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MAIRE GULLICHSEN, ALVAR AALTO AND GALERIE ARTEK – EARLY FORMS OF ABSTRACTION IN THE COLLECTION OF MAIRE GULLICHSEN ART FOUNDATION

Project Room

20.03–30.08.2020

This research-based exhibition examines the Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation collection through the looking glass of exhibitions held at Galerie Artek in the 1950s. The exhibition also examines the dynamic between Alvar Aalto's abstract artworks and his architectural designs. The exhibition Maire Gullichsen, Alvar Aalto and Galerie Artek showcases a period of transition in Finnish fine art when abstraction in its various forms came to challenge the established norms of aesthetics.

Maire Gullichsen (1907–1990) was one of the founding members of the Artek design store, along with architect **Alvar Aalto** (1898–1976). The Gullichsen art collection includes works by Aalto that illustrate the different periods of his architectural career and his practice of exploring ideas by sculpting wood, drawing and painting.

Galerie Artek was an exhibition space that operated in Helsinki from 1935 to 1997. Founded by Maire Gullichsen, the gallery was famous for its bold exhibition programme. Gullichsen steered the gallery with a firm hand, and is known to have acquired art from exhibitions held there. New archival research has uncovered connections between shows at Galerie Artek and the art collection of the Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation.

The exhibited artists are Alvar Aalto, **Lars-Gunnar Nordström**, **Edgard Pillet**, **Tyko Sallinen**, **Rolf Sandqvist**, **Per Stenius** and **Sam Vanni**.

The opening of the exhibition is on Friday, 20 March 2020.

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