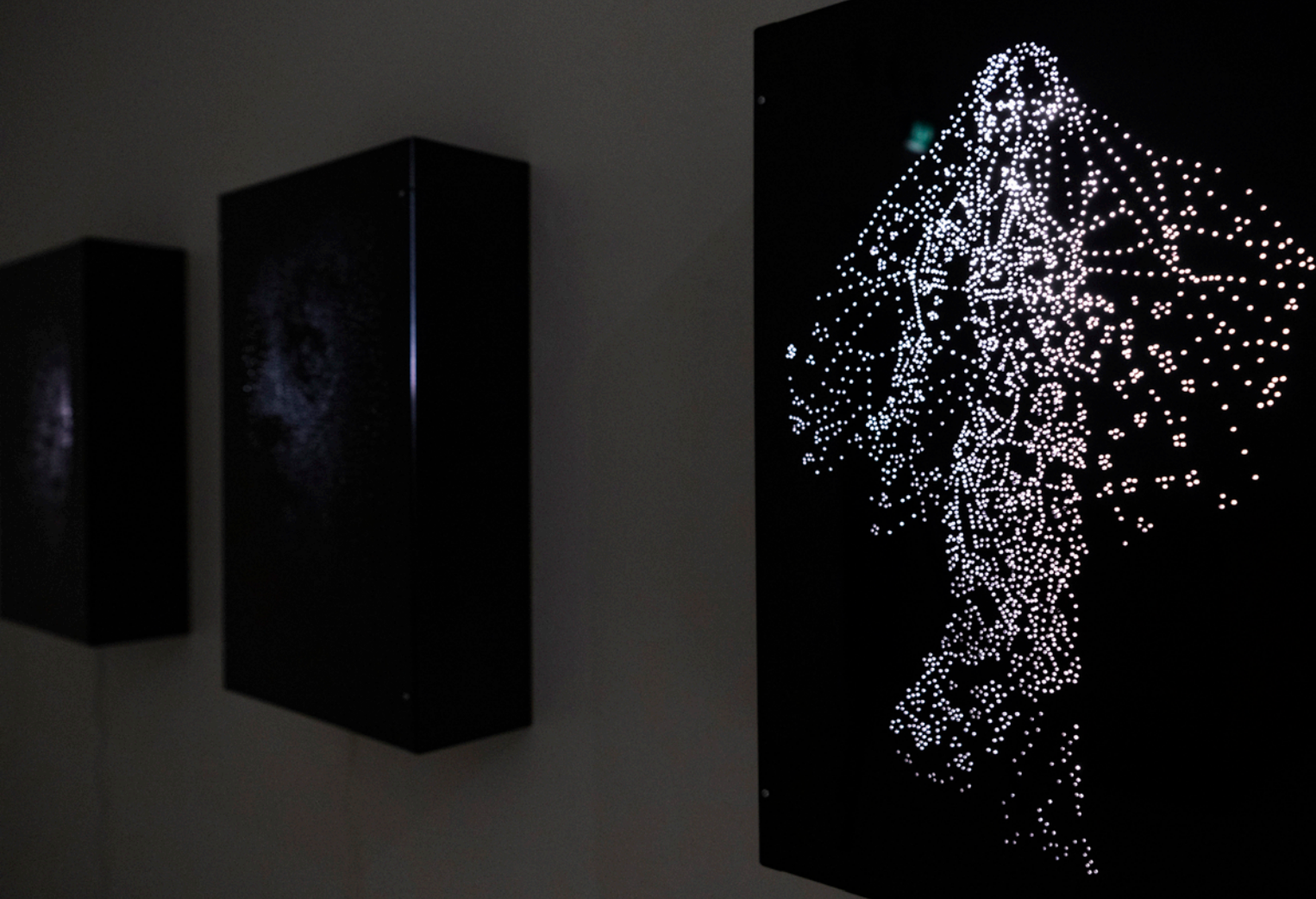
Hand drilled black acrylic

The impression changes depending on the viewing angle



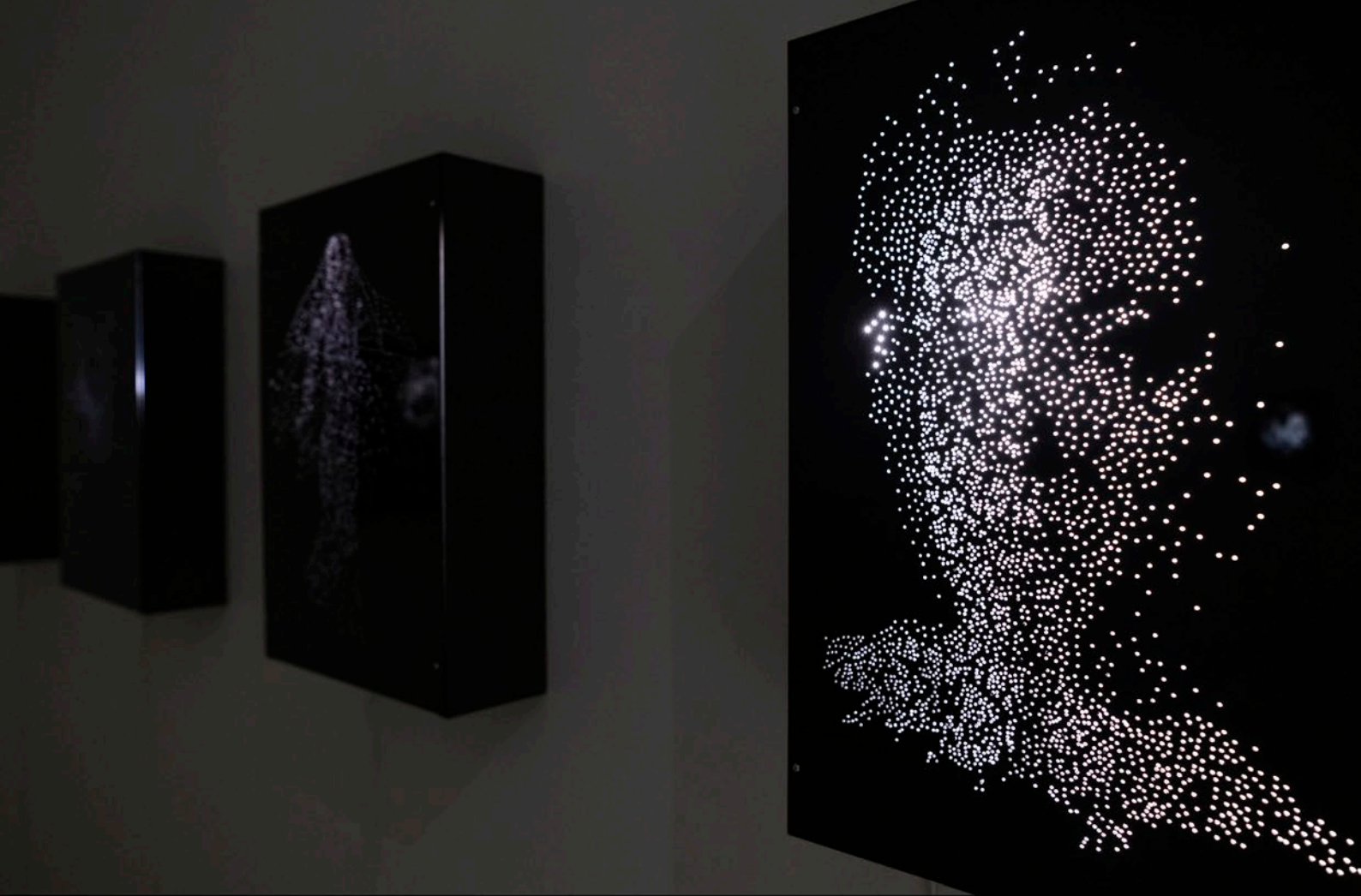
Photos from Rossi's solo exhibition, Gallery Halmetoja, Helsinki 2024. The exhibition was part of Lux Helsinki Festival.

Bottom right: Peek, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 57cm x 40cm x 13cm.



Photos from Rossi's solo exhibition, Gallery Halmetoja, Helsinki 2024. On the right: The Dress, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 57cm x 40cm x 13cm. Below: Pond, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 35,5cm x 30cm x 11cm. Soft-Haired, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 57cm x 40cm x 13cm.



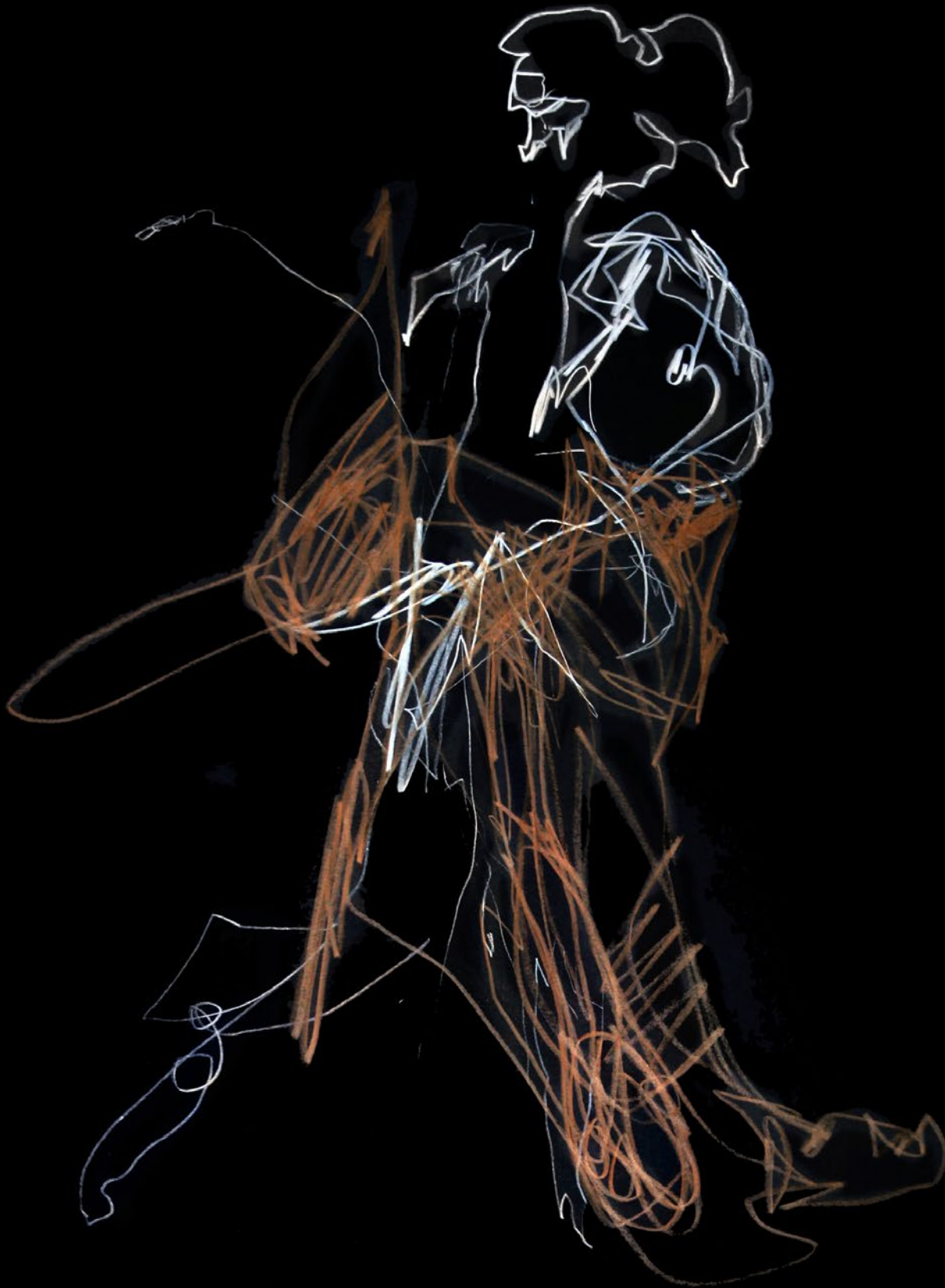


Photos from Rossi's solo exhibition, Gallery Halmetoja, Helsinki 2024. On the right: Flapper, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 57cm x 40cm x 13cm. Below: Swirl, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 35,5cm x 30cm x 11cm. The impression changes depending on the viewing angle.





"Renaissance" in the window of Gallery Halmetoja during the Lux Helsinki Festival, 2024. The artwork could be seen from the outside around the clock. Light box, drilled acrylic, 70,5cm x 60cm x 20cm.



Movement drawing project

In her continuing movement drawing project, Rossi spends days and weeks drawing in the rehearsals of contemporary dance pieces.

Among others, she has collaborated with choreographers and dancers Jorma Uotinen, Valtteri Raekallio, Anton Lachky, Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari-Jääskö, and with art institutions like Helsinki City Theatre, Helsinki Dance Company, Ateneum Art Museum, and the TTT Theatre in Tampere.



Työnnä Rönkä 12.10.2022
Tampereen Työväen Teatteri / KeskustanPöytä / Pöytäkäsittely



Työnnä Rönkä 12.10.2022
Tampereen Työväen Teatteri / KeskustanPöytä / Pöytäkäsittely



Työnnä Rönkä
19.10.2022
Helsingin kaupunginteatteri
Lemminkäinen muotona



Special Night
Helsinki City Theatre
"Pappu Rovi"
1.-2.3.2023



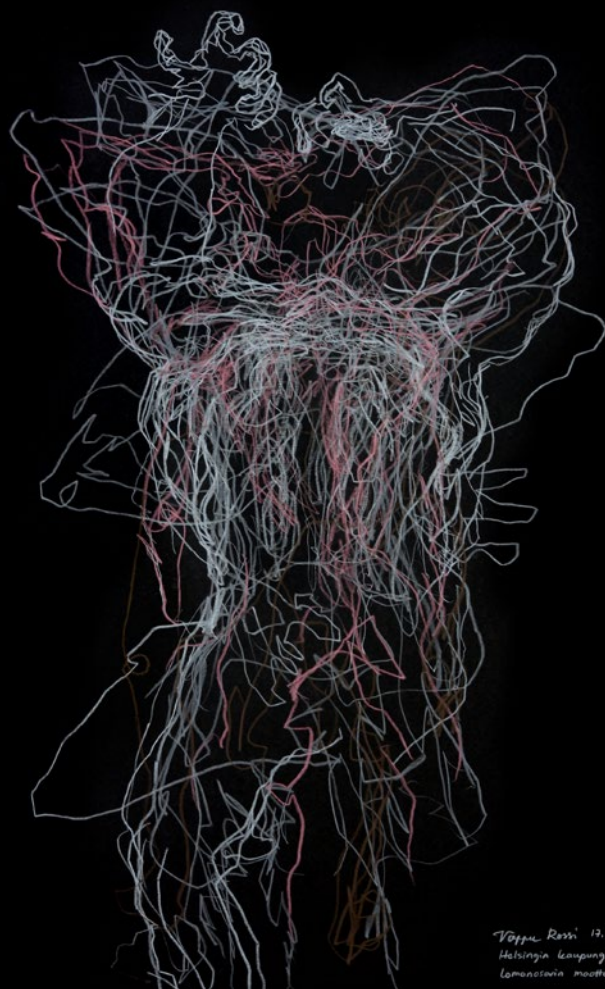
Special Night
Helsinki City Theatre
"Pappu Rovi"
1.-2.3.2023



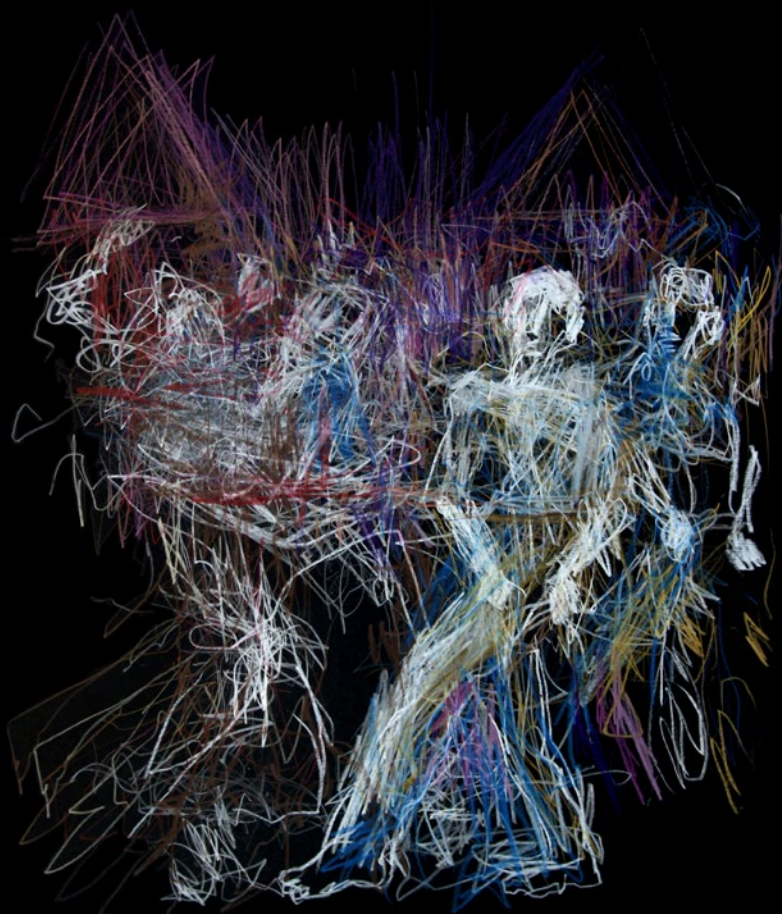
Special Night
Helsinki City Theatre
"Pappu Rovi"
1.-2.3.2023



*'Vappu Rotti' 17.-21.10.2022
Helsingin kaupunginteatteri
Lomonosovia-muotteri*



*'Vappu Rotti' 17.-21.10.2022
Helsingin kaupunginteatteri
Lomonosovia-muotteri*



*'Vappu Rotti' 17.-21.10.2022
Lomonosovia muotteri
Helsingin kaupunginteatteri*



Vappu Rovi 12.-14.9.2022 Tampereen Työväen Teatteri
Kuolamantassi / Dödsdansen



The Kiss

Helsinki Music Centre Media Wall, Visual Overture screening series

Media artwork, charcoal drawing animation, loop 54 sec, silent. Screening series produced by the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, the Centre of Finnish Media Art AV-arkki, and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra 2018.

On-site video documentation: <https://vimeo.com/329060082>

Rissanen, Rossi & Off/Balance: Face-to-Face
The Mänttä Art Festival 2021



In the Face-to-Face cross-art piece, a drawing slowly appears during the dance performance. 2021, it was presented in the Mänttä Art Festival, including a full-time top-down video of the performance. In the time-lapse version of the video, you can see how it develops: <https://vimeo.com/556250134>

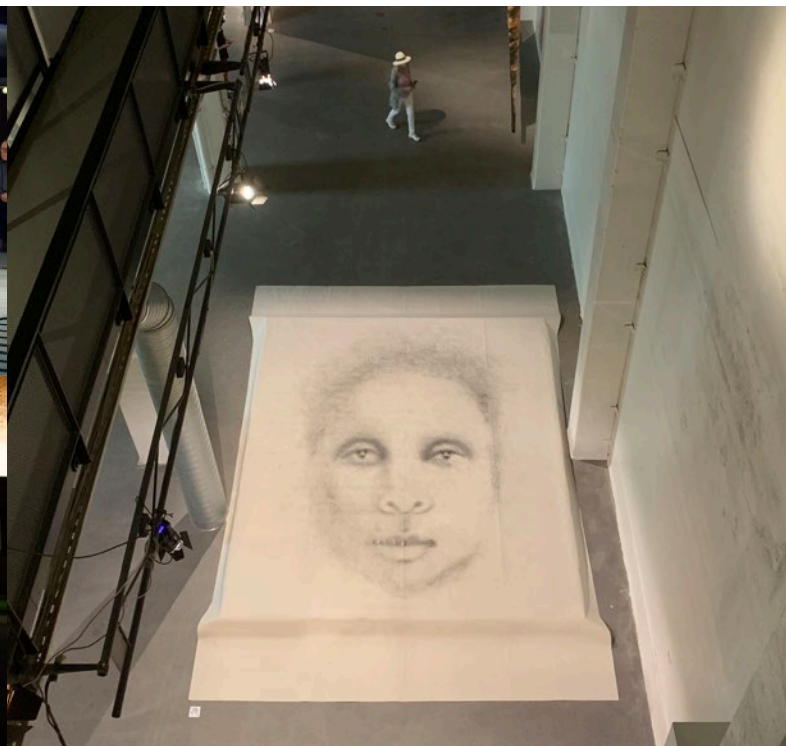


Rissanen, Rossi & Off/Balance: Face-to-Face

During a contemporary dance piece, a giant drawing of a human face is created. Visual Artist: Vappu Rossi. Choreography: Anni Rissanen. Performers: Elina Häyrynen, Terhi Kuokkanen, Vappu Rossi. Sound design: Tuuli Kyttälä. Special drawing glowes developed by Vappu Rossi serve as the drawing tools for the performance. World premiere in Jyväskylä, Finland 2018.

On the left: the Time of Dance Festival in the University of Jyväskylä Main Building 2018, in collaboration with Jyväskylä Sinfonia chamber musicians. The performance was also visible outside through window projections.

On the right: the drawing created during the performance, Mänttä Art Festival 2021, seen from the 4th floor.



**Large-scale roll paper drawings:
Series of Furies**

*Choir I, 2018.
350cm x 150cm.*

*At the heart of Rossi's work
is the depiction of the human:
the emotional and temporal
scale of human experience;
questions of movement, corpo-
reality, presence, and absence.*

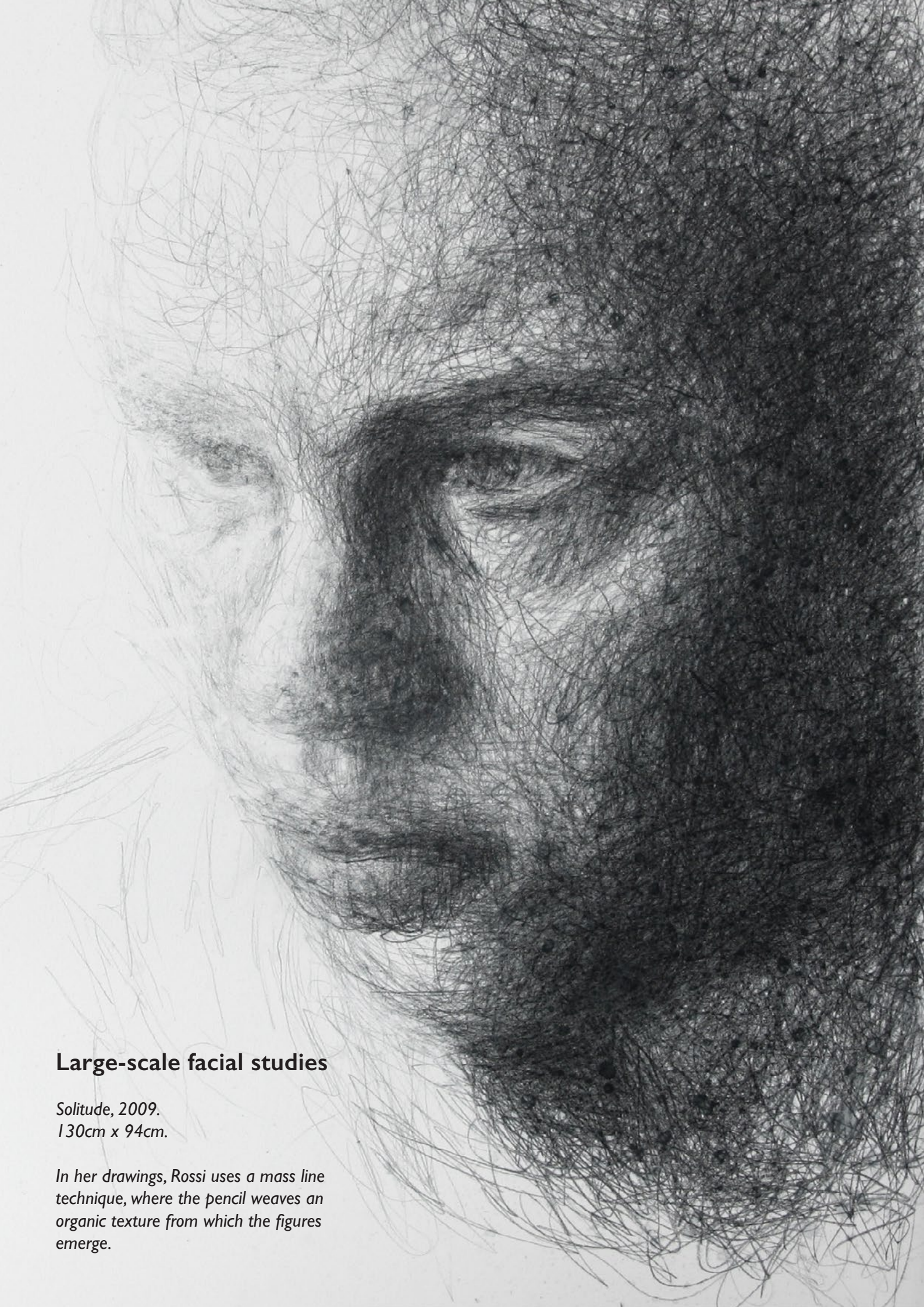




Large-scale facial studies

The themes revolve around conveying emotion or experience, the inner world of the mind reflected on the face.

*From the top left:
Far away from the world's
betrayals
The Gaze
Caught Red-handed
Reminiscences*



Large-scale facial studies

Solitude, 2009.
130cm x 94cm.

In her drawings, Rossi uses a mass line technique, where the pencil weaves an organic texture from which the figures emerge.



Vappu Rossi: Goodbye Shadowy, 2013

Media art animation, loop 1 min 58 sek. 16:9, stereo.

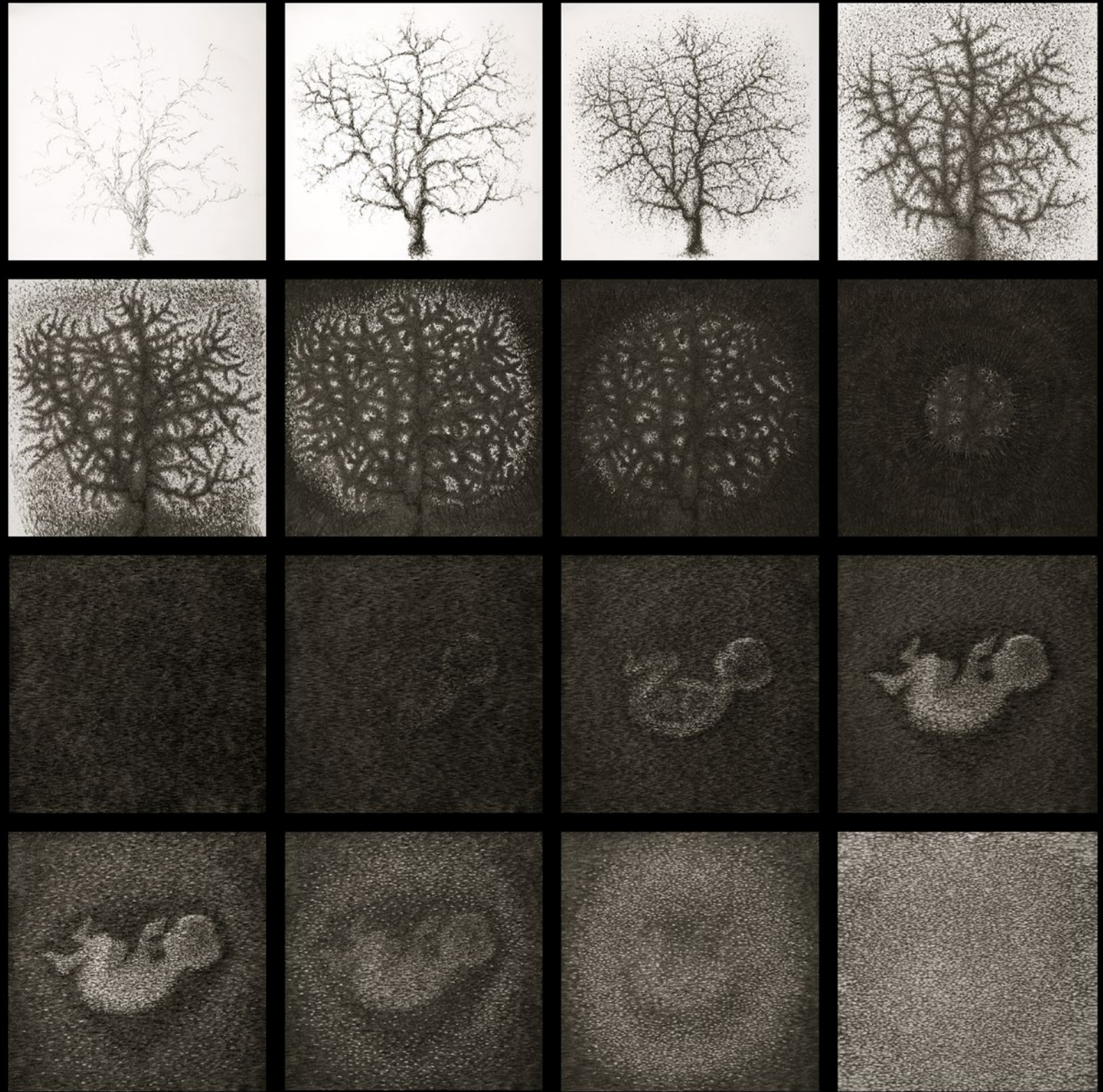
Preview & photos: <https://www.av-arkki.fi/works/hyvasti-varjoinen-installation/>



Vappu Rossi: Ephemeral, 2009.

Media art animation, loop 1 min 37sec, 4:3, silent.

Preview & photos: <https://www.av-arkki.fi/works/hetkellinen/>



Vappu Rossi: Tree of Life, 2009.

Media art animation, loop 1 min 55sec. 4:3, silent.

Preview & photos: <https://www.av-arkki.fi/works/elaman-puu/>





Vappu Rossi: The Marriage, 2014.

Media art animation, loop 6 min 32 sec. 16:9, silent.
Preview & photos: <https://www.av-arkki.fi/works/avioliitto/>



Site-specific works & wall drawings

Site specific works have been part of Rossi's artistic practice for two decades. She has implemented wall pieces for various museums, galleries, art festivals, and public spaces, including Frans Masereel International Art Centre in Belgium, Kunsthalle Helsinki, the Joensuu, Jyväskylä, and Tuusula Art Museums, and the Porvoo Triennial.





Site-specific works & wall drawings



Vappu Rossi
30.6. - 3.7.2016

10:1



The Doormen

Anamorphic wall drawing

*Staircase of the
Kunsthalle Helsinki*

*Finnish Art Academy 160 years
exhibition 2008*



*The uppermost image:
The Doormen from the optimal
viewing point. at the bottom of
the stairs*

*The lower images:
Seen directly from the front, the
anamorphic images are distorted
and stretched*



*Making-of video documentation
from the site:*

<https://vimeo.com/28886260>



VAPPU ROSSI: *Rain*, 2024. Light box, drilled acrylic, 70,5cm x 60cm x 20cm.

THANK YOU