

Press release

ASIAN PIECES – TERO KIISKINEN

Exhibition

The Project Room, 10 November 2006 – 7 January 2007

Information day is on Thursday, 9 November, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information event open to the public on Friday 10 November, at 12 noon. The exhibition curator Kimmo Sarje will be present at both events. Exhibition opening on Friday, 10 November at 6 p.m. Welcome!

'I was given a typewriter to use. As promised, here is the circular of my diary, such as it is, unchanged, with nothing added, with emotions of the moment, some even quite intimate, but let it be.' (Tero Kiiskinen, in his diary, 1976.) **The theme for the autumn season at the Pori Art Museum is the relationship between people and art; art and life.**

Tero Kiiskinen (1948–1996) was a stage designer who graduated from the University of Art and Design Helsinki in 1974, after which he spent a further year studying at the Krakow Academy of Fine Arts in Poland. In 1975 he began making long trips to Asia where, in total, he eventually spent some six years. Most of his trips he undertook alone, but he also travelled with his friends, graphic artist Outi Heiskanen and fellow students from the University of Art and Design Helsinki, Riitta Räsänen and Jukka O. Miettinen. Kiiskinen was known to be a passionate collector. Over the years, Kiiskinen's home 'Window Sill Museum' took on almost insane dimensions. Objects simply took over his little studio apartment, until there were only narrow strips of floor left to give him access to an easy chair and the cooking recess.

The two thousand or so objects of the Kiiskinen collection make up the second largest donation to the Museum of Cultures, but Kiiskinen also collected items for the Theatre Museum's collection. Jukka O. Miettinen says: 'In his bundles and in his over-stuffed bags and in the boxes he mailed back to Finland, Tero brought to his tiny flat in Katajannokka in Helsinki and his summer cottage in Siilinjärvi an astonishing collection of objects, fabrics, sculptures, paintings, manuscripts, craftwork, plastic toys, and even garbage. Yes, he also collected garbage! Tero appreciated objects more for their structure, patina and poignancy rather than because they were perfect or had monetary value.' In addition to the objects themselves, Kiiskinen left an impressive collection of photographs as well as some hundred drawings and paintings from his trips, some of which are studies of the objects he'd acquired. As a stage designer, Tero Kiiskinen's work includes more than thirty theatre productions in Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

The exhibition ASIAN PIECES – TERO KIISKINEN presents an individual approach to collections, collecting, and objects. **In conjunction with the exhibition, the Pori Art Museum is publishing a book based on Tero Kiiskinen's diaries**, edited by the exhibition curator, artist and critic Kimmo Sarje, PhD. Other collaborators on the book include Jukka O. Miettinen and the author and actress Pirkko Saisio. The exhibition includes items on loan from the collections of the National Museum of Finland/Museum of Cultures.

For more information about the exhibition, contact: Exhibition curator Kimmo Sarje, phone 040-7576 131, e-mail sarje@muu.fi, or Museum Director Esko Nummelin, phone 02-621 1085, e-mail:

esko.nummelin@pori.fi **For photographs, go to:** www.poriartmuseum.fi > tiedotusvälineet > lue lisää näyttelystä > lehdistökuvia