

BACKGROUND

The physicality of painting and drawing, corporeality, motion and mark-making are at the core of my artistic practice. I am interested in the physical event and action of painting and drawing, its gesture, action and traces. My work is characterised by multidisciplinary and experimental approach, with a process-based and intuitive emphasis. I am also very interested in the materiality and the multimodal sensory observation as the starting point for the work. I view painting and drawing as mark-making – I ponder upon what does it mean to make a mark. I endeavour to express my observations in the simplest possible way, as a direct nervous system reaction. I often work from the direct observation (corporeality, landscape) as well as intuitive working with the materiality. The concept of haptic visuality is also central to my artistic work, which refers to the sense of vision being more directly related to the viewer's own body, touch and movement, the eyes acting metaphorically like sensors of touch. Tactility, the energy and rhythm of the movement, and how these are reflected in the mark-making are crucial to my work. I am also very interested in the materiality of drawing/painting, and the direct gesturality on the paper as material. For the most recent work I have utilised wall paper. The most recent project Embodied City consists of very recent body of work (work on paper) that I started at the artist-in-residency in DUMBO, NYC at the Triangle Arts Residency (April-June 2015).

BIO

Elina Aho (b. 1981) is a Finnish visual artist, working across fields of visual art (drawing and painting), live art performance, multidisciplinary collaboration, participatory work and artistic interventions. She graduated from The Glasgow School of Art in Scotland 2012 with a Master's Degree of Fine Art Practice, Painting (with Merit) and from the University of the Arts, Helsinki in artistic interventions in 2015. Aho also holds a Master of Sciences in Psychology (2006). She was recently awarded a residency at the Triangle Arts Association/ Finnish Cultural Institute in New York in April-June 2015. She has had ten solo exhibitions and 25 group exhibitions in Finland, U.S.A. and Great Britain. Her artworks can be found e.g. in the British Airways collection. Aho has developed a further education course for artists and therapists called Ruumiinkuvia- Corporealities that she has been teaching in various art schools since 2013. Besides her own visual art practice, she has worked in multidisciplinary collaboration projects – Moving Art 2013-2014 (at the intersections between live visual art, physical theatre, sound and light design), Helsinki Creates Work-project 2014-2015 (developing participatory art practices in a cross-disciplinary project by City of Helsinki), Sound Landscapes/ Routes of Helsinki 2014-2015 (combining drawing, performance, sound art, and rap poetry) and currently on a Climate Change University Pedagogy Project (2015-2016, science and art collaboration). She is interested in the interface between disciplines such as visual art, sound, and performance. Her work explores the corporeality and the physicality of drawing and painting as well as gesture, action, and traces of mark-making.

Elina Aho

<http://www.fciny.org/program/elina-aho>

Artist portfolio: www.elinaaho.carbonmade.com,

email: aho.elina@gmail.com

REFERENCES

Laurel Ptak, director and curator of Triangle Arts Association, New York, laurel@triangle-arts-association.org

Craig Mulholland, artist and lecturer, The Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow c.mulholland@gsa.ac.uk

Taina Seitsara, Helsinki City Executive Office, Senior Advisor, taina.seitsara@hel.fi

CV - Elina Aho, b. 1981 Finland, lives and works in Helsinki, Finland
portfolio: elinaaho.carbonmade.com, email: aho.elina@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- 2014-2015 Post-Degree Specialization Studies (30 credits), Artistic Interventions in Organizations, University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland
- 2011-2012 Master in Fine Art Practice, Painting with Merit
The Glasgow School of Art, UK
- 2000-2006 Master of Sciences in Psychology, University of Helsinki, Finland



FURTHER EDUCATION

- 2010-2011 Specialization in Dance-Movement Therapy – one-year foundation course in psychotherapeutic body and movement work, Eino Roiha Institute, Finland
- 2009-2011 Theatre Academy, University of the Arts, Helsinki: short courses: Awareness Perception Presence; Gestures - Translating the mind; Bodyschool; Advanced improvisation and somatics; Movers & Witnesses; Exploring Arts for a social change
- 2008-2009 University of Art and Design, Helsinki; Museums as Artistic Medium
- 2008 The Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, Summer School – Painting
- 2006-2011 Critical Academy Art School, Drawing, Painting, Critic Workshop, courses

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCIES

- 2016 Ars Bioarctica, Kilpisjärvi, Finland, Finnish Bioart Society
- 2015 Triangle Arts Association/ Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, funded by Finnish Cultural Foundation, April- June
- 2015 Helsinki City Transport Company, March
- 2011 Summer Residency - School of Visual Arts, New York, July-August

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 OHO Gallery, Helsinki, *Painting in Flux*
Galleria Malmitalo, Helsinki, *Embodied City*
Linnoituksen krouvi, Lappeenranta, Finland
- 2015 Kotkankadun Suoja-Pirtti, Shelter Home for Homeless, *Encounters - Memories - Portrait Project*
- 2014 Galleria Jangva, Helsinki, Finland, *Extended Body - Gesture, Action, Trace*
- 2013 The Drawing Gallery, Kaapelitehdas, Helsinki, *Corporealities*
00130Gallery Project Room, Helsinki, *Extended Body - Gesture, Action, Trace*
- 2012 Helsinki City Hall, Helsinki, *Your Body Speaks*
- 2011 Rööperin Taidesalonki, Art Salon Rööperi, Helsinki *Embodied Painting*
Gallery Nax-et, Helsinki *Tangible*
- 2010 Galerie Oljemark, Helsinki *Body/images*
Kulmagalleria, Helsinki, *Bodily perceptions*
- 2009 Linnoituksen krouvi, *Encounters*, Lappeenranta, Finland
Galerie Oljemark, *Identity*, Helsinki
- 2007 Cable Gallery, C2-gallery and restaurant Hima & Sali, Helsinki

PERFORMANCES/ LIVE ART

- 2016 Routes of Helsinki/ Sound Landscapes, Young Artists-Series, Sibelius-Academy, Aug. 4th
Routes of Helsinki/ Sound Landscapes/ rap poetry, Kallio Kukki- festival, May 13th
- 2015 Routes of Helsinki/ Sound Landscapes, Virka-Galleria, Night of the Arts, 20.8.2015
- 2014 Routes of Helsinki/ Sound Landscapes, Taideyliopiston kontti, 7.-8.12.2014
- 2014 DESIGN OF TRACE, Concept planning, multidisciplinary performance project, performer,
Taidelaboratorio Viiskulma Helsinki and Lenkkiteatteri, granted by Helsingin Kulttuurikeskus, 7
performances, choreography: Jenni Sainio
- 2013 Body Moving – Painting in Action, multidisciplinary performance project, performer, 4
performances, choreography: Jenni Sainio
- 2012 Role in short film 'Sharkey´s' by Beth Shapeero, Glasgow, UK
- 2010 Performer in Yhdessä / Together, Nine dance performances, Zodiak – Centre for New Dance
Choreography: Eeva Muilu

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Kuja Bar & Bistro, Helsinki, with Nina Iso-Herttua ja Minna-Karoliina Heino
The Central Booking, New York City, "Catalyst"
Arteground, City Art Gallery, Viljandi, Estonia
- 2015 Helsinki City Museum, Sofiankatu (collaboration with musician Mikko H. Haapoja) Embodied City
Art Fair Suomi 2015
Open Studio Exhibition, Triangle Arts Association, Brooklyn, NYC, *Embodied City*
Taidelinja, The Art Line/ Helsinki City Transport, cross-disciplinary exhibition
- 2014 Library 10, Helsinki, Finland
Kuusankosken Taideruukki, Kuusankoski, Finland, *On womanhood*
Aho-Lindén-Sainio: *Metamorphosis*, Taidelaboratorio Viiskulma, Helsinki, Finland
Arteground Art Festival, Viljandi City Gallery, Estonia
- 2013 *Erotus +/- US*, The Glue Factory, Glasgow, UK
- 2012 Master of Letters Group Show, Exchange Project with MFA Students AALTO University, Helsinki,
Mediakeskus Lume, Aalto-yliopisto
Master of Letters Degree Show, The Bermondsey Project, London
The Graduate Degree Show 2012, The Lighthouse, Centre for Design and Architecture, Glasgow Master of
Letters Degree Show, Mackintosh Building, Glasgow
AFTERWARDNESS, Garage Space, Barnes Building, Glasgow
Print Portfolio Project, Mackintosh Building, Glasgow School of Arts, Glasgow
Masters of Letters Painting Exhibition, Mackintosh Building Studio 48, Glasgow
Guest curated show by Hazel Blake/ The Open Show at Inc Tank, Edinburgh
- 2011 Christmas Exhibition, Art Salon Rööperi, Helsinki
Open Studio Exhibition, School of Visual Arts, New York City
Ruoholahti Metro Station, Helsinki
- 2010 Itäkeskus Psychiatric Clinic, Helsinki
Galeria do Palácio, II Finland-Portugal Art Festival, juried exhibition, Porto, Portugal
- 2009 Gallery SYKE, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki
Galerie Oljemark summer exhibition, Jokelan Kartano, Hämeenkoski, Finland
Cafe & Bar Vanhan kuppila, Helsinki
Ruoholahti Metro Station, Helsinki
Helsinki City Museum, Sofiankatu, Helsinki, Recharged collections, Helsinki
Nordea Window Gallery, Helsinki
- 2008 ABB, Helsinki
Gallery SYKE, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki
- 2007 Nordea Window Gallery, Helsinki
Folkhälsan Senior House, Helsinki

PUBLIC WORKS

- 2016 Embodied City II, directing the making of the collective work of art, Drawing D5 Gallery, Helsinki
- 2015 Embodied City, directing the making of the collective work of art, Helsinki City Museum, Sofiankatu
- 2014 The Bigger Picture, collective painting, GE Health Care Village

LECTURES/TEACHING/PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- 2015-2016 University of Helsinki, developing pedagogies on climate change in a multidisciplinary work group
- 2015 Helsinki City Museum, visual artist/ developing and leading a community art project, August-September
- 2015 Sibelius Academy, The University of the Arts, Helsinki; visiting lecturer
- 2015 Theatre Academy, The University of the Arts, speaker at the seminar, 2 workshops
- 2014 Helsinki City Executive Office, Helsinki Creates Work-project, visual artist, developing artistic methods
in promoting well-being of the citizens, working in organizations, development projects, urban city planning, 6
months
- 2013-2016 Kriittinen korkeakoulu and Otavan opisto – Ruumiinkuvia/ Corporealities, developing and teaching
a further education course aimed at art professionals and art therapists, main themes: corporeality, movement
and drawing, life drawing, mark-making, self-portrait, movement workshop, experimental workshop, lectures,
critiques
- 2014 Art School MAA - Ruumiinkuvia – Corporealities – workshops for 1st year students, visiting lecturer
- 2013 Lenkkiteatteri, Free Professional Theatre, Fine Art Meets Urban Art Revolution! Workshop aimed at Art
Professionals

2012 Your Body Speaks-seminar Lecturer

2011 Art workshop for the elderly, 10 sessions, Kantti ry

2006-2008 Hepsy ry, writing articles on art and well-being

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2012 Extended Body – Gesture, Action, Trace, presentation at the 17th Herbstakademie – The Implications of Embodiment, Enactive, Clinical, Social, Oct 1- 3, 2012, University of Heidelberg, Institute of Psychology

WORKS OF ART IN COLLECTIONS

British Airways – Glasgow Airport Business Lounge, Double Effect Kiss Cool

Elävän musiikin yhdistys ry – Live Music Association of Finland, Private collections in Europe

BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHORED BY ARTIST)

Elina Aho (2015). Jaettuja jälkiä - Kuvataiteilijana organisaatiossa. Antologia-julkaisu, Teatterikorkeakoulu.

Elina Aho (2015). Routes of Helsinki and Sound Landscapes, IssueX (University of the Arts-Magazine), cover photo and article

Elina Aho (2012). Extended Body – Gesture, Action, Trace. Aho (2012) Corporealities. Psychoanalytic works and writing from the body.

Elina Aho (2012). Art and Corporeality - Your Body Speaks. Hepsy, 1.

Elina Aho (2008). Exploring the inner world, Katsaus, 2.

Elina Aho (2008). Neuropsychoanalysis, HEPSY, 4.

Elina Aho (2008). Collaborative networked learning, HEPSY, 2.

Elina Aho (2008). Grief as a turning point, HEPSY, 1.

T. Kujala, E. Aho, T. Lepistö, E. Jansson-Verkasalo, T. Nieminen-von Wendt, L. von Wendt & R. Näätänen (2007). Atypical pattern of discriminating sound features in adults with Asperger syndrome as reflected by the mismatch negativity. *Biological Psychology*, 75, 109-114.

Elina Aho (2007). Presence and well-being. HEPSY, 2.

Elina Aho (2007). Self as a working instrument – well-being of a psychotherapist, HEPSY, 2. Elina Aho (2007). Art as an empowering medium in work with the elderly, HEPSY, 4.

Elina Aho (2007). On a journey to learning, HEPSY, 3.

Elina Aho (2007). Self in the mirrors, Katsaus, 1.

Elina Aho (2007). Sources of creativity, HEPSY, 1.

Elina Aho (2007). Perspectives to creativity, HEPSY, 1.

OTHER ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, introduction: <http://www.fciny.org/program/elina-aho>

YLE Radio 1: Haastattelu sarjaan Tekijä - Kulttuuriohjelma uuden sukupolven huipuista. Julkaisupäivä 7.1.2015, haastattelija Tiina Harpf. <http://areena.yle.fi/radio/1405256>

Installation of video work (performative drawings) featured in GSA annual e-card, directed by Craig Kirk, 2012, The Glasgow School of Art <http://vimeo.com/55435872>

Hail Masters of Enterprise. *Printmaking Today*. Autumn 2012 Issue.

Review of the graduate show in <http://www.heraldscotland.com/arts-ents/visual/gsa-graduate-degree-show-the-lighthouse-glasgow.1347674664>, Sept 15, 2012

Imagine More From Glasgow School of Art <http://new.a-n.co.uk/news/single/imagine-more-from-glasgow-school-of-art#.UB4kxqJed7Q.facebook>

Studio Visit: Masters of Letters, article on a-n magazine, July 2012, <http://www.a-n.co.uk/students/article/2331097>

Ruxandra Balboa-Pöysti: Elina Aho – Body parts freed by movement, inner history and intuition. Meet the Artists- blog, <http://ruxandrarp.wordpress.com/2010/11/04/elina-aho-body-parts-freed-by-movement-inner-history-and-intuition/>. 28.10.2010

Merja Heino, New young artists and other exhibitions, 26.5.2010, Helsingin uutiset

Sari Pullinen: Searching for the human mind, 21.8.2009 Etelä-Saimaa, Essi, s. 12. The Finnish Art 2009, Magazine III, s.36. Ava Galleria/ Ava Gallery Publication.

MEMBERSHIPS

Muu ry- Artists 'Association MUU, Pro Soveltavan Taiteen Tila (Board Member), Helsinki Artists Alliance

GRANTS Helsinki Cultural Center, Moving Art-Project 2014, Finnish Cultural Foundation/ Finnish Cultural Institute, 2015

OTHER INTERESTS Contemporary dance, psychoanalysis, art and science, nature