

Curriculum vitae

MERJA KESKINEN

Master of Arts, Textile Artist TEXO

Helsinki, Finland



EDUCATION

1982-88 University of Art and Design Helsinki, Master of Arts 1988

1980-82 Turku University

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 Narrative Thread, Rydals Museum, Sweden
- 2016 Yhes – Together, Lokal, Helsinki
- 2016-17 Johtolanka, 10th Finnish Textile Triennial, Vapriikki Museum Centre, Tampere
- 2016 15th International Triennial of Tapestry, Lodz, Poland
- 2015-16 Miniature Textiles, Verkaranta, Tampere and the Craft Museum of Finland, Jyväskylä
- 2012 Ornamentti, Exhibition of Miniature Textiles, Gallery Lasipalatsi, Helsinki and the Craft Museum of Finland, Jyväskylä
- 2011-12 Preesens art-craft-design, Ornamo 100 years, The Craft Museum of Finland, Jyväskylä, The Northern Ostrobothnia Museum, Oulu and The North Karelian Museum, Joensuu
- 2011 ArtHelsinki, O-gallery, Helsinki
- 2010 Harkko Museum, Raisio
- 2009 Tekstiilitaide nyt! 8. Finnish Textile Triennial, Designmuseum, Helsinki
- 2006 Metrin juhlaa - uudet kuviot kankaalla, The Craft Museum of Finland, Jyväskylä and Textile Museum Tyyki, Forssa
- 2002 Findesignnow02, Fiskars
- 1996-97 Lönnström Art Museum, Rauma
- 1996 4th Finnish Textile Triennial, Texo 40 years Vanha kirkkopuisto, Helsinki
- 1989 2th Finnish Textile Triennial, Näyttelytila Otso, Espoo

SOLO AND JOINT EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 Together Merja Keskinen and Kirsi Kivivirta, Vellikello, Järvenpää
- 2016 Gallerygallery, Kyoto, Japan
- 2014-15 Pop up Merja Keskinen, DesignDesk, Helsinki
- 2014 "Ruudukko / Kesisim" (Bijlenga, Jokinen, Keskinen, Steihaug), Mügsf Ana Galeri, Marmara Universitesi, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2013-14 EFG Toimistokalusteet Showroom, Helsinki
- 2013 "Tosivärejä – True Colors", Gallery Johan S, Helsinki
- 2012-17 Selected works in Ornamo office, Helsinki
- 2011 "Vain muutaman värin tähden – For a Few Colors More", Gallery Johan S, Helsinki
- 2008 Colmio gallery, Oulu
- 2007 "Värikirjo" (The Color Spectrum), Punavuori Design Studio Gallery, Helsinki
- 2007 Housing fair, Hämeenlinna
- 1988 The University of Art and Design, Helsinki
- 1986 Finlayson Exhibition Villa, Forssa
- 1985 Gallery Atski, the University of Art and Design Helsinki

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2016 Arts Promotion Centre Finland / Taiteen edistämiskeskus, a 3-year state grant (2016-2018) and project grant
- 2016 Finnish Cultural Foundation / Suomen Kulttuurirahasto, working group Favén, Keskinen
- 2015 The Ornamo Foundation / Ornamo säätiö, working group Nisonen, Keskinen, Syvänoja

- 2015 Arts Promotion Centre Finland / Taiteen edistämiskeskus, a ½ -year state grant and public display grant
- 2014 Arts Promotion Centre Finland / Taiteen edistämiskeskus, project grant
- 2014 Finnish Cultural Foundation / Suomen Kulttuurirahasto
- 2014 The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland / Svenska kulturfonden
- 2013 Greta and William Lehtinen Foundation
- 2010 Arts Council of Finland / Taiteen keskustoimikunta, project grant
- 1991 Finnish Cultural Foundation / Suomen Kulttuurirahasto

CUSTOM ARTWORKS

- 2011-12 "Kind of Blue", Work of Textile Art, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Finland's Embassy in Paris
- 1986-87 City of Helsinki / Taivallahden leikkipuisto: Installation, First Prize in Competition together with University of Art and Design Helsinki and City of Helsinki, work group Keskinen, Niinimäki, Seppä

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- 2002- Own studio, working as a textile artist in Helsinki
- 2012-14 Oy Nordalm Ab, Almedahls collection of textiles for public spaces, marketing and expert work
- 2007-08 Almedahls Oy, Design work for roller blind collection
- 2003-09 Oy Nordalm Ab, Almedahls collection of textiles for public spaces, marketing and expert work
- 2003 The University of Art and Design Helsinki, Teacher of weaving
- 1996-2002 Finlayson Oy, Designer, design work with collection of textiles for public spaces
- 1988-91 Triarte Ay Suunnittelutoimisto / Design firm, Design work
- 1988 Wetterhoff Arts and Crafts College, Teacher of planning
- 1985 Finlayson Oy, Studio and factory training
- 1984 Valvilla Oy, Studio and factory training
- 1984- Freelance textile design

MEMBERSHIPS

- Ornamo, the Finnish Association of Designers (Ornamo board 2013-2016, vice president 2014-15)
- Tekstiilitaiteilijat TEXO ry, the Finnish Association of Textile Artists (TEXO board 2011-, president 2011-2012, vice president 2013-17)
- Nordic Textile Art NTA
- Helsingin taiteilijaseura / Helsinki Artists Association HTS

CONTACT

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ARTIST STATEMENT:

My artistic work is inspired by colors.

In my art, I have studied changes in color and delicate nuances. Color and differences between various shades, interaction of colors and the feel of the material in a woven fabric are my passion. In my artworks I express the coalescence of colors and the creation of new colors. I use thin cotton and linen threads to give expression to the minute differences in shades of color.

I do my artworks by myself with my own weaving technique. The technique imitates woven fabric but the elements are, however, made by entwining and sewing together threads of different shades.

While I am making my artworks, I work close up, combining thin threads of different colors. The tiniest changes in the components affect the new shade that is created. When the artwork is viewed from farther away as a whole, the color of each individual thread loses significance and the color effect is created by the mixture.