Art @ the Heart of the City!

16 September 2016 – 29 January 2017
Pori Art Museum Project Room, Sculpture Garden and public space

Art @ the Heart of the City! presents public art created between 2004–2016 in Pori and in Satakunta. The City of Pori has for many years served as a platform for public art or temporary art interventions. Many of these have been collaborative projects between different actors. Interventions have been conducted to appropriate the urban space and create collective meeting places that also include art.

‘Art Here There and Everywhere’ is an environment art programme organised by the Pori Art Museum since 1999 in which school pupils collaborate with artists to study how art can be used to perceive and understand different collective environments. The current exhibition features a workshop piece entitled ‘Boat from Venice’ (2004), created with artist Jan-Erik Andersson. The theme of the workshop was the Pori City Hall and its historical, symbolic, functional and imaginative messages.

Pori Centre for Children’s Culture – Network of Children’s Culture in Satakunta produces ephemeral, permanent, irritating, educational or comforting Public works of art that arise from collaboration between children and artists. The centre supports the cultural rights of children and their opportunities to participate in and contribute to society. This exhibition includes following works: a touring painted car; swimming pool signage; Kultane – art and culture oriented interior for a maternity/child care clinic; library bus; ‘Taavin tulet’ fire art event; exterior wall of Onnenkivi daycare centre; and ‘Carrot-Beetroot Toes’, a work created for the Children’s and Women’s House of the Satakunta Hospital District. The works are from between 2004 and 2016 and are presented in the exhibition in the form of a conceptual wall installation.

The Arts Promotion Centre Finland has invested in recent years in the percent for art programme by employing regional artists whose work promotes the percent for art principle. Including art in building projects is one way of providing employment to artists. The City of Pori is implementing the principle in conjunction with the 2018 housing fair under construction in Karjaranta. The winner of the art competition was Mirja Vallinoja’s entry ‘Sun City’ that combines solar energy, water technology and video art. The new art collection in the Children’s and Women’s House of the Satakunta Hospital District has altogether 38 works by 30 artists, and the art collection at unit B5 of the Municipal Health Centre has work by seven artists. The environmental art work at Palovainio, Ulvila, serves not only as a work of art but also as a sports hill.

Aalto University and the Pori Urban Platform highlights artworks and actions in the urban space in experimental projects combining art and science from 2012–2015. The series of postcards recalls surprising collisions between art and everyday life in the urban space over the years. During the exhibition, artist Denise Ziegler will conduct a project entitled ‘P 24h’ which explores the 24h parking spaces in the Pori city centre and city dwellers. Ziegler’s work examines the relationship of citizens with their environment.

In 2011, the T.E.H.D.A.S. artist collective was appointed facilities at the old shortwave station in Pori. Together with the city’s Culture and Park Department, they began developing the station and the surrounding park. Conducted by Turku University programme of landscape studies, ‘The Spirit of Suburb’ was a project that involved experimental cultural planning and mapping of cultural resources in the area. Key concerns identified by local residents and the T.E.H.D.A.S. collective were to promote contacts between different age groups and to develop the cultural activities. The ‘Pori bench’ project was carried out as a collaborative effort by T.E.H.D.A.S., the Sampola residential association, the University and administrative branches of the city.

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The exhibition is part of the Pori Live project program. Events program consists talks and guided tours by experts.