

EILA MINKKINEN

PORI ART MUSEUM PROJECT ROOM 5.2.–23.3.2003

Eila Minkkinen has made an extensive career as a silver smith as well as a sculptress. In the 1980's she moved from silver jewellery and the tradition of small-scale production of metal handicraft to reliefs, sculptures and cross-arts. In her works Minkkinen has combined traditional techniques of metal handling – repoussage-embossing, for example – with different dyeing methods thus creating sculptures of a new kind.

The functional forms of nature and ecological thinking are present in Minkkinen's work: she has given form to her sculptures by the use of recycled materials – old tin roof, water pipes, computer chips or kraft paper – as well as simplifying broken and fragile natural form in a controlled fashion.

In the sculptures of the **Profile** exhibition, realized in the Pori Art Museum Project Room, Eila Minkkinen has used a new method of handling copper – developed by herself – in which thin and smooth copper plates are first folded in two to create “profiles” and then soldered together. The seemingly hard metal is bended as a paper-thin copper plate and the resulting sculpture, although it appears to be massive, is in fact lightweight. The works are constructive even though different natural shapes (seeds, cones, capsules and microscopic pictures of various living organisms) work as a starting point for them. The forms of the sculptures have taken shape through right-proportioned form-seeking, possibilities and limitations offered by the material and handicraft.

Minkkinen has used numerous materials in her work, but copper in the form of thin sheets in particular. Copper is at the same time the softest and the most tenacious of metals. It can be bended and stretched almost endlessly. It goes through extensive color variations in the various stages of work and it can also be dyed chemically by coating it with patina. Furthermore, Minkkinen uses copper for ecological reasons; it's the most common metal found in earth's crust and completely recyclable. In Finland, for example, 80% of the copper in use is recycled.

The theme of the **Profile** exhibition, “mental images from the nature”, is a continuation to the whole of Minkkinen's artistic work, always inspired by the natural subjects.

Eila Minkkinen lives and works in Rauma. She graduated from the faculty of metal art at the Academy of Applied Arts in 1969 and is a licensed silver smith. Since the graduation she has worked as a free artist. Minkkinen is a member of The Association of Finnish Sculptors, Ornamo, Arte ry, Helsinki Artists Association and Rauma Artists Association.

Further information on the exhibition: curator Hannele Kolsio (tel. 02-621 1083, e-mail hannele.kolsio@pori.fi).
Pori Art Museum is open Tue-Sun 11-18, Wed 11-20.