

STATE ART COMMISSION:
Competition jury

**Open art competition for the new annex of the National Museum of Finland, Helsinki, Stage II
(10.5.2023–12.9.2023)**

Date and time:	Thursday 5.10.2023 from 12:00–16:00
Venue:	Ateneum Art Museum, Kaivokatu 2, Helsinki
Present:	Riitta Ojanperä (Chair), Jari Auer, Pirjetta Brander, Marja Helander, Heli Hiltunen (TEAMS), Kirsti Saarikorpi, and Mika Savela Eija Aarnio, competition secretary, and Heli Ahmio, competition contact person
Absent:	Ari Pelkonen
Experts consulted:	14:00–15:30 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

The rules and brief of the second stage of the competition were delivered to the shortlisted artists on 10.5.2023.

It was noted that the artists/groups selected for the second stage were the following: Atso Airola & Leon Hidalgo, Otto Karvonen, Hanna-Kaisa Korolainen, and Tuula Lehtinen.

A discussion was organised for the shortlisted participants on Wednesday, 10.5.2023, at the National Museum of Finland, Mannerheiminkatu 35, Helsinki. A summary of the comments raised in the discussion was emailed to the artists on 11.5.2023.

Proposals in the second stage of the competition are on display in the pop-up exhibition space of the National Museum 26.9.–15.10.2023. During the exhibition the public can vote for their favourite, but the vote does not bind the decision making.

The artists could submit questions to the competition contact person during the competition. The questions submitted covered such issues as landscaping and plantings in the courtyard park, specifications for interior wall colours, location of the air conditioning system, installation of the artwork, and preparation of the budget.

The competitors also asked about the display of competition entries. It was noted that only printed proposals will be on display in the National Museum. Additional materials (material samples, etc.) could not be received, although competitors could include a link to a video or audio file in the proposal PDF if they wished. The maximum duration of said file was set at 120 seconds.

3 **Submissions**

It was noted that five proposals had been registered as submitted by the deadline:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Alias</u>
01	Louise (artist alias); <i>Armas aika</i> (title of proposal)
02	<i>Pinnan alla</i>
03	<i>Lähdevettä 1</i>
04	<i>Lähdevettä 2</i>
05	<i>Välähdykset</i>

4 **Satisfaction of competition criteria**

It was noted all entries satisfy the criteria set out in the competition brief.

5 **General assessment**

The following was recorded as a general assessment of the submissions:

All entries are of a high standard, technically different from each other, of a high quality, and feasible. In the second stage, the proposals have acquired depth and clarity. They are carefully drawn up and illustrate well the artworks, their siting and functionality. The proposals are faithful to the original idea and represent know-how of various techniques. The proposals contribute to the identity of the new annex and support the coherence of the overall complex of buildings.

The assessment focused particularly on artistic quality of the proposals, their viability of implementation, their development potential, and economic aspects.

6 **Assessment of individual proposals**

The following were noted as assessments of the individual proposals:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Alias</u>
01	<u>Louise (artist alias); <i>Armas aika</i> (title of proposal)</u>

The large hand-tufted *ryijy* rug produces a holistic, painterly effect on the curved wall of the Lobby. The floral exuberance of seasons is expressed using wool, mohair and silk, whose glowing, bright colours blend gracefully together. The proposal was considered a monumental feat of craftsmanship. As regards the choice of motifs, the profusion of plant elements was considered a strength. The work introduces warm and welcoming elements into the space. By virtue of its motifs, the work functions as an element that connects the interior with the park and plantings of the new annex. Among the inspirations of the proposal are the history of the building of the National Museum, Armas Lindgren's unrealised garden plans and flower beds, as well as the artist's own sketches of plants. The main themes of the work are comfort and the cycle of life.

02	<u><i>Pinnan alla</i></u>
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Consisting of sculptural and audio components, the work allows different routes to be established and surprising elements to be spotted on the lawn in the museum park. Interestingly, the proposal represents the traditional idea of sculpture, yet the way it is realised is different. The formal language of the work is disconnected from the setting and architecture in a fascinating way. The light and the sounds emerging from under the shells of boats give rise to the notion of an underwater world. As the evening falls, the boats are

silhouetted against the illuminated annex. The proposal also includes a participatory production process. The soundscape is to be compiled by recording underwater sounds in different regions and bodies of water. The soundscape adds depth and diversity of interpretation to the work, alluding to collective memories that relate to water and its sound. The hand-hammered copper lining of the boats and oars or feet adds an interesting material dimension to the sculpture.

03 Lähdevettä 1

The jury considered the proposal to be a consummate and technically robust achievement and a masterful example of craftsmanship. Sited in both the Lobby and the Lounge, the components of the proposal were thoroughly refined and the technical solutions as well as relationship of the work to the space well thought out. The metallic tones of the ceramic mosaic tiles establish a coherent whole that is visually pleasing and engages in spatial dialogue with the architecture, with a warm golden glow in the Lobby and a greenish hue in the Lounge. The idea of using the work to create a monumental, painterly whole was considered successful. The two separate installations are sited interestingly in relation to the annex, creating a contrast with its materials and surfaces. The almost abstract visual language evokes a forested space and the presence of water. The work recalls the origins of cultures that have evolved near water. Since ancient times, water has been associated with many natural beliefs, rituals and ceremonies. However, the execution and formal language of the work are quite contemporary. The pixel-like quality of the mosaic surface recalls digital image processing and its potential.

04 Lähdevettä 2

Lähdevettä 2 differs in some respects from the colour scheme of *Lähdevettä 1*, and it includes an added third element in the outdoor space. The palette in the Lobby consists of a mosaic wall in black-and-white and gold, while the dominant colour in the Lounge has a green hue, just as in *Lähdevettä 1*. The metallic colours used in the ceramic tiles – gold and brass – create an elegant and sophisticated effect. The third component of the proposal is a bowl-shaped concrete sculpture which echoes the shape of the roof of the annex. It also serves as a seat in the park. The mosaic is made of glass and metallic tiles, which give the work an organic and sensual, material feel. The visual element that unites the components is ripples of the surface of water. The movement, the rippling of water, is captured superbly in the surface design.

05 Välähdykset

The jury liked the spatiality of the proposal which is created by flashes of light on the curved interior wall. The floor-to-ceiling LED strips create a sense of motion and vibrancy on the wall. The continuous, calmly and slowly evolving motion of light creates fascinating patterns. Looking at the patterns close up or from a distance gives rise to fascinating interpretations that vary, a temporal narrative. The contents of the pictorial narrative underlines the polyphonic and layered nature of the nation's memory and inspires viewers to reassess the past. Fragments of the past merge with the present and the future, reconstructing time. The motifs will be selected later in collaboration with museum staff, historians and archaeologists. The script will be coded in software suitable for controlling a system of lights. The technical form of the work is airy and spatially commanding. The surface formed by the LED strips is at once random and regular, almost minimalist in its form. The proposal is different and fresh, an eye-catching and captivating performance. In flashes, it combines time and motion, allowing the mind to reflect freely upon the construction of time and meaning.

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Consultation of experts

Invited experts consulted at the jury meeting were Director General Elina Anttila, Head of Department Sanna Teittinen, and Director of Marketing and Communications Päivi Kukkamäki (representing the National Museum of Finland); Operations Manager Tomi Nikander (representing the Finnish Heritage Agency); Developer Manager Jukka Lallo (representing Senate Properties); and Architect Samuli Miettinen (representing JKMM Architects). It was noted that all proposals were feasible in terms of their artistic as well as implementation and development potential, and they met the expectations set out in the competition brief.

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Deciding the winner

The jury elected as winner:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Alias</u>
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03	<i>Lähdevettä 1</i>
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Other proposals were not ranked in order of merit.

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Naming the public's favourite

The public's favourite will be announced in conjunction with the announcement of the competition results on 16.10.2023.

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Determination of further measures

It was decided to proceed with the further development and implementation of the winning proposal. The aim is to complete the work between 2024 and 2027.

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Disclosure of aliases

The names behind the aliases were revealed, as follows:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Alias</u>	<u>Artist/Group</u>
01	Louise	Hanna-Kaisa Korolainen
02	Pinnan alla	Atso Airola & Leon Hidalgo
03	Lähdevettä 1	Tuula Lehtinen
04	Lähdevettä 2	Tuula Lehtinen
05	Välähdykset	Otto Karvonen

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Publication of result

The result of the competition will be published on Monday, 16.10.2023, on the website of the State Art Commission, and at a publication event on the same day at the National Museum of Finland. The proposals participating in Stage II of the competition and the Jury Report will be on view online 16.10.2023–15.4.2024 on the competition website at www.valtiontaideteostimikunta.fi/Kansallismuseo-taidekilpailu.

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Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:36.