



Image: JKMM Architects

Open competition for artwork  
to be sited in the new annex  
of the National Museum of  
Finland in Helsinki  
8 December 2022 – 3 April 2023

STATE  
ART  
COMMISSION

KANSALLISGALLERIA •  
FINLANDS NATIONALGALLERI •  
FINNISH NATIONAL GALLERY •



SUOMEN KANSALLISMUSEO  
FINLANDS NATIONALMUSEUM

# 1. Competition programme

The State Art Commission, operating under the auspices of the Finnish National Gallery, organises an open art competition in cooperation with the National Museum of Finland, Senate Properties, and the Finnish Heritage Agency. The purpose of the competition is to solicit ideas for a work of art to be sited in the new annex of the National Museum of Finland at Mannerheimintie 34, Helsinki.

The competition is in two stages.

The competition webinar will be held on Thursday, 15 December 2022. A recording of the webinar will be available at the State Art Commission website [www.valtionaideteostoitimikunta.fi](http://www.valtionaideteostoitimikunta.fi).

## 1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The competition is a general and open international art competition for all citizens of the European Union and for non-EU citizens resident in Finland who are not subject to international sanctions. The competition jury is obliged to exclude from the competition any candidates, tenderers or subcontractors who are affected by one of the mandatory exclusion criteria listed in Section 80 of the Finnish Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts. (FINLEX 29.12.2016/1397)

## 1.2 COMPETITION JURY

The competition jury comprises the Finnish State Art Commission:

**Henri Terho**, Head of Arts Support, Chair (chairperson of the jury)

**Jari Auer**, account manager, architect

**Marja Helander**, photographer, video artist and film director

**Liisa Kantanen**, paper conservator

**Paavo Paunu**, visual artist

**Ari Pelkonen**, graphic artist

**Kirsti Saarikorpi**, head of design

**Nora Tapper**, sculptor, deputy chair

The term of office of the current State Art Commission will expire on 1 January 2023, after which the composition of the competition jury will change accordingly.

The secretary of the jury is **Eija Aarnio**, Executive Producer of the State Art Commission. The secretary does not participate in the decision making of the jury.

Jury deliberations are confidential. The jury members, the secretary and the competition contact person may not participate in the competition either personally or by proxy.

All private discussions and exchanges of views between members of the jury and competitors on matters relating to the competition are strictly prohibited.

As experts and parties responsible for the operation and management of the building, the jury will consult the National Museum of Finland, Senate properties and the Finnish Heritage Agency and the architectural firm responsible for the design of the Annex. The jury is also entitled to consult any other experts it deems necessary. The experts cannot participate in the deliberations, nor are they entitled to participate in the competition.

## 1.3 APPROVAL OF THE COMPETITION BRIEF

The competition brief has been approved by the State Art Commission, Senate Properties, and the Finnish Heritage Agency.



Image: JKMM Architects

## 2. Competition brief

### 2.1 ANNEX TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINLAND

The National Museum of Finland was founded in 1893 when collections built up by various institutions were merged to form the State Historical Museum. An architectural competition was held for the building of the National Museum, won by architects Herman Gesellius, Armas Lindgren and Eliel Saarinen. Designed in the national-romantic style, the building was constructed between 1905 and 1910 and opened to the public in 1916. The perimeter wall and courtyard park were completed in the early 1920s. ([www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/kansallismuseo/historiaa](http://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/kansallismuseo/historiaa))

An international architecture competition held in 2019 sought a solution to expand the premises of the National Museum. The competition winner was JKMM Architects with their proposal 'Atlas'. The new annex to the historically valuable main building will

enable the National Museum to host large and demanding international exhibitions. In addition to exhibitions, the space is suitable for a wide range of cultural, artistic and leisure events, conferences and functions. It also includes a restaurant and a terrace area overlooking the courtyard.

The aim is for the current museum building, the annex, as well as the courtyard park used for urban events and communities all year round, will in 2027 comprise a unique experiential space of international calibre that provides a pleasing environment for culture and interaction. An impressive and ambitious architectural setting with a diverse programme underlines the transformative power of culture and the fact that national identity is founded on a multicultural value base and collective responsibility for the future.

The National Museum of Finland is a national cultural history museum with

several locations around the country. In addition to the main museum building, these include the Seurasaari open-air museum, the home of the presidents Tamminiemi and the studio home Hvitträsk, Häme Castle, the prison museum The Prison, Olavinlinna castle, Louhisaari manor, Langinkoski imperial fishing lodge and the Maritime Museum of Finland ([www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/](http://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/)).

The museum's cultural history collections, accumulated since the 18th century, are the oldest and largest in Finland. They include Finnish historical and ethnographic materials, as well as unique cultural artefacts from around the world ([www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/collections](http://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/collections)). Taken together, the various locations comprise a substantial bloc of national, political and governmental heritage. They sustain the role of the National Museum as an institution pursuing a long-term and active impact in the changes of Finnish society. Changing exhibitions at the Museum's locations focus on topics of current interest from the perspective of cultural pluralism and the right of every citizen to define and enjoy their cultural heritage. The Museum's programming explores new horizons in the Finnish identity and its global operating environment.

The purpose of the National Museum of Finland is to foster broader understanding of our culturally complex and rich living environment. The Museum's operations serve to reinforce the importance of our cultural heritage as a source of empowerment for society and its citizens, to contribute to literacy in history and cultural heritage, and to help individuals see how these impact our lives and our future. Operating on the regional, national and international levels, the National Museum of Finland seeks to illustrate the diversity of the concept of 'national' and to mediate a dialogue across generations and cultural boundaries. The Museum's function and social role in supporting

cultural change to build an ecologically, socially and culturally prosperous society is becoming increasingly important.

## 2.2 DESCRIPTION OF COMPETITION SITE

The annex to the National Museum is an independent building while also being part of a larger whole. A low and understated sculptural structure, it respects the existing museum building and establishes a natural relationship between them. The architectural volumes and materials of the annex are emphatically reductionist, whereas the most characteristic features of the original building are its architectural assertiveness and references to history, building styles and types.

The annex will improve the National Museum's overall capacity, connectivity, services and accessibility, creating meeting places and a platform for diverse culture. Together with the historic main building and the courtyard park of exceptional size in the city centre, the annex will complement the National Museum in a new and forward-looking formal language.

### CONSTRUCTION PLAN

The most striking feature of the new annex is a disk-shaped roof overlooking the courtyard wall facing Mannerheimintie, under which a new archway will be opened in the wall to function as an entrance to the Museum. Entrances to the annex itself are from the courtyard under the roof from north and south-west.

The new sculptural volume is a separate presence, distinct from other buildings in the courtyard park. The diameter of its roof, shaped like a spherical segment, is 43 metres. The roof is made of steel-reinforced concrete and weighs around 1500 tonnes. Resting lightly on the gold-coloured pedestal

of the interior space, the roof disk seeks to create the illusion of a large floating object.

Enclosed by a glass wall, the lobby with its restaurant connects with the courtyard park and continues into the ground. The new exhibition spaces and their support facilities are located under the courtyard. Access from the annex to the old building is underground to the old building's northern courtyard, which will be covered by a new glass roof.

### **ARCHITECTURE AND MATERIALS**

The underside of the disk-shaped roof is clad with pale high-fired glazed ceramic tiles suspended from a separate steel structure. There are around 5,000 tiles in total. Together they form a lively texture that inspires mythical impressions of ancient Finnish folklore, European mythology and cultural heritage, as well as universal space.

The continuous pattern of the roof's underside is made up of three interlocking standardised shapes. The roof and the curving glass wall are the most distinctive elements of the annex's architectural identity. It is hoped that artworks will not be sited on these surfaces.

The surface of the gold-coloured volume is made of micro-perforated sound-absorbing copper-aluminium. The floors and stairs of the lobby are polished concrete blocks. The circular outdoor terrace under the disk-shaped roof will also be made of light-coloured concrete. The main material used in the lobby walls is light-coloured fibre concrete board with a broken surface texture. The lobby's curving inner wall is perforated for acoustic absorption and ventilation. The walls of the exhibition spaces facing the lobbies are clad in wood.

The interior surfaces of the exhibition spaces are made of wood for both floors and walls. The ceilings are reserved for technology and structures, and will be painted

a matte black throughout. The exhibition spaces are adaptable to serve the functionality requirements of exhibitions and performances.

The upper side of the annex roof is a green space consisting of a carpet of perennial plants.

### **LIGHTING**

The roof disk is illuminated from below by spotlights on the posts next to the glass wall and embedded in the surface of the outdoor terrace, providing general lighting for the lobby and restaurant and façade lighting for the annex at night. Other spaces are lit by lamps embedded in the ceiling and in furniture and also suspended from the ceiling.

### **COURTYARD**

The courtyard park on the north side of the plot will be preserved to as great an extent as possible in the form originally designed by Armas Lindgren in the 1920s. The layout will be altered only by the annex at its own site. The courtyard is bordered on the east and west sides by rows of elm trees along Mannerheimintie and Töölönkatu, with the courtyard ending in the north at Vaunuvaja. Lawns, shrubs and small trees above the underground spaces will be planted on a substrate with a height of 250–300 mm. The height of plants in areas without underground structures will be greater.

Pick-up and drop-off traffic to the annex will take place on the side of the plot facing Museokatu/Töölönkatu. An entrance will be opened in the wall facing Töölönkatu, allowing unobstructed access across the block to Mannerheimintie in the future. Service traffic on the courtyard level will take place along gravel driveways crossing the lawns.

The loadbearing capacity of the courtyard driveway up to the north side of the annex



Image: JKMM Architects

will be increased to allow large objects to be brought to the exhibition spaces. If necessary, large objects (3 m x 3.5 m x 15 m) can be hoisted in through large doors in the glass wall on the north side of the annex and into the high lobby, where they are lowered with lifters onto the same level as the exhibition space floors. The space required for the transport of large objects limits the placement of art in annex lobby. Another major limitation is the glass roof over Halkopiha, the northern courtyard of the old building; the roof cannot withstand any significant increase in weight or fire load.

#### **SITES FOR ART**

Except for the constraints mentioned above, it is hoped that art will add value and meaning to the building and museum complex. There are no specific restrictions on the form or siting of the artwork, as long as it enriches

the annex, enhances the design and does not interfere with the function and various uses of the building. The artwork can be placed in a courtyard park or indoors, or both, or somewhere in between. Garden art, visual art, sound art, light art and other artforms are all in principle equally possible. Projections, media art, installations, performances and participatory artforms can establish a functional contact with the building just as well as sculptures, paintings, graphic art or art based on photographic technology. What matters is the content of the artwork, its high quality and the layers of meaning the work creates in its setting.

#### **2.3 AIMS AND CONDITIONS**

The goal of the competition is to find ideas for an artwork or series of artworks to be installed in the annex to the National

Museum. The work must be place-specific and permanent in nature. It can consist of multiple parts and be made with multiple techniques. The aim is for the work to contribute to the identity of the annex and to support the coherence of the building complex. Proposals must take into account the distinctive character of the competition site.

The artwork must support the societal mission of the National Museum of Finland and its values of humanity, inspiration and movement, or one of them, or to be in a positive, value-added dialogue with them/it.

The National Museum designs and develops its operations in continuous interaction with its stakeholders and audiences, and its operating model brings together actors across sectoral and cultural boundaries. The Museum brings together Finnish citizens and people working in Finland, and builds the image of Finland internationally. The museum continues to raise questions about what is Finnish and what is national.

History is here and now, because every day belongs to the same continuum of time, which includes perspectives on the past, the creation of understanding and new things for today, as well as preconditions for the future. A living relationship with cultural heritage strengthens resilience and mental flexibility, and a sustainable future rests on the capacity for cultural change. The artwork or set of artworks will become part of an environment with a high level of visibility and frequently changing content.

It is hoped that the artwork will stand the test of time, because the National Museum of Finland and its audiences engage in these spaces with issues that involve an exceptionally long timeframe, from prehistory to future generations. It is hoped that the artwork will enrich the new annex and that the message it carries will be forward-looking and rich with hope.

## 2.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation will focus on the artistic quality, viability of implementation, and development potential of the entries, and to how they respond to the goals described in the competition brief. Entries will be evaluated from the viewpoint of ecology and sustainability of materials and production.

The jury may select for implementation one artwork, several works, or an installation.

The work is required to be easy to service and maintain, and have a modest lifetime cost. Funds allocated to the production of the work cannot be reallocated towards its future maintenance.

The materials and technical solutions employed in the work must be safe for both people and property, and the work must not obstruct the movement or activities of people in any way. The works must not obstruct fire and rescue services. The work must not produce disturbing light in indoor or outdoor spaces.

A maximum sum of 300,000 euros (VAT 0%) is reserved for the implementation of the work. This includes the artist fee, the cost of materials and production, and installation costs. The total amount and its items are conditional in relation to the State Art Commission's total annual budgets. Additionally, a sum corresponding to approximately 10% of the cost of the work's implementation is reserved for the design and implementation of possible structural modifications required by the work and the construction of the artwork's foundation and lighting.

The artist must ensure that neither the work nor any of its parts infringe upon the copyright of any third party or any other right based on copyright law, nor any other intellectual property rights.

Previously published entries cannot be accepted. The entry must be a new artwork designed specifically for the competition site.



Image: JKMM Architects

## 3. Stage I of the competition

Stage I is an open ideas competition. The jury will select 4–6 proposals from the submissions for Stage II. Winning proposals of the ideas competition will not be ranked.

Each idea selected for Stage II of the competition will be awarded €5,000 once the competition is over. The prizes are tax-free.

### 3.1. CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR STAGE I

To be considered for the competition, the submission must include the following materials:

1. Scheme for siting the proposed artwork
2. Composite and/or perspective drawings from different directions (min. 2 drawings)
3. Written presentation of the idea, method, and production schedule for the artwork, as well as a background account of how

the work relates to the competition site and how it corresponds to the aims of the competition

4. Cost estimate with breakdown
5. Other materials to illustrate the concept

The competition entry must be presented in max. four A3 pages in one PDF file that must include the siting scheme, composite/perspective images, written background account of the work, cost estimate, and other illustrative materials. The entry's title/author alias must be displayed prominently in the materials.

The participant's identity must not be deducible from the entry's title or otherwise be marked on the entry. The PDF file must be identified using the same title. The maximum allowed size of the PDF file is 8 MB.

Participants may submit several entries to the competition, each entry sent separately and with a different title.



### 3.2. SCHEDULE OF STAGE I OF THE COMPETITION

Stage I of the competition will commence on Thursday, 8 December 2022, and end on Monday, 3 April 2023.

### 3.3 DOCUMENTS OF THE COMPETITION BRIEF

Competition document is this brief with its appendices:

- graphic floor plans with dimensions (1:500)
- sectional and façade drawings with dimensions (1:500)
- courtyard drawings with dimensions (1:500)
- illustrations of interior and exterior views

Drawings and visuals: JKMM Architects  
The competition documents can be downloaded at [www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu](http://www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu).

### 3.4 ENQUIRIES

Competitors are entitled to request clarifications and additional information about the competition. Enquiries should be addressed to the competition contact person, amanuensis Heli Ahmio of the State Art Commission, no later than on Tuesday, 14 February 2023, by email to [taidekilpailu@kansallisgalleria.fi](mailto:taidekilpailu@kansallisgalleria.fi).

The questions and answers will be anonymised and available for viewing from Wednesday 1 March 2023 on the competition website [www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu](http://www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu).

### 3.5 SUBMISSION

Stage I of the competition will end on Monday, 3 April 2023, at 24:00 hours Finnish time (UTC +2).

Entries must be submitted by delivering them (PDF file) between 27 March and 3 April 2023 using the WeTransfer service ([www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com)) to [taidekilpailu@kansallisgalleria.fi](mailto:taidekilpailu@kansallisgalleria.fi).

Only entries submitted within the specified submission period to the correct address will be considered. In case of dispute, it is the sender's responsibility to show that the entry was submitted on time.

The following information must be included in the message field of the WeTransfer service: title/alias of the entry, name of author(s), contact information. The submission must also itemise individual copyright holders and assistants, unless the copyright belongs to the team collectively.

### 3.6. EVALUATION AND PUBLICATION OF THE RESULT IN STAGE I

The jury will seek to resolve the competition so that the submissions that have reached Stage II of the competition can be published on the website of the State Arts Council on Wednesday, 3 May 2023.

An evaluation report will be prepared, which will contain general feedback on the proposals and individual evaluations of the best proposals, as well as information on which artists/teams have been selected for Stage II.

The jury report will be on view online from 13 May 2023 to 3 November 2023 at the competition website [www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu](http://www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu).

## 4. Stage II and exhibition

Stage II of the competition starts on Wednesday, 10 May 2023, and ends on Tuesday, 12 September 2023. Stage II will be open exclusively to the authors of the winning proposals of the ideas competition (4–6), who will develop their proposals further in Stage II.

Participants selected for Stage II may submit more than one proposal, but each submission must be based on their winning proposal in Stage I. After the resolution of the ideas competition, detailed instructions on the required sketches, documents and budget, as well as matters pertaining to the submission of the proposal, will be sent to competitors selected for Stage II. A seminar

will be organised for the Stage II participants on Wednesday, 10 May 2023, at the National Museum of Finland, Mannerheimintie 35, Helsinki.

An exhibition of the developed proposals in Stage II will be held in the National Museum of Finland from 26 September to 15 October 2023. The public will have a chance for vote for their preferred proposal, but the vote will not be binding.

In view of the public exhibition, the authors of entries selected for Stage II are required to prepare their developed proposals in such a way that they can be presented at the exhibition. The curator of the exhibition does not participate in jury deliberations.



Image: JKMM Architects

# 5. Evaluation and publication of results

The jury will seek to resolve the entire competition so that the prize winners and honorary mentions can be published on Monday, 16 October 2022, from 10:00–12:00 in the exhibition space at the National Museum and online at the Finnish State Art Commission website. A jury report will be prepared of the evaluation of the competition proposals in Stage II.

## 5.1. THE RIGHT TO USE COMPETITION PROPOSALS

The winning entries and honorary mentions as well as the jury report will be on view online from 16 October 2023 to 15 April 2024 at the competition website [www.valtiontaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu](http://www.valtiontaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu).

By submitting their entries, participants signal their acceptance that the organisers – The State Art Commission, operating under the auspices of the Finnish National Gallery, National Museum of Finland, Senate Properties, and Finnish Heritage Agency – may, without express permission or compensation, document the entries accepted for Stage II using for the purpose an appropriate medium, and may publish such documents in their communications, publications and on a proprietary web server, and make the works accessible to the public via open Internet.

## 5.2 FURTHER ACTION FOLLOWING THE COMPETITION

The jury will select for further development 1–3 artistically, functionally and financially most suitable entries from among the winners. A separate agreement regarding further development and implementation will be made after the conclusion of the competition.

The goal is for the artwork to be implemented during 2024–2027 so that it can be integrated into the annex’s construction process. A planning appeal has been lodged regarding the construction project. It is expected that the appeal will be resolved during the competition year, which may affect the implementation of the artwork.

The State Art Commission reserves the right not to proceed with any proposal if, after further development of the work, the artistic, functional and financial objectives have not been met, or if security clearance vetting reveals matters that prevent the artist from implementing the work.

The State Art Commission will function as the producer of the selected artworks. The necessary permissions will be obtained by the State Art Commission, in collaboration with Senate Properties.

The implemented artworks and their documentation will be added to the State Art Commission collection and archived. A deposition agreement will be made with the State Art Commission, representatives of the user, and Senate Properties.

# 6. Instructions for both stages of the competition

## 6.1. INSURANCE

The State Art Commission will not insure the competition entries nor will it accept any responsibility for any damage to files during transfer.

## 6.2. COMPETITION RULES

This competition brief constitutes the rules of the competition.

If any changes or additions need to be made to the competition brief, the participants will be informed of them no later than 30 days prior to the end of the competition period via the competition website [www.valtiontaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu](http://www.valtiontaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu). In such a case the competition period will be extended.

Submissions will be disqualified if they are received before or after the period specified in the competition invitation, or if they are in violation of this competition brief. If a submission is disqualified from the competition, the reason will be specified in the jury report.

## 6.3. LANGUAGE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition languages are Finnish, Swedish and English. In case the language versions differ, the authoritative version will be the Finnish version.

## 6.4. CONFIDENTIALITY

The competition is confidential. Every document included in the entries must be furnished with the title of the entry.

The submitted entries will be processed only by the competition contact person, and the identity of the authors will not be disclosed prior to the resolution of the competition. Once the competition is resolved, the contact person will disclose to the jury only the identities of the authors of the winning entries and honorary mentions.

Unawarded entries with their identifying data will be destroyed six months after the resolution of the competition.

Helsinki, 8 December 2022

STATE ART COMMISSION