

GALERIE FORSBLOM

Ellen Thesleff (1869-1954) is considered as one of the first expressionists in Finland as well as one of the most influential Nordic painters. Thesleff was a visionary artist during times when it was considerably more difficult to establish an artistic career as a woman. Thesleff broke boundaries artistically, defying current trends and themes in her works, as well as politically by being a pioneer for future female artists. She painted topics that were considered to be predominantly male, like landscapes and abstract avant-garde. Her art became increasingly radical later on in her career, and she continued to better younger artists with the originality and modernism of her artistic expression. It is no wonder that Thesleff has been compared to greats, such as Picasso, Cézanne, and Matisse. In the famous words of Ellen Thesleff herself: "I paint like a God."

Leena Luostarinen (1949-2013) was undoubtedly one of the most influential contemporary painters in Finland. Even though she was one of the leading figures in the Finnish expressionistic movement, her works are characterized by exotic themes and symbolism which refer to the French Romantic painter Delacroix. The power of emotions and vivid colors infused with myths and Romanticism are very tangible in Luostarinen's paintings. Luostarinen received numerous prizes and awards during her career, including the Pro Finlandia medal in 1995 and The State Art Prize. Her works can be found in all significant Finnish art collections.

Marika Mäkelä (born 1947) is a prominent Finnish Visual Artist, who has been a pioneer for female artists together with Leena Luostarinen and Marjatta Tapiola. Mäkelä's artistic breakthrough occurred during the neo-expressionistic wave in the 1980s. Mäkelä is known for her vivid and profound use of colors and works that are constructed with numerous, thick layers of paint and almost three-dimensional brush strokes. Mäkelä has been awarded the State Art Committee State Prize in 1974 and The Finnish Cultural Fund's Prize in 1994. Her works have been on display in numerous private collections in Finland and abroad, including Stockholm, Paris, Cologne, and Copenhagen.

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Marjatta Tapiola (born 1951) is a leading Finnish contemporary painter, who established her name in the 1980s as one of the main neo-expressionists in Finland. She is well-known for exploring themes rooted in Classical antiquity, including carnal pleasures and the minotaur. Her works often portray a sense of the cruelty of life. Through her skillful use of the line and confidently spontaneous brushwork, a range of emotions is showcased: From suffering to a joyous sensuality that seems to be on the verge of bursting into dance at any moment. Tapiola has been awarded the Pro Finlandia medal in 2004 and the Finnish State Art Prize in 2006.

Inka Kivalo (born 1956) is a renowned Finnish textile artist well-known for her excellent command of textile tapestries. Kivalo sketches her work with aquarelles and gouache paint and then executes them with a traditional loom. Kivalo's works are born in an all-encompassing, esthetic chain-of-events. Kivalo was awarded the Finnish Colour Association's Iris-award, and she was chosen as the Textile Artist of the Year in 2000.

Heli Hiltunen (born 1960) is a Finnish painter. Hiltunen's paintings are often series of smaller works that together form larger entities. Hiltunen addresses themes like memory and oblivion and is especially intrigued by the imperfection and fragmentation of engrams. Hiltunen was awarded the Ars Fennica prize in 2001, and she has participated in the prestigious Carnegie Art Award exhibition in 1999.

Kristina Riska (born 1960) is a Finnish Ceramic Artist, who is known for her large-scale pottery, which is inspired by elements of nature like light and shadow. Riska has also designed utility articles and is the creator of the highly popular Koko table-ware set. Also, she has created the "Gekko" sculpture situated at the entrance of the Kamppi metro Station together with Kati Tuominen-Niittylä and Pekka Paikkari. Riska has been awarded numerous Finnish and international prizes, including The Finnish Culture Foundation's prize and second place at the Japanese Mino Ceramics Competition.

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Marianna Uutinen (born 1961) is a Finnish contemporary painter whose layered paintings play with kitsch, allurements, and charm. Her unique style of art consists of building paintings from creased strips of acrylic paintings. The three-dimensional artworks point to the physicality of the paintings, where the metaphor and the material are mixed. Her color palette ranges from glamorous golds, vivid anilines to primary colors and too soft, translucent pastels. Her paintings depict the here and now, being in this world at this given moment. Uutinen has received several prizes including the Finland prize in 2006.

Chantal Joffe (born 1969 in London) is an internationally distinguished painter who is known for her large-scale portraits of women and children, often in understated situations. Joffe's paintings question what is it that makes a painting's subject matter relevant while exploring the challenges and expectations facing today's feminist art. Joffe's soulful paintings are filled with nuanced characteristics so that individual spiritual presences can be sensed in her works. Joffe's humorous and slightly provocative style of the painting depicts the concept of time and the inevitable changes that come with it. Chantal Joffe has been awarded numerous prizes and awards, and her works are included in various collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Tate Modern in London. In 2006 magazine *Latest Art* listed her to be the most important female artist of all time.

Anna Tuori (born 1976) is an award-winning Finnish painter. She has been awarded the William Thuring –prize in 2015 and was chosen as Young Artist of the Year in 2011. Her paintings have been on display at the Sydney Biennale, The Kiel Stadtgalerie, Gallery Anhava, Turku Art Museum and The Kemper Museum of Modern Art. In Tuori's paintings, realities and the imagined collide, the known becomes estranged, and the strange becomes familiar.

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Emma Helle (born 1979) is a Finnish Visual Artist and sculptor. Helle favors working with ceramics and wood as her primary materials. Her sculptures are characterized by Baroque voluptuousness and lavishness but also religious references like crucifixes. Her ceramic sculptures are often rich with colorful glazing and feathers, and her wooden sculptures are hand-painted. Helle's works have been on display at the Turku Museum of Art as well as the Helsinki Art Museum. Helle was awarded the William Thuring Art Prize in 2017.

Ines Sederholm (born 1991) is an artist who represents the new generation of street artists who embrace a more common working style. Sederholm is inspired by bright colours, and her works often contain detailed ornamentation. Her recent exhibition at Galerie Forsblom was inspired by Samoan tattoo culture which she studied and sketched during her trip to Samoa. Sederholm is a self-taught artist and the co-founder of the Sähinä culture center.