

# PORIN TAIDEMUSEO | PORI ART MUSEUM

## INTERSECTION – BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE

THE HALL, THE WING, THE PROJECT ROOM, 9 JUNE – 20 AUGUST 2006

Artists: Elina Brotherus, Kyllikki Haavisto, Pertti Kekarainen, Ola Kolehmainen, Markus Kåhre, Lotta Määttänen, Anna Tuori, Marko Vuokola, Tommi Grönlund & Petteri Nisunen

*They took all the trees  
Put em in a tree museum  
And they charged the people  
A dollar and a half just to see em  
Dont it always seem to go  
That you dont know what youve got  
Till its gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot*

Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell's lyrics to *Big Yellow Taxi* open up a variety of ways to interpret the exhibition *Intersection – between past and future*. When Mitchell sings of a 'tree museum', of people having to pay a fee to see the trees, of paradise paved over to become a parking lot, she sings of the retrospective appreciation that is only realised after a loss. Although the lyrics make a clear stand for the preservation of nature, and the absurdity of such a museum decries the loss of it, they also provide a fruitful opportunity to ponder the innermost soul of modern art.

Modern art is what old art isn't. Old art is often described as having a figurative surface, a clarity of abstract values; there is talk of lines, composition and lyrical tone. That makes modern art the non-figurative and obscure; a cacophony of composition without lines where the tone is lost in obscurity. So into what is old art disappearing, and why would the intention of modern art even want to be the opposite of old art?

For 25 years at the Pori Art Museum, the open, almost untamed relationship between modern art and people, the environment and the rest of the world has rattled the cage of the high-flying so-called old art. Within the walls of what was once a weighing and packing room, and occasionally outside it, the public has had the opportunity to view art from around the world. Modern art has not spun people around in the safe steps of a familiar dance, but rather stepped on some toes – spellbound its partners, the viewers, amazed and outraged them at its audacity. At times the art has been tender and generous, asking viewers to tear away the scabs on its wounds and forgive the bruised toenails. It has also been about equality, joy, war, nationhood, motherhood, silence, love, madness, disgust, loneliness, hatred, mountains, bedrock, uncertainty, negligence, furs, and piles of stones. Walking through the exhibitions, most viewers will have been moved by some tiny thing, almost invisible, or intangible.

The works in the *Intersection* exhibition show elements of Finnishness, letting us observe the national mentality while focusing, as if through a magnifying lens, on the modern art of today. This hybrid exhibition combines and separates shyness and boldness, depreciation and pride – and the Finnish grit, known as *sisu*. It is far from homogeneous, yet all of the artists are Finnish-speaking Finns. Could language and ethnicity be the only things that unite them? In this exhibition Agrarian meets cosmopolitan and they exist side by side without acrimony. Viewing it, the Finnish public will recognise and interpret elements from their own environment: the stillness of a lake, northern light, a carton of milk. In their works, each of the artists contributes their share, their piece of the puzzle that adds up to a Finnish identity. Sometimes knowingly and sometimes guilelessly, they have interpreted their world through the knowledge and centuries-old reactions that are carried, unspoken, inside each and every Finn.

\*\*\*

*Intersection – between past and future*, as the title suggests, exhibits a cross-section of modern art in Finland today.

Pori Art Museum, Eteläranta, 28100 Pori, Finland. Further information about the exhibition: Laura Selin

laura.selin@pori.fi, phone +358-44 701 10 89, [www.poriartmuseum.fi](http://www.poriartmuseum.fi)

The museum is open Tuesday–Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Wednesdays, entry is free from 6 to 8 p.m. when there is a free guided tour of the exhibition starting at 6 p.m.