

State Art Commission:

Competition jury

**Open competition for artwork to be sited in the new annex of the Finnish National Museum in Helsinki,
8.12.2022–3.4.2023**

Date & time: Thursday 20.4.2023 from 13:00–18:03

Venue: Seminar Room, Kiasma, Mannerheiminaukio 2, Helsinki

Present: Competition jury
Riitta Ojanperä, chair
Jari Auer
Pirjetta Brander
Marja Helander
Heli Hiltunen
Ari Pelkonen
Kirsti Saarikorpi
Mika Savela

Eija Aarnio, jury secretary
Heli Ahmio, competition contact person

Experts heard from 15:00–17:00

Director General Elina Anttila, Head of Department Sanna Teittinen, Director of Marketing and Communications Päivi Kukkamäki (representing the National Museum of Finland); Operations Manager, Architect Tomi Nikander (representing the Finnish Heritage Agency); Developer Manager Jukka Lallo (representing Senate Properties); Architect Samuli Miettinen (representing JKMM Architects)

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 in two stages organised by the Finnish State Art Commission in collaboration with the National Museum of Finland, the Finnish Heritage Agency and Senate Properties, with the Finnish State Art Commission serving as competition jury. Competition documents had been downloadable starting on 8.12.2022 at the State Art Commission website, and the competition ended on 3.4.2023. Competition languages were Finnish, Swedish and English.

3. Submissions

It was noted that a total of 187 entries had been received by the deadline, submitted by aliases (see list in Annex 1).

4. Satisfaction of competition criteria and disqualifications

It was noted that 15 out of the 187 competition proposals were rejected. Reasons for the rejections were: the competitor's name appeared in the proposal; submission was incomplete; documents could not be opened due to file format; or the proposal was an already existing work of art (see Annex 1).

5. General assessment

The purpose of the competition was to find ideas for an artwork or a series of artworks to be installed in the new annex of the National Museum of Finland. The National Museum of Finland is located at Mannerheimintie 34, 00100 Helsinki. The work was required to be place-specific and permanent in nature. It could consist of multiple components and be created with different techniques. The work was required to contribute to the identity of the new annex and support the coherence of the overall complex of buildings. Proposals were required to take into account the distinctive character of the competition site.

The artwork would need to 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 otherwise in a positive, value-added dialogue with them.

The jury noted that the competition was for the most part of a high standard. The best proposals took into account the specificity of the site and the impressive architecture of the new building. Some of the proposals played safe, however, and did not dare to break the frame established by the architecture. Thematic references were sought from the Kalevala, from the artefacts in the museum, or from folklore, although there were some interesting exceptions as well. Many of the proposals took into account the ecological lifetime of the work and its long-term sustainability. Many entries were examples of traditional, professional sculpture. The jury noted that there could have been more submission involving painting, conceptual or experimental art.

Competitors had the right to request further clarification and information concerning the competition. Enquiries were submitted concerning issues such as humidity and temperature in interior spaces, weight restrictions, dimensions, locations and technical limitations of the artwork.

6. Assessment of proposals in the upper category

Stage I was an open ideas competition. The jury selected 42 of the submissions for the upper category.

001 Kansallismaisema

The real mural is impressive, and a rare window in a public space today. The monumental size of the painting is particularly striking. The colourful landscape brings added value to the setting and emphasises the details of the space.

007 Jatulintarha

A labyrinth is a stimulating and visually compelling motif. The solution for the labyrinth – the light effects mentioned in the proposal – could benefit from further development. The potential for interactive use is also interesting. Light projection could also be used to produce verbal messages.

011 ÄM2023

Although the proposal is traditional, its theme is eloquent. The round shape and proportions of the Earth, the terrestrial globe, make the work suitable for both indoor and outdoor spaces.

016 Jörmungandr

An interesting, large-scale environmental work. A good match to the architecture of the museum.

018 Lojan puutarhassa

The proposal based on a *ryjy* rug is subtle and well thought out both thematically and coloristically. The choice of materials is particularly interesting and vivid. There is a lot to look at and explore in the work. It works beautifully in different lighting conditions. A tufted rug of this size is like an entire microcosm. The proposal also included a skilfully prepared account of its background and links to the architecture of the National Museum's old part, to Loja Saarinen and the garden at Hvitträsk. The imagery of the proposal is a positive departure from traditional *ryjy* rug images.

019 Juuret

The content is interesting and the monochromatism works well. The form, however, is perhaps too large and dominating.

020 Ursa Major

The form and proportions of the proposal are suitable for an outdoor work. The work echoes the National Museum's traditional bear theme, which seems a valid idea considering the age range of the museum's visitors.

024 Omaksi kuvaksi

A figurative facial motif is universally interesting and even old-fashioned, but especially in a modern building it stands out and is somewhat surprising. The work nevertheless signals its modernity by its three-dimensionality and varied perspectives. The motif succeeds in creating a strong sense of place and also serves as a memorable and orienting element in the museum lobby.

027 Kehä

The proposal is imaginative and insightful. An interesting work for a museum context.

029 Sotkanpesä

A functional, participatory, entertaining outdoor work. Suitable for the yard in terms of its shape, colouring and functionality, in all seasons and all times of the day. In the darkest time of the year, the laser beam adds an enigmatic element to the artwork.

032 Synergioita

A large and complex outdoor work that is like a piece of jewelry, capable of engaging in dialogue with the commanding shape and architecture of the new annex. The artwork's material and detailing that references leaves echo the materials and forms of the building. The reference to traditional ornamentation also works on a large scale, connecting the global with the local on a conceptual level.

033 Väähdys

Glimpses of truth. Raises questions about what is true and what is an illusion, whether one can trust one's senses. Illusions and visual tricks in the spaces, a conceptually titillating "delayed mirror image". Would be interesting to see how it is implemented.

034 Interwoven Histories

An interesting new interpretation of the *ryijy* rug that breaks boundaries of the rug making tradition. A rug made from recycled materials, torn strips of clothing, the meaning of clothes in the work. Each piece of clothing used in the work makes the wearer's story part of the art.

035 Solaris

Elegantly decorative, the work fills the chosen space on the wall quite well. The warm colour is fine and fits with the rest of the space.

047 Jump Jump

A playful, imaginative and entertaining work of art that makes use of the floor. A particularly delightful aspect of the work is how it introduces an element of randomness into the encounter with art.

050 Kannattelijä

The placement of the work in the space is quite impressive. This is a large, holistic work that is sufficiently different and represents a departure from the architecture of the space. Creates a fine positive tension between itself and the setting.

053 Pesä

This two-part sculpture acts as a connector between the interior and exterior spaces of the new annex. The traditional, aesthetic materials communicate gracefully with the design language and materials of the architecture. The underlying mythology of the piece is expressed in a subtle and stylish way. The work is beautifully and simply sculpted, the material is splendidly present in both of the sculptures and it patinates beautifully over time.

063 Ajan pirta

A Finnish, feminine and vernacular theme presented in a harmonious and abstract way. Bold in scale and form, it establishes a sense of presence in the museum lobby.

071 Metsien kansa

The forms in the work remind one of traditional fabric patterns or a spruce forest. This is achieved in a subtle, original and interesting way. The scale of the work is appropriate for the chosen site. By virtue of its nature as material and the way it is used in the work, ceramics functions as a counterbalance in the space and provides a fine match to its simple lines. The work fits the space very well, it is not overbearing yet also hints at an archaic past. A mystical atmosphere.

072 Jäänne

An understated, yet large and celebratory work of ceramic art. Consisting of a solid piece of high-fired porcelain, a material commonly perceived as being fragile, the massive work evokes all kinds of ideas. It would be interesting to view from both near and far and from different heights. The free form and surface texture of the pieces engage in a fine dialogue with the architecture.

075 Muisti

The work spreads throughout the area covered by the new annex, establishing itself both on floors and walls. An understated piece that nevertheless combines several techniques, the work fits beautifully with the look of the new building.

077 Khronos

The algorithm of the work constantly produces new variations; randomness is an essential aspect of the concept. Projections that are in sync with a source that is located either outside on the museum grounds or somewhere else entirely, is a fascinating idea. An ambitious work in all respects.

079 Kultasäde

Based boldly on a single material and its properties, the work fits in well with the surrounding architecture and its cosmic and natural-scientific references. The artwork repeats the tints of materials used in the building. A moving, warm-toned spotlight occasionally introduces an interesting detail into the space. The work is understated. The materials chosen for the mirror are simple yet solemn.

082 Auringon synty

A traditional work of art, yet one that matches the building. Conceptually, the work is beautiful: a golden, warming sun rising up from the ground. The work is simple, uncluttered, and calm.

083 Maan syleily

Beautiful yet grotesque. A bold work that does not over-explain. Leaves the interpretation open-ended. Was a head of an ancient statue discovered in the soil during the construction of the new annex?

088 Nuorallatanssija, maailma ja yhteenkuulumisen kaipuu

The large shape and lightness of the work match beautifully the scale and volume of the new annex. There is something brave and magical about the work, something that lifts it above everyday life yet makes it very accessible at the same time.

095 Aiolos

Takes over part of the yard in an original, light-hearted and imaginative manner. The work's relationship to the building must be considered in siting the piece.

097 Palttina ja Toimikas

Small expands and becomes large. The texture of the delicate weaves of fabric is highlighted in an interesting way by expanding the concept into a monumental size. The recognisable forms are approachable despite the hard and cold material of the work.

099 Aika

The proposed work is a classic, controlled mobile that fits beautifully into the space.

119 Pinnan alla

There is something wistful and delicate about this work, even though its materials are robust and traditional. The work becomes participatory already during its production. The concept suggests collective memory. Reminiscent of fairy tales, the mythic work is a fine illustration of Finnish legends and the Finnish mindscape. The idea is to engage people to participate in the collection of underwater sounds for the production of the audio work.

120 Hiutale

The snowflake is a versatile motif and recognisable by everybody. The proposal allows endless variations in form, finish and installation.

125 Lähdevettä

The mosaic in the proposal is a varied, organic, elegant material. The result is delicate and blends well with the architecture of the space. The work highlights the importance of water and springs for humanity. People are united by our affinity with water. The work embodies the artist's aim of creating a positive and hopeful work of art. The large surface of handmade ceramic mosaic is truly impressive. The shades of glazing on the ceramic pieces echo the relationship of the work to the architecture and materials of the new annex.

127 M niin kuin Matriarkka

The elements of text and playfulness in the work are delightful. The holistic work unites indoor and outdoor spaces.

132 Kivenkuoret

This work moves interestingly beyond the aesthetics of a pile of stones to the next artistic level by delimiting natural forms with "cutters" following strictly the X, Y and Z axes.

148 Kello

An unobtrusive and subtle work that emphasises object culture while combining functional, artistic and design features. If successful, the work could become an iconic piece associated with the lobby and the building itself.

150 Välähdykset

This understated and in places entirely unnoticeable work integrates beautifully with the new annex. The proposal is elegant and perfectly in line with the architecture and surface materials in its environment. The proposal is an enchanting and delightful element and an impressive idea on this scale, and probably quite simple to implement technically. A changing light work allows for a wide range of imageries and moods to be established in the space. An interesting idea.

152 Kansallinen tuoksu

The idea of developing scents and using them in the artwork is refreshing. Developing scents as an artistic process sounds quite innovative. What do nationally important things smell like? The key in this concept is collaboration between professionals from different fields, including the artist and a perfumer.

166 Lost and Found

The work takes museum visitors back to the days of Comb-Ceramic culture, perhaps playfully referring to the ruins of antiquity as well. If the work is chosen for further development, the number, size and placement of objects should be considered to prevent them from competing with the delicate immateriality of the Atlas building.

173 Puhti

This playful work explores the core of Finnishness, yet it also takes us back to the past, to archaeology and ancient monuments. The form language is a fine match with the architecture of Atlas.

175 Sammon palautus

Traditional in theme, but exceptional in scope and scalable in many ways, this work would represent a continuation of the popular theme of animals in the old museum.

178 Samassa veneessä

Stones with carvings and a piece of planting in the yard with glass object and associated sounds on the interior walls, together these constitute a beautiful ensemble that matches perfectly the architecture of the new annex with its gilding. Water and waterways remain an important part of Finnish history even today.

185 Muistolehto

A project of long duration that works well as a narrated story. The work is an interesting take on the idea of a time capsule. What will the present look like in the future when seen in the light of the collected and buried objects?

7. Entries selected for Stage II

The jury selected 4 proposals from the upper category to continue to Stage II of the competition. The selected proposals are not ranked in order of merit.

Proposals for Stage II:

018 Lojan puutarhassa

119 Pinnan alla

125 Lähdevettä

150 Välähdykset

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

8. Identity of artists selected for Stage II

The names of the artists are listed in alphabetical order.

The artists are:

Atso Airola & Leon Hidalgo

Otto Karvonen

Hanna-Kaisa Korolainen

Tuula Lehtinen

9. Publication of the results of Stage I of the competition

The jury will announce the names of the shortlisted proposals and artists on Wednesday, 3.5.2023, on the State Art Commission website. The jury report will be available for view from 3.5.–3.11.2023 on the competition website at www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu. Unawarded entries with their identifying data will be destroyed six months after the resolution of the competition.

10. Determination of further measures

Stage II of the competition commences on **Wednesday 10.5.2023** and ends on Tuesday 12.9.2023. Stage II of the competition is open only to the creators of the winning proposals of the ideas competition, who will develop their winning proposals further in Stage II. Participants in Stage II may submit more than one proposal, but each submission must be based on their winning proposal in Stage I. Proposals developed in Stage II must be completed in such a way that they can be presented in the competition exhibition.

A seminar will be organised for Stage II participants on Wednesday, 10.5.2023, at the National Museum of Finland, Mannerheimintie 35, Helsinki.

An exhibition of proposals developed in Stage II will be held in the National Museum of Finland from 26.9.–15.10.2023. In connection with the exhibition, the public will have a chance for vote for their preferred proposal, but the vote will not be binding. The public's favourite will be announced in connection with the announcement of the official winner of the competition. For the duration of the exhibition, proposals in Stage II of the competition will be available for view anonymously on the competition website at www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu.

The result of the competition will be announced on 16.10.2023 on the State Art Commission website. The proposals in Stage II and the jury report will be on view online from 16.10.2023 to 15.4.2024 on the competition website at www.valtionaideteostoimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu.

From among the prize-winning proposals, the jury will select 1–3 artistically, functionally and financially most suitable entries for further development. A separate agreement regarding their further development and implementation will be made with the artists 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.

11. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting on Thursday 20.4.2023 at 18:03.

In witness whereof

Riitta Ojanperä, chair of the jury

Jari Auer

Pirjetta Brander

Marja Helander

Heli Hiltunen

Ari Pelkonen

Kirsti Saarikorpi

Kommentoimut [TS1]: Viikonpäivä puuttui suomenkielisestä.

Mika Savela

Eija Aarnio, jury secretary