

FREE ART SCHOOL

Press Release

IN THE SHADOW OF LIGHT – Painting as a Living Tradition

Exhibitions: Hall, Lobby

06.06.08 – 28.09.08

Press day for the media: Thursday, June 5, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Press conference: Friday, June 6, at 12:00 PM.

Present at these events will be the Free Art School's Artistic Director Pekka Hepoluhta and artist Reijo Viljanen.

Opening event: Friday, June 6, at 6:00 PM. Welcome!

The origins of modern color painting can be traced to France. When Sigurd Frosterus, a renowned Finnish architect and advocate of modernism in Finnish art, encountered Neo-Impressionism at the Paris World Exhibition in 1908, he was inspired to write *Regnbågsfärgernas segertåg* (*The Triumph of Rainbow Colors*). This marked the introduction of modern color painting to Finland. The Free Art School has played a central role in this tradition. Established in 1935, the school drew inspiration from early 20th-century French private art academies, whose influence is evident throughout the history of modern Nordic painting.

The Free Art School is dedicated to the tradition of painting and believes in its creative vitality, even though, in today's diverse art world, painting is sometimes seen as unfashionable or merely a relic of modernism.

The exhibition *In the Shadow of Light* parallels two significant displays: works by artists who have been associated with the Free Art School in this millennium, and a five-part exhibition series *On the Way – Students in a Transforming Space*, featuring the painting classes of the 2007–2008 academic year.

The *On the Way* series begins with *Work in Progress / Night or Day*. On July 1, the *Portraits* exhibition by fourth-year students opens, followed by the first-year students' show *Broken Telephone / Chinese Whispers* on July 29, the second-year students' *Epidemic* exhibition on August 19, and the final installment *We Are All Too Busy*, featuring works by fourth-year artist Virve Viita, opening on September 9.

Exhibiting Artists:

Johanna Aalto, Kari Aapro, Carolus Enckell, Pekka Hepoluhta, Pekka Kauhanen, Tiina Malinen, Kimi Pakarinen, Juhani Pallasmaa, Tarmo Paunu, Markku J. Rantala, Janne Räisänen, Veikko Saarivaara, Raili Tang, Sini Vihma, Reijo Viljanen.

For more information:

Museum Director Esko Nummelin, esko.nummelin@pori.fi, Tel. +358 2 621 1085

Exhibition Secretary Laura Selin, laura.selin@pori.fi, Tel. +358 2 621 1089

Press images: www.poriartmuseum.fi > Media > Read more about the exhibition > Press images.

FREE ART SCHOOL

Press Release

ON THE WAY – STUDENTS IN A TRANSFORMING SPACE

Exhibitions: Series of Five Exhibitions

Wing, MEDIApoint

06.06.08 – 28.09.08

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The *On the Way – Students in a Transforming Space* series in the museum's Wing opens with the exhibitions *Work in Progress* and *Night or Day*.

Work in Progress

We are art students, still in the process of becoming painters. More than any shared style, what unites us is three years of painting side by side in small spaces, closely following the progress of each other's works. We know well which of our classmates' paintings emerged after frustrating intermediary stages over a full academic year and which were completed in a lucky afternoon.

This exhibition offers a glimpse into how far we have come together in three years. While we see ourselves as different kinds of painters, perhaps viewers will discover a unifying thread among us. Instead of limiting the exhibition with a strict theme, we decided to let everyone showcase their latest, most personal, peculiar, or promising works.

Night or Day

Night or Day is a three-meter-high, nearly seventeen-meter-long group drawing specifically designed for the MediaPoint room at the Pori Art Museum. Created by all 12 of our class members, it was an experiment to see whether collaborative visual art is possible and, if so, under what conditions and with what results.

At the beginning of the project, several questions arose: Should we agree on a common theme or rules? Should we plan ahead or improvise? Should we work simultaneously, in phases, or in turns? Should there be an art director overseeing the whole? Is it more important to preserve individual visions or group harmony?

The results are as follows: No theme, leader, or rules (beyond a black-and-white palette) were established. The work was completed in phases, taking over a classroom wall and the school lobby for three months. Teams of 3–5 students worked on sections of the drawing, sometimes dividing tasks based on planning, other times working simultaneously. The work was finished the night before the museum's transport truck arrived. Remarkably, no conflicts arose. At the time of writing, we are eager to see how our work will look in its intended space.

Artists from the Free Art School's Third-Year Class:

Marianna Asikainen, Ralph Branders, Mona Hoel, Tomi Jeskanen, Reeta Johansen, Nessa Kahila, Jyrki Kautto, Heli Leiviskä, Salla Myllylä, Maikki Salmivaara, Laura Tuominen, Markku Walldén

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Translated with ChatGPT