

Press Release
21.05.2004

Lars-Gunnar Nordström and Jazz MEDIApoint 04.06. – 05.09.2004

Press conference at Pori Art Museum
on Friday 4 June at 12.00. The artist will be present.

Exhibition opening on Friday 4 June at 18.00.

Pori Art Museum's series of exhibitions on Finnish modernism and the Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation's collection continue. The mini-exhibition in MEDIApoint challenges the visitor to examine the relationship between the master of concretism Lars-Gunnar Nordström's (b.1924) mathematically precise paintings and jazz music as a free-form power of expression.

Lars-Gunnar Nordström has said (in Svenska Dagbladet 1976) how he saw an exhibition by *Victor Vasarely* back in the late forties and felt how rhythm was to be found in the artist's work, a rhythm that he also aspires to in his own creative production. In the same context Nordström, however, stated modestly that his own objective in painting was "to generate single chords."

Lars-Gunnar Nordström is renowned as one of Finland's earliest and most pioneering and single-minded non-figurative artists. His passion for jazz is almost equally well known. Nordström's record collection is legendary and he is known to listen to jazz while he works.

Lars-Gunnar Nordström is a classic representative of constructive art as Dagens Nyheter's critic *Ole Granath* wrote over thirty years ago. In the words of the critic, the majority of Nordström's pictorial expression is based on extreme precision. The trace of the hand has completely disappeared from the glossy surfaces of his paintings, the balance of which seems to be threatened by the colourful fields and their power. According to Granath, Nordström follows a strict logic and precision only so as to be able to make the order he creates implode with greater force. Nordström's art is indeed loaded with a powerful emotional investment. It is not satisfied with the superficial.

Visitors to the Lars-Gunnar Nordström and jazz mini-exhibition have the chance to listen to the music of Thelonius Monk that the artist has chosen from his extensive record collection to accompany his works in the exhibition.

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