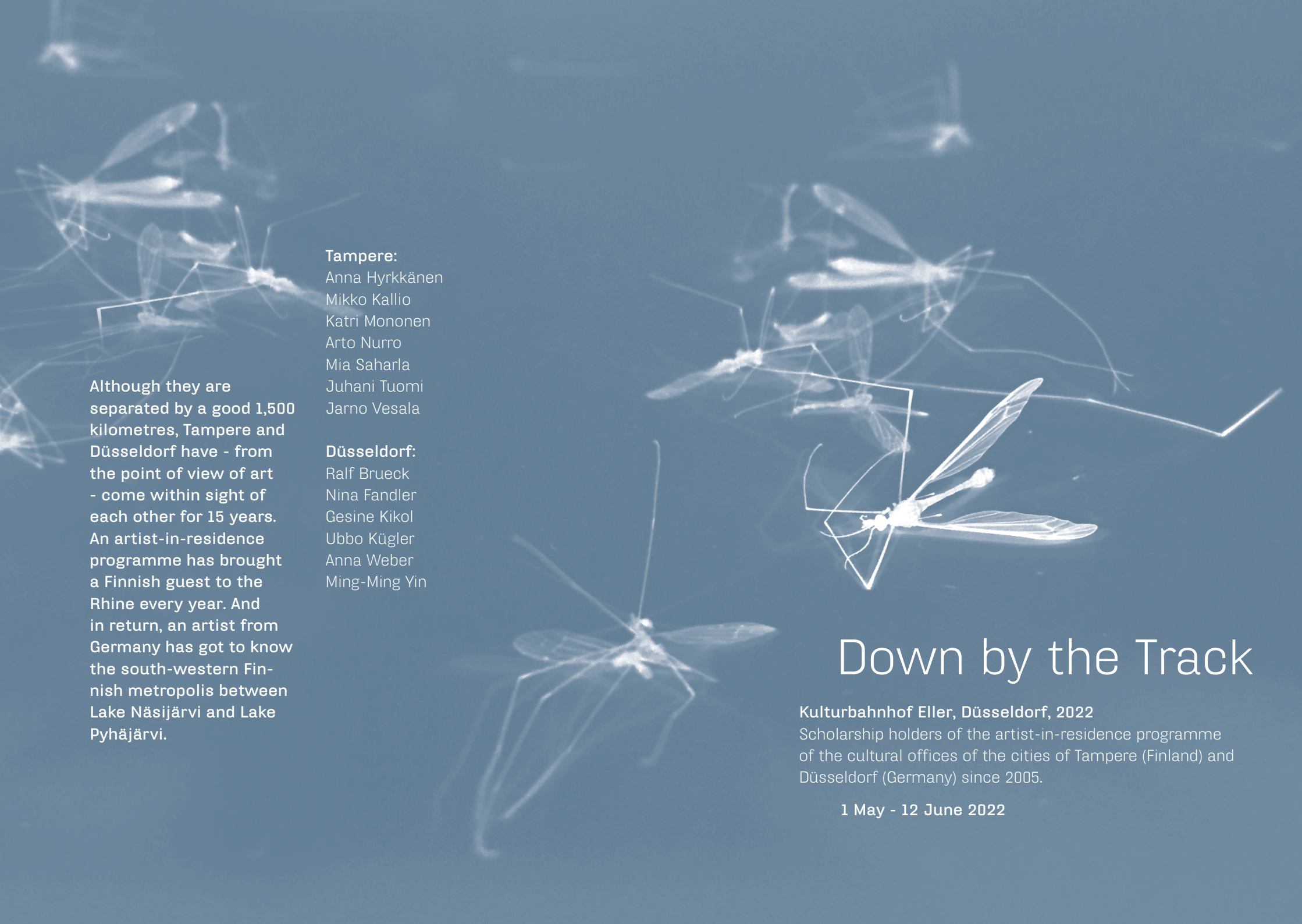




Down by the Track



Although they are separated by a good 1,500 kilometres, Tampere and Düsseldorf have - from the point of view of art - come within sight of each other for 15 years. An artist-in-residence programme has brought a Finnish guest to the Rhine every year. And in return, an artist from Germany has got to know the south-western Finnish metropolis between Lake Näsijärvi and Lake Pyhäjärvi.

Tampere:

Anna Hyrkkänen
Mikko Kallio
Katri Mononen
Arto Nurro
Mia Saharla
Juhani Tuomi
Jarno Vesala

Düsseldorf:

Ralf Brueck
Nina Fandler
Gesine Kikol
Ubbo Kügler
Anna Weber
Ming-Ming Yin

Down by the Track

Kulturbahnhof Eller, Düsseldorf, 2022

Scholarship holders of the artist-in-residence programme of the cultural offices of the cities of Tampere (Finland) and Düsseldorf (Germany) since 2005.

1 May - 12 June 2022

The project

When I came to the Eurocities Cultural Forum in Düsseldorf for the first time in 2004, I had no idea that this would be the beginning of an 18-year, very successful collaboration in an artist-in-residence exchange.

When I came to the Eurocities Cultural Forum in Düsseldorf for the first time in 2004, I had no idea that this would be the beginning of an 18 year, very successful collaboration through an artist-in-residence exchange.

The initiative came from Ms Karin Rauers, then head of the Visual Arts Team at the Düsseldorf Cultural Office. Many thanks again to her for her commitment!

During the visit, I got to know the various artist residences in the city and the gallery where most of the exhibitions of the Finnish artists takes place. I also learned about the activities of the local artists' associations, offspaces, institutes and museums. I was also impressed by the art education at the traditional academy and the wide range of contemporary art on offer.

The agreement was signed by the city of Tampere in Düsseldorf in December 2005, and then the exchange of scholarship holders could officially begin. The first artist from Tampere was Marra Lampi, and on 10 May 2006 an exhibition of the first guest artist, photographer Ralf Brueck, was opened in Tampere at the Vooninkl Gallery in Finlayson. This was the starting point

for a long, and in many ways, rewarding collaboration. For me, the annual application process was always something I looked forward to. It was great to go through the applications of talented artists together with my colleague, the visual artist, Jarno Vesala. Often the decision was difficult. We would have liked to accept more guests. I remember that every time a scholarship holder came, I immediately had the feeling that it was the right decision. We had the great pleasure of meeting talented, lovely and interesting people and their work. Finnish artists have also experienced the warm welcome and inspiring atmosphere in Düsseldorf. Contact with the artists has been maintained throughout the 18 years and has led to numerous further collaborations between the scholarship holders and their families. This is demonstrated by the first joint exhibition of German and Finnish art in Tampere in 2019 and now this exhibition, which will open in Düsseldorf on 1 May, 2022.

I would like to thank all of our partners: the city of Düsseldorf, Ms Karen Rauers and the many artists. I also wish the exhibition every success!

Elise Pedersen, former head of the Tampere Cultural Office, 2022

All of the artists participating in this exhibition are former scholarship holders of the exchange programme between the cultural offices in Tampere and Düsseldorf. They were selected by juries in Tampere and Düsseldorf. The decisive factor was the artistic quality of their work.

Since its inception, the exchange has been inspiring in both artistic and human terms. Numerous contacts have been established between the artists of both cities, some of which have been intensively cultivated for more than a decade. Over the course of time, a lively network has emerged, as evidenced not least by numerous private and professional meetings in Tampere, Helsinki, Berlin and Düsseldorf.

The then head of the cultural office in Tampere, Elise Pederson, provided the impetus to document this Finnish-German project in recurring group exhibitions. The inaugural exhibition was held in 2010 at the Art Center Mältinranta in Tampere with the exhibition title „Kreator Later“. The Finnish artists' return visit to Düsseldorf took place in 2011 in the former Consum, now Weltkunstzimmer, with the title „The Big Forest Painters“.

In 2019, part 3 - „Down by the Lake“ - of the series was again held in Tampere. The venue was the municipal exhibition rooms in Haihara, an old farm directly by the lake in the forest. The Finnish hosts, especially in the person of Ms Pederson, were once again very passionately committed, both organisationally and humanly, and - not least - financially.

So the series is now back in Düsseldorf. In May 2022, after two postponements due to the pandemic, the fourth part of the exhibition series will take place here again.

The Kulturbahnhof Eller is happy to include this project in its programme. In the beautiful former station building, the 13 artists - 7 from Tampere and 6 from Düsseldorf - will show their work in many different media. Since the Kulturbahnhof doesn't have a lake next door, but nice train tracks, we called the exhibition „Down by the Track“.

Since my own residency in Tampere in 2006, I have had a deep relationship with the country, the city and many of the artists. The stay in Tampere had a deep impact on me and I found new motifs on walks and journeys in the country and incorporated them into my work. Some of them still appear in my work today, such as in my current Vanitas still lifes in the exhibition.

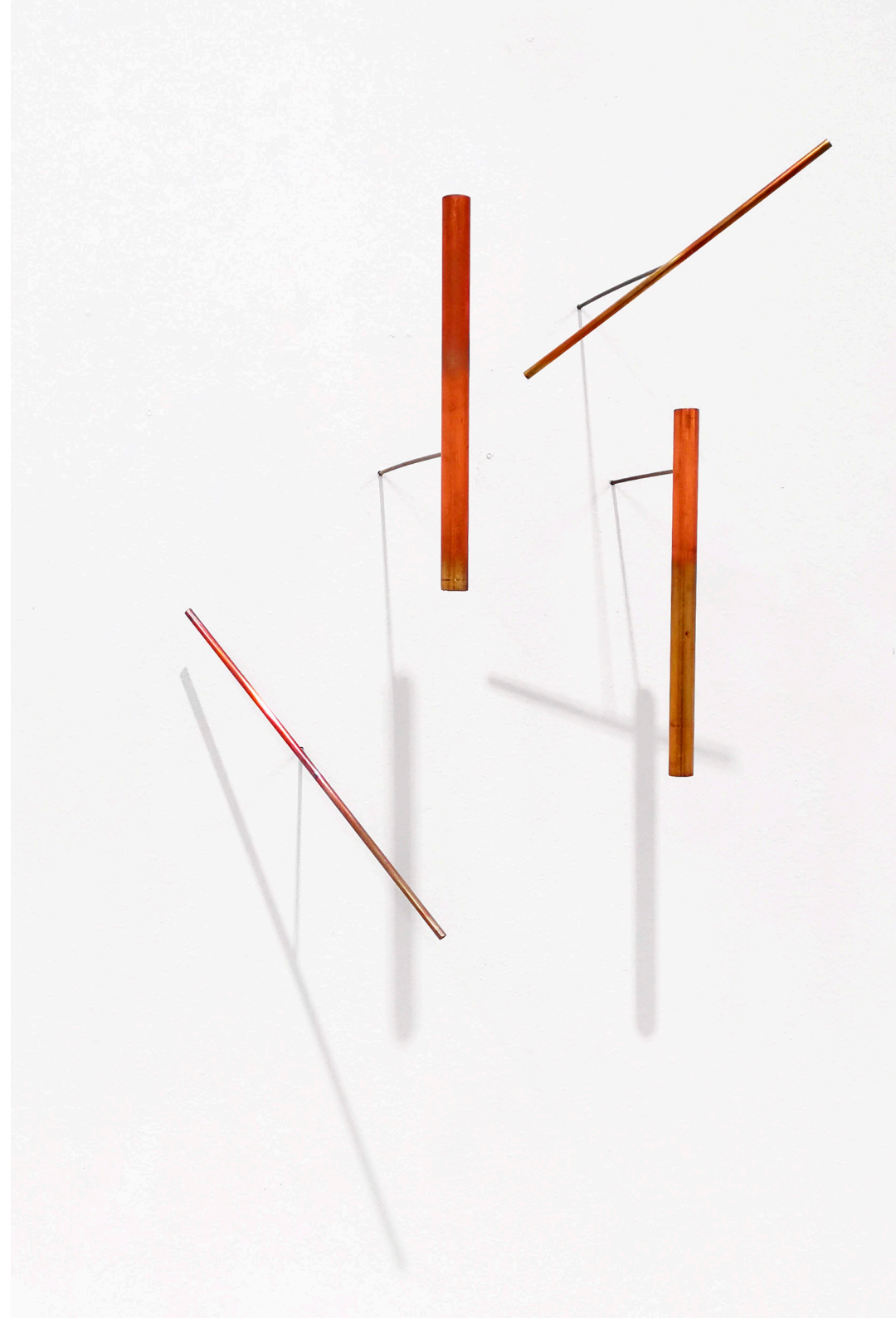
Gesine Kikol, 2022

Anna Hyrkkänen

2013 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany
2007 – 2010 Master of Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Finland
2006 – 2007 Professional specialization studies in Visual Arts, Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Field of Fine Art and Media, Tampere, Finland
2001 – 2005 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, Department of Fine Arts, Kankaanpää, Finland
1979 Born in Tampere, Finland

www.annahyrkkanen.com

*Entropy (Composure), 2021
Heat colored copper, 38 x 57 x 23 cm*





Mikko Kallio

2018 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany
2004 - 2006 Bachelor of Culture and Arts, Fine Art,
Tampere Polytechnic University of Applied Sciences,
Tampere, Finland
1993 - 1996 Visual Artist, Fine Arts, Tampere School
of Art and Media, Tampere, Finland
1971 Born in Espoo, Finland

www.mikkokallio.com

Birth in Layers, 2022
Mixed media on paper, 30 x 21 cm

Katri Mononen

2008 Master of Arts in Fine Art,
Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and
Architecture, Helsinki, Finland
2007 Exchange student, Kyoto City University of
Arts, Kyoto, Japan
2005 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany
2004 Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art, Tampere
University of Applied Sciences, Tampere, Finland
1981 Born in Pieksämäki, Finland

www.katrimononen.com

After the Party 1, 2022
Acrylic and spray on canvas, 100 x 80 cm





Arto Nurro

2007 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany

2004 Bachelor of Arts, Tampere Polytechnic,
Tampere, Finland

2001 Pedagogical Studies, Lahti Polytechnic,
Lahti, Finland

1997 Art School of Imatra, Imatra, Finland

1971 Born in Leppävirta, Finland

www.artonurro.com

The Head, 2022

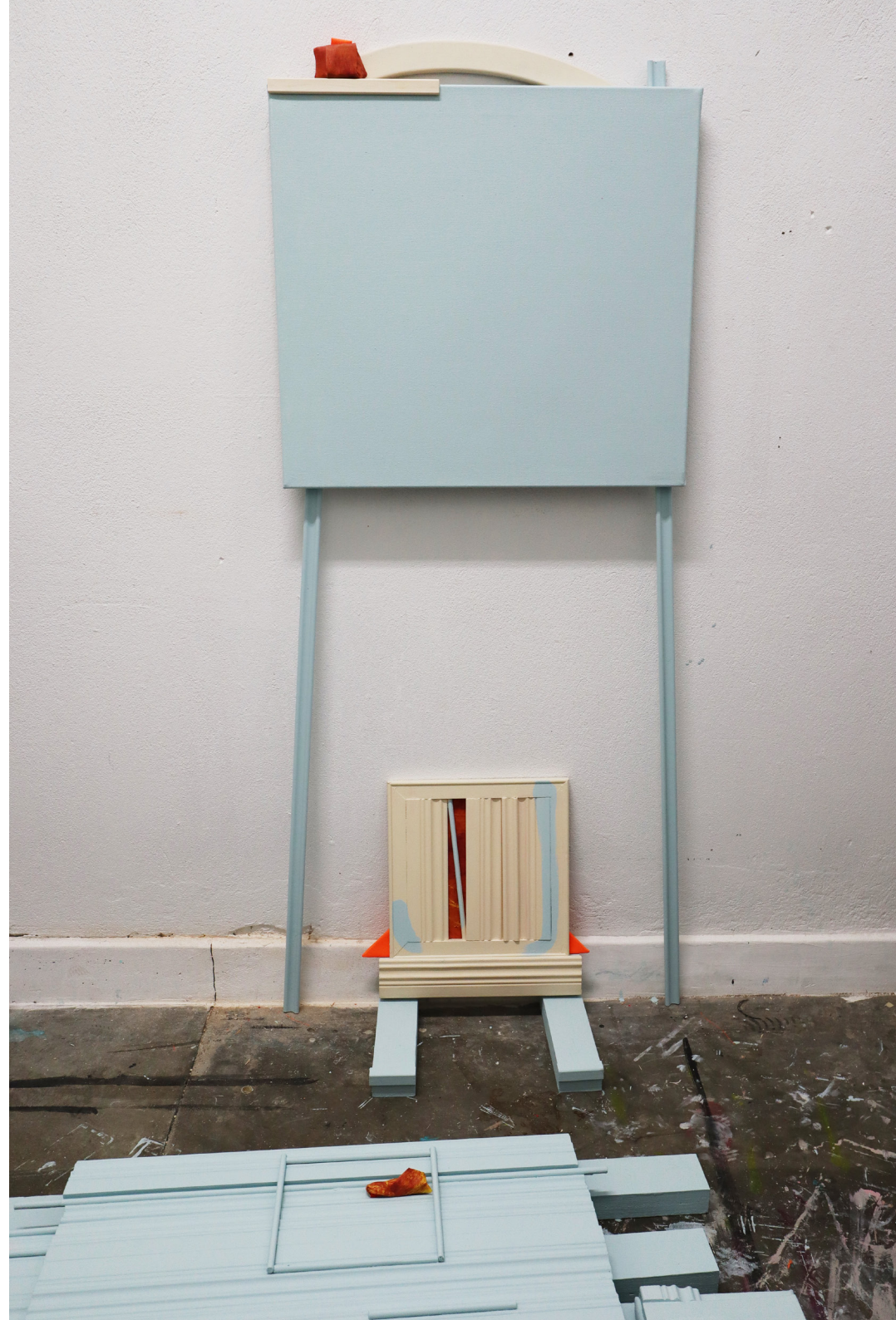
Ink and graphite on paper, 90 x 68 cm

Mia Saharla

2016 Master of Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts
Helsinki, Finland (maternity leave 2017 – 2019)
2010 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany
2006 - 2010 Bachelor of Arts, TAMK University of
Applied Sciences, the Degree Programme of Visual
Arts, Tampere, Finland
1983 Born in Tampere, Finland

www.miasaharla.net

The Carrier and the Carried, 2022
Mixed media (wall paint, acrylic, wood,
polyurethane), approx 170 x 80 cm





Juhani Tuomi

2014 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany
2007 - 2010 Master of Fine Arts, Finnish Academy of
Fine Arts, Department of Painting, Helsinki, Finland
2002 - 2007 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Tampere
University of Applied Sciences, Department of Fine
Arts, Tampere, Finland
2002 Matriculation examination
1983 Born in Tampere, Finland

www.juhanituomi.com

*The Spectators, 2022
Oil on canvas, 90 x 70 cm*

Jarno Vesala

2013 Young Artist of the Year 2013, Tampere Art Museum, Finland

2011 Artist in Residence, Düsseldorf, Germany

2004 Tampere University of Applied Sciences, School of Art and Media, Tampere, Finland

1977 Born in Rauma, Finland

www.jarnovesala.com

Life after death, 2021
Clay, 13 x 13 x 13 cm





Ralf Brueck

2005 Artist in Residence, Tampere, Finland
2003 Diploma
2002 Master student of Thomas Ruff
2000 Studies in the class of Thomas Ruff,
Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany
1995 Studies in the class of Bernd Becher,
Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany
1966 Born in Düsseldorf, Germany

www.ralfbrueck.com

*Dark, 2019
C-print, plexiglass, woodenframe, 133 x 195 cm*

Nina Fandler

2009 Artist in Residence, Tampere, Finland

2003 Diploma

2002 Master student of Jan Dibbets

from 1999 Studies in the class of Jan Dibbets,

Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

1997-1999 Studies in the class of Konrad Klapheck,

Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

1974 Born in Wuppertal, Germany

www.ninafandler.de

From the morning, 2022
Acrylic on canvas, 145 x 120 cm





Gesine Kikol

2006 Artist in Residence, Tampere, Finland

2006 Diploma

2006 Master student of Jörg Immendorff

2000-2006 Studies of Fine Art in the class of

Jörg Immendorff, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

1976 Born in Bergisch Gladbach, near Cologne, Germany

www.gesinekikol.de

Vanitas 2, 2022

Acrylic and ink on canvas, 90 x 70 cm

Ubbo Kügler

2019 Artist in Residence, Tampere, Finland
1993 Master student of Fritz Schwegler
1991 Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany
1989 HfBK Berlin in the class of Klaus Fussmann
1987 Kunstakademie Münster, Germany
Born in Wilhelmshaven, Germany

www.ubbo.de

*NMS Tampere, 2019
Ink on handmade paper on fabric, 110 x 81 cm*





Anna Weber

2016 Artist in Residence in Tampere, Finland

2015 Diploma

2015 Master student of Andreas Schulze

2009 Student of Andreas Schulze,
Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

2008 Gueststudent of Tal R,
Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany

2006 Student of Daniele Buetti,
Kunstakademie Münster, Germany

1986 Born in Düsseldorf, Germany

www.annaliviaweber.com

*o.T. (Allotment Garden 2), 2022
Acrylic and lacquer on canvas, 65 cm x 65 cm*

Ming-Ming Yin

2018 Artist in Residence, Tampere, Finland
2011 Diploma
2009 Studies in the class of Georg Herold
2004 Master student of David Rabinowitch
From 2000 Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany
1989 – 1994 College of Arts, Tung-Hai University,
Taichung, Taiwan
1970 Born in Taichung, Taiwan

The Fall of Apple, 2022
Interactive installation, wooden slats, velcro,
rabbit wire, fishnet stockings, approx. 7 x 6 x 3.5 m



Tampere/Düsseldorf: Two places

At last a studio window worthy of the name: imposing in its dimensions, discreetly ornamented with bars, it opens up the room to the south so that Finland's light can flood into the studio, or, depending on the time of day and season, Finland's gloom. The wonderful thing about this studio is that it has always been a studio - not some disused cucumber factory or the like that has recently been given over to the arts, if only because nothing else could be done with it.

No: the studio in the Palander House is undoubtedly a studio and has never been anything else. More than a century ago, Finland's famous symbolist Hugo Simberg looked down on Keskustori, the representative square in the centre of Tampere. Because back then, people still knew what was appropriate: the artist was not moved to the outskirts of the city, where the real estate was cheap, but enthroned at the top of the action.

Of the spectacular happenings, at times: from the studio window of the Palander, in 1918 one could have watched one of the last battles of the Finnish Civil War being fought between the town hall and the theatre, but that is another story. If you look up from the consistently peaceful Keskustori today, you can see that the studio window has since been reduced

in size - originally it even extended up to the roof, but times have probably become a little more sparse here as well. But even the reduced window is still formidable enough - as some artists from Düsseldorf were able to see for themselves. Between 2005 and 2014, they were allowed to use the studio in Palander House as Tampere scholarship holders. The place may have been inspiring, not only for Nina Fandler, who recently painted the window again.

And in the inspiration lies a sense of exchange: the other place challenges one's own work. Here in Finland, despite all global levelling, the things, the houses, their windows are still different from those at home. The light, the forests and the lakes are different anyway - as the scholarship holders have been able to see for themselves since 2015 when, now housed at the Haihara Art Centre, they trudge down the path to the shore of Lake Kaukajärvi. At night, where the city ends and Finland begins, you have the area to yourself - except for the mystical Blue Lady, who sometimes walks around.

Travelling and seeing have always been part of the artist's practice. The experience of the unknown, the work in the unfamiliar, enhances the artistic ability. This is how Tampere has enriched the Düsseldorf artists. But what might the Finns have seen in Düsseldorf? First of all, the space of their work. Sometimes they are housed in the studios of the Salzmänn Building in Bilk, which, with its glazed paper factory administration tiles from 1906, is an acquired taste. Other Finns found themselves in the former school building on Achener Straße, also in Bilk, built in 1904/05, which you enter through a Second World War bomb shelter (now pimped with the prefix „cultural“), and diagonally opposite, Otto Dix himself lived there in 1925.

The guest studio in the artists' housing estate on Franz-Jürgens-Strasse in Golzheim also has a story to tell. It is part of the whitewashed brick ensemble that was demonstratively built in 1936 for the exhibition „Schaffendes Volk“ as a „Schlagetersiedlung“. Earlier the street used to be named after an artist: the Nazis called it „Ernst-Schwartz-Straße“ - probably less because Schwartz was an artist than because he was a Nazi, namely one who fell victim to the troubled times and most notably a stabbing

in 1932. The Finnish artists have lived and worked in all these historically enriched spaces, and perhaps the genius loci has also been at work here, either directly or indirectly.

It is part of the essence of artistic exchange that one presents oneself and one's work. In addition to the solo exhibitions of the current scholarship holders, from time to time there is a group exhibition that unites Finnish and German artists; of which this is the fourth one. What is presented here is too diverse to be able to say anything unifying about the essence of these works. And yet they touch each other. The artists who created them met in these two places, seeing each other: one has seen, one has let oneself be seen, in Tampere and in Düsseldorf.

Martin Berke, 2022



Tampere - Düsseldorf Exhibiton

Down by the Track

1 May - 12 June 2022

Kulturbahnhof Eller
Vennhauser Allee 89
40229 Düsseldorf

<https://www.kultur-bahnhof-eller.de>

Curators:

Gesine Kikol (Düsseldorf)
Jarno Vesala (Tampere)

© **Photos:** by the artists



Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf
Kulturamt



City of Tampere
Public Cultural Services

