

**KYSE ON AIKAMME TAITEESTA / IT'S ABOUT THE ART OF OUR TIME /
 DET ÄR FRÅGA OM NUTIDA KONST - MAIRE GULLICHSEN**

The Pori Art Museum 27.05. – 23.09.2007.

Opening on Sunday 27 May 2007 at 3 p.m.

” Maire Gullichsen (1907-1990) was a legend in her lifetime. She, if any Finnish woman who lived in the 20th century, had the makings of a hero myth, but heroism is understood in male terms, and is thus poorly suited to Gullichsen’s personality.” Tuula Karjalainen in the commemorative book on Maire Gullichsen, 2007

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Maire Gullichsen. The Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation and the Pori Art Museum celebrate the occasion with a special exhibition and the publishing of a catalogue and commemorative book in association with the Central Art Archives of the Finnish National Gallery.

Maire Gullichsen was one of Finland’s leading figures in culture and art during the 20th century. She was a proponent of modern art, whose name is associated with many of the country’s leading cultural institutions of the past century, such as ARTEK, the *Free Art School* and the *Contemporary Art Association*. Her name is also borne by the *Villa Mairea*, designed by Alvar Aalto for Maire and Harry Gullichsen and perhaps one of Finland’s best-known modernist works of architecture. Built in Noormarkku in 1939, the *Villa Mairea* also became the home of the Gullichsens’ large art collection. Maire Gullichsen wanted to change the atmosphere of the Finnish art world, and she succeeded in this aim. She was a force that pulled Finnish art out of its nationalist pathos that was still prominent in the 1950s. Maire Gullichsen was awarded the honorary title of professor in 1981.

When the Pori Art Museum was completed, it received as its basic collection the works of the art foundation founded by Maire Gullichsen in 1971. This collection not only reflects the internationalization of Finnish art in the 20th century but also illustrates Maire Gullichsen’s decades of goal-oriented work in organizing and staging art exhibitions. She was also the best client of the gallery that she had founded.

The centenary exhibition traces a line of development from the masters of the early 20th century, *Ellen Thesleff*, *Sigrid Schauman* and *Tyko Sallinen*, via artists constructing a new kind of image, *Birger Carlstedt*, *Unto Pusa*, *Sam Vanni* and *Lars-Gunnar Nordström*, to a period represented by artists including *Tor Arne*, *Carolus Enckell*, *Jorma Hautala*, *Matti Kujasalo* and *Paul Osipow*. The international artists of the collection include *Victor Vasarely* and *Alberto Viani*.

The Pori Art Museum and the Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation in association with the Central Art Archives of Finland have published a commemorative book on Maire Gullichsen with articles by *Tuula Karjalainen PhD*, *FM Helena Woirhaye MA*, *FT Erkki Anttonen PhD* and *Erik Kruskopf PhD*.

WELCOME