

State Art Commission

Competition jury

Art competition for the new canteen building of the Finnish Border Guard garrison in Immola, Imatra, 2022

Date & time: Monday 16.5.2022 from 10:00–15:40

Venue: EDUFI building, meeting room Kuha, Hakaniemenranta 6, Helsinki

Present: State Art Commission

Henri Terho, Chair
Jari Auer (TEAMS)
Liisa Kantanen
Paavo Paunu
Ari Pelkonen
Kirsti Saarikorpi
Nora Tapper

Eija Aarnio, jury secretary
Heli Ahmio, competition liaison

Experts heard from 12:00–14:00

Riku Avikainen, construction project manager (Senate Properties); Risto Tulonen, chief designer, and Ville Jokela, interior architect (Arkviiri Oy); Jani Anttila, Jouni Jyräs, Ville Kuusisto, Jukka Lukkari, Teijo Nuorivuori and Jyri Tiainen (Finnish Border Guard) (TEAMS)

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 serving as competition jury.

Competition documents had been downloadable starting Thursday, 10 February 2022, at the State Art Commission website, and the competition ended on Tuesday, 26 April 2022. The competition languages were Finnish, Swedish and English.

3. Submissions

It was noted that a total of 63 competition entries had been received by the deadline, submitted by aliases listed in Annex 1.

4. Satisfaction of competition criteria and disqualifications

It was noted that 62 of the entries satisfied the criteria set out in the competition brief. Entry number 014 is rejected because the competitor's contact details are visible in the entry. It was also noted that one competitor had sent a message to the competition liaison on Friday, 29 May, saying that they had sent their entry on time, a fact they were able to prove, but to the wrong address.

5. General assessment

The aim of the competition is to find ideas for an artwork to be sited in the paved yard outside the new canteen building of the Finnish Border Guard garrison in Immola at Niskapietiläntie 32 F, 55900 Imatra. A proposal may include individual elements that are placed elsewhere in the outdoor spaces. The work can be site-specific and permanent. Alternatively it can be an organic work that evolves through natural processes. The work must have a defined life span. The goal is for the artwork to establish an identity and sense of unity for the yard of the canteen. Proposals must consider the specific nature of the site.

The jury can select one or more artworks for implementation. The work(s) must be easy to service and maintain and have a modest lifetime cost. Assessment focuses especially on artistic quality, viability of implementation, and development potential of the entry. Proposals are evaluated from the viewpoint of ecological impact and sustainability in materials and production.

The jury noted that the competition was of a good standard. The proposals had taken into account the specific nature of the site and the architecture of the building. Many proposals had sought either to aestheticize the setting or to develop further some visual elements associated with the operations of the Border Guard. Many entries had also taken into account the ecological life cycle of the artwork. Many of the entries represented traditional, professional sculpture.

Competitors had the right to request further clarification and information concerning the competition. One submitted question concerned the image of the yard included in the competition brief and the technical annex to the competition. It was confirmed that the bollard light and birch tree in the paved area in the original plan (*pihapiirustus*) will not be implemented if a work of art is installed in that area.

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

The jury selected the following five entries for the upper category, and noted the following assessments:

002 TULI, ILMA, MAA

The proposal makes inspired use of the characteristics of bronze, a classical sculptural material, while also taking into account the architectural context and the yard setting. The work draws its form and content from the basic elements of fire, air and earth. It is inventive, like a mantle wrapped around a sphere, billowing in the wind. The object, which appears as a rounded form, makes use visually both of the darkness of the patinated bronze exterior and the glossy finish of the interior. At dusk and dawn, a LED light housed inside the work creates a new experience that reflects the different times of the day.

013 Vyöhyke

The rectangular shape of the work made of Cor-Ten steel is relieved by curled shapes like the slivers of wood on a feather stick. The frame-like structure resembles a triumphal arch, a gateway that opens up the space in both directions. The 5 x 5 m structure frames and highlights the building's modern architecture, or, when viewed in the other direction, the surrounding natural environment. The work can be seen as reflecting the past or the future. The feather shapes are a delightful allusion to fire-making and signal fires that were used to mark the very first frontiers. What makes the work fascinating is the forthright heaviness of the volume combined with the decorative plasticity of the details.

026 OIVALLUS

The abstract, three-dimensional sculpture assimilates its setting into the totality of the artwork. Made of acid-resistant steel, the surface mirrors the surrounding space, thus making also the viewer part of the work. The work consists of several spheres of different sizes attached to each other in a chain. Depending on the size of the sphere, the size of the reflected image also increases or decreases. The visual result is a serial image that references pop art and comics. In comics, speech balloons are used as a visual expression of a person's or some other creature's speech. In this work, the artist allows the space to be filled by the viewer's thoughts and insights.

038 HARMAA ALUE (alias SN204)

The proposal makes successful use of an optical phenomenon in which the space between two coloured panes of glass is transformed into a third colour, in this case a grey area. The work explores the concept of borders through abstraction. The grey area is created when magenta and cyan cancel each other out. Walking around the work, the viewer can enjoy the colour combinations and shapes that emerge, also in relation to the architecture. The grey areas in the proposal can also be described as interstitial spaces of sort, where two colour elements merge, cancelling each other out.

055 RAJAPYYKIT

The proposal spreads out in free formations across the yard of the new building. The poles resemble painted boundary posts, their colour combinations featuring the principal colours of flags of all countries in the world. The colouring of some of the poles also include references to identifiable flags. The artist has considered the meanings associated with borders as they are expressed in agreements or border practices, a choice that seems particularly relevant and interesting in this day and age.

1st prize, entry number 038, HARMAA ALUE (pseudonym SN204), prize sum: 7,000 euros.

2nd prize, entry number 013, Vyöhyke, prize sum: 4,000 euros.

3rd prize, entry number 026, OIVALLUS, prize sum: 3,000 euros.

Recognition awards, 500 euros each:

Entry number 002 TULI, ILMA, MAA

Entry number 055, RAJAPYYKIT

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

7. Implementation of winning entries

It was decided to begin negotiations for the further development and implementation of the winning entry. A maximum sum of 100,000 euros (VAT 0%) is reserved for the implementation of the work. This includes artist fees, the cost of materials and production, and installation costs. The cost of laying the foundations of the work and lighting it do not need to be included in the cost of the entry.

8. The creators of the entries

The creators of the winning proposals are:

1st prize, entry number 038, HARMAA ALUE (alias SN204), artists: Pekka Niittyvirta and Jari Silomäki

2nd prize, entry number 013, Vyöhyke, artist: Jani Rättyä

3rd prize, entry number. 026, OIVALLUS, artist: Kimmo Schroderus

Recognition award winners:

Entry number 002, TULI, ILMA, MAA, artist: Riitta Huttunen

Entry number 055, RAJAPYYKIT, artist: Otto Karvonen

9. Announcement of result and decision regarding online exhibition

The result of the competition are announced on Tuesday, 24 May 2022, 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 24 May 2022 to 24 April 2022 at the competition website at www.valtionaideteostoinikunta.fi/immola-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 Monday, 16 May 2022 at 15:40.

In witness whereof

Chair

Henri Terho

Competition secretary

Eija Aarnio

Jari Auer

Liisa Kantanen

Paavo Paunu

Ari Pelkonen

Kirsti Saarikorpi

Nora Tapper