

State Art Commission

Competition jury

Open competition for artworks to be sited in the new building of Valteri School Mäntykangas in Kuopio, 2021

Date & time: Tuesday 14.12.2021 from 11:00–16:50

Venue: TEAMS meeting

Present: State Art Commission

Henri Terho, Chair

Jari Auer

Marja Helander

Liisa Kantanen

Paavo Paunu

Ari Pelkonen

Kirsti Saarikorpi

Nora Tapper

Eija Aarnio, jury secretary

Heli Ahmio, competition liaison

Experts heard from 13:00 to 15:00

Anne Vierelä, Principal (Valteri School); Inkeri Kekäläinen, Rector (Valteri School Mäntykangas); Tuula Tuononen, Team Leader, Chief Designer, Architect (Arkkitehtipalvelu Oy), Jarmo Liimatainen, Project Manager (Senate Properties)

1. Legality and quorum

The Chair noted that the meeting was duly convened and quorate.

2. Review of competition rules and competition brief

It was noted that the competition was an open art competition organised by the Finnish State Art Commission in collaboration with Senate Properties. The Finnish State Art Commission served as the competition jury.

Competition documents had been downloadable starting Mon, 4 October 2021, at the State Art Commission's website, and the competition ended on Tue, 30 November 2021. Competition languages were Finnish, Swedish and English.

3. Submissions

It was noted that a total of 101 competition entries were received from the following aliases (see Annex 1).

4. Satisfaction of competition criteria and disqualifications

It was noted that among the 101 submissions received by the due date, two did not satisfy the criteria set in the brief because the competitor's contact data was visible in the submitted documents.

5. General assessment

The jury noted that the competition was of a good standard. Ideas were submitted for artworks for various sites mentioned in the brief, such as the lobby, the façade of the building and/or the wooded area next to the schoolyard.

Proposals for site-specific as well as permanent artworks were submitted. The works either sought to establish a distinct identity for its site or to reinforce the sense of unity of the spaces.

The entries took into account the specific character of the competition site and special needs of its users, such as sensory defensiveness. The ecological life cycle of the artwork or its functional elements were taken into consideration in many entries. Many entries were narrative, pedagogical, or based on nature, while taking into account the school pupils' perspective.

The jury was delighted with the multilingual aspect of the entries and with the fact that the competition was embraced by a wider range of artists.

The jury was mandated to select one or more works for implementation. Also a serial concept to be installed in several spaces was acceptable. Entries were also allowed that consist of works in several different but thematically linked spaces, regardless of the medium.

Competitors had the right to request further clarification and information concerning the competition. Questions were submitted regarding possible suspension of artwork from the ceiling, the lighting of artworks, and the geographical coverage of Valteri School's operations. Competitors also requested additional materials and photographs of the sites for artworks, the wooded area in particular.

6. Selection of winners and assessment of submissions in the upper category

The jury chose the following four entries for the upper category, and noted the following assessments:

Suuret pienet (001)

The entry is interesting and holistic in character. The work is made of leather and consists of multiple parts that spread organically around the school's spaces. The viewers' attention is drawn to the many details, small organisms, mushrooms and plants, reminding them of the diversity of nature. The entry is simultaneously enigmatic and exhilarating. Craftsmanship and the use of recycled and surplus materials also play an important role in the content of the work.

Kätkö (025)

A simple and aesthetic entry that brings a piece of the forest indoors. The work activates the viewer with its multisensory nature, and it is based on pedagogical thinking. Beautiful and pleasant natural materials and shapes offer tactile pleasure. The work is like a standing dead tree with hidden treasures that are revealed when one touches the surface and grooves of the tree. Sound can pass through the gaps left on the surface of the work.

The same, only different (083)

Consisting of animal-themed bronze sculptures, the work is a totem whose playfulness, joy and colour establish a contrast to the built environment. The very concept draws attention to the individual as a unique and meaningful part of a rich and pluralistic community. The individual sculptures have a distinct personality expressed by their form, texture and colour. The entry was considered interesting and thought-provoking, with a narrativity that lends itself to pedagogical use. The work also has the potential of becoming an emblem of the school.

Kotimetsä (091)

The entry consists of a mural and decoratively carved wooden birdhouses mounted in both indoor and outdoor spaces. The work is pedagogical in its approach and activates pupils. Taking into account local nature and birds, the work instils cheerfulness in the viewer while being aesthetically pleasing. Tactile and sensual, it invites different interpretations. The work is warm and nostalgic. It expresses both a concern and a hope that we will continue to have forests and a diversity and richness of birds in our environment also in the future.

The jury decided to award

1st prize to **The same, only different (083)**, prize sum: 7,000 euros

2nd prize to **Suuret pienet (001)**, prize sum: 4,000 euros

3rd prize to **Kotimetsä (091)**, prize sum: 3,000 euros

A recognition prize is awarded to **Kätkö (025)**, prize sum: €1,000.

The prizes are tax-free. No honorary mentions were awarded.

7. Implementation of winning entries

It was decided to start negotiations for further development and implementation with the creators of the 1st and the 2nd prize.

8. Disclosure of the identity of entrants

The envelopes containing information about the identity of winning submissions were opened, to note:

1st prize: **The same, only different (083)**, artists: **Pavel Kaltygin and Yuri Gorbunov**

2nd prize: **Suuret pienet (001)**, artist: **Johanna Havimäki**

3rd prize: **Kotimetsä (091)**, artist: **Leena Nio**

Recognition award: **Kätkö (025)**, artists: **Sampo Malin** and **Laura Kauppinen**

9. Announcement of result and decision regarding online exhibition

The result of the competition will be announced on Wed, 22 December 2021, at the State Art Commission's website. The winning entries and honorary mentions as well as the jury report will be on view online from Wed, 22 December 2021, to Wed, 22 June 2022, at the competition website at www.valtiontaideteostoimikunta.fi/valteri_koulu-taidekilpailu. Unawarded entries with their identifying data will be destroyed six months after the resolution of the competition.

10. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting on Tuesday, 14 December 2021, at 16:50.