

COLLECTOR'S GAZE

The Art Collections of Kristian and Kirsi Gullichsen & Juhani and Hannele Pallasmaa

Pori Art Museum 07.06. - 08.09.2013. Exhibition architect: Kirsi Gullichsen

Media Day	Thursday 06 June 2013 at 11.00
Collector Talk	Friday 07 June 2013 at 12.00
Opening	Friday 07 June 2013 at 18.00

At present, the building is the main thing in art museums and art is an alibi for constructing it. The works then decorate these excellent spaces. The Pori Art Museum follows a completely opposite idea.
Kristian Gullichsen

In 2006, the Pori Art Museum launched a series of exhibitions entitled THE COLLECTOR'S GAZE. Opening in June 2013, Art from the Collections of Kristian and Kirsi Gullichsen and Juhani and Hannele Pallasmaa is the fourth in the series, and completely exceptional. The museum's exhibition spaces will now meet the personal collection of the designer of the museum building together with close colleagues and their collections.

What happens to a work of art when it is transferred from one context of interpretation, one environment, to another – from the artist's studio to a gallery, and from there to a collector's home and in turn to an art museum? How is the dialogue of the exhibition space, art and architecture formed? What happens to architecture when its navel is cut, when it distances itself from the visual arts that link to shared existentialist soil?

What is collecting, and what is a collection? Is it something that is consciously constructed? Or did art just become part of life and did the art works find their way into the collector's home? The concept of art produced by art history and maintained by museums has only grudgingly accepted references to private tastes in art. In practice, however, all the leading art museums of Finland have come about from private collections. It could be said that the collections of art museums are collections of collections. More often than we perhaps realize, there is a person devoted to this task in the background, the collector. This is also the case at the Pori Art Museum where the basic collection consists of the donated collection of the Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation. The subjective nature of a private collection is the source of both its strength and fragility.

The collection of Kristian and Kirsi Gullichsen mostly consists of works by leading Finnish and Nordic contemporary artists and to a lesser degree by French modernists. Juhani and Hannele Pallasmaa's collection mainly represents contemporary Finnish art, with additions of works by leading Estonian and Czech avant-garde artists. The collection also contains traditional works from Asia. Along with paintings and prints, both collections include some works of sculpture and naturally architects' drawings. Out of a total of five hundred works of art some 200 were chosen for the exhibition.

Kristian Gullichsen (1932-) spent his childhood in Villa Maire, Noormarkku and began his career in architecture by sharpening colour pencils in Alvar Aalto's office. During sixty years of private practice he has designed churches, cultural centres, libraries and housing in Finland and abroad. The Pori Art Museum designed by Gullichsen was completed in 1981, followed by an extension in 2000.

Juhani Pallasmaa (1936-) is an architect who has also worked in exhibition, object and graphic design, in addition to writing and teaching architecture. He has also been the rector of the Institute of Industrial Arts, head of exhibitions and director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture, a professor at the Helsinki University of Technology and a visiting professor at several universities abroad. Pallasmaa has published over forty books on the philosophy of architecture and the arts, which have been translated into fifteen languages.

Publication: In connection with the exhibition Pori Art Museum has released a book KESKUSTELU – SAMTAL – CONVERSATION. Edited by Kirsi Gullichsen, 192 pages. Pori Art Museum Publications 124. Available at the Pori Art Museum's book shop and the online bookshop.

Media images: <http://www.poriartmuseum.fi/fin/tiedotusvalineet/lehdistokuvat.php>

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