

Sirpa Särkijärvi - Peregrination | Vaellus

Showroom Klingendahl

October 18 – November 30, 2025

Sirpa Särkijärvi has reflected on our lives in the chaotic modern world, expressing concern about the hatred and confrontation, hopelessness and fear that have largely blinded our field of vision. In her paintings, she deals with the human need to find themes of hope, understanding, and meaning around us.

"In my paintings, I want to explore and interpret these themes as perspectives and reflections on a balanced humanity, to help rediscover the 'factory settings' of man: the connection to oneself and other beings, deep interactions between people, and responsible harmony with the surrounding nature. My aim is generally to increase understanding of those core issues that can make us value ourselves and each other as the building blocks of our communities."

In her solo exhibition opening in Tampere, Särkijärvi depicts the long and winding path of man in life. 'Peregrination | 'Vaellus' means a journey, a journey like an expedition, not so much a straight line of travel.

"As a human race, we have tried many ways of being and acting in the world. The journey has been long, often misguided, but it also contains incredible potential, wisdom, warmth, and beauty. The next step is always unknown, but everyone has their own unique part in this common Peregrination."

The energetic painterly quality, the power of colours, and the figurative physicality of Sirpa Särkijärvi's works are linked to the contradictions and volatility of states of mind, consciousness, and the subconscious. Särkijärvi is interested, among other things, in approaching the subjects of her paintings from the perspective of deconstruction —a critical reading method adopted in literature that brings out the contradictions hidden in meanings. The starting points of her paintings are the reasons for human action, psychological needs, and motives. "Between the lines" is also part of human inconsistency, forming a complex whole that the artist can try to reflect in his works. Finally, the viewer also receives and interprets everything in the painting through their own background and experiences.

A work of art is often created in numerous long, methodical painting sessions. The technically time-consuming process of working with dozens of pre-mixed colors requires significant preparation and extensive development of the idea before the actual painting work begins. Särkijärvi says that he strives for holistic work, in which painting is a tool for thinking, pondering, and reflecting. The expression, realized horizontally with flowing acrylic colors, is conveyed on the canvas as flowing color surfaces, movements, and strokes. Their fragmented structure creates its own illusion when viewing the painting from up close or from a distance. The splashing paint as a material lends itself to considered and controlled images of humanity, as if the paintings were simultaneously both uncontrolled and controlled, like the mind.

Sirpa Särkijärvi (b. 1974) lives and works in Turku. She was born in Enontekiö and spent her childhood mainly in Muonio. The family's long traditions and roots in northernmost Finland have contributed to the artist's identity and visual influences, making her a social observer: a reflective, open-minded, and investigative experimenter.

Särkijärvi graduated from The Turku School of Fine Arts and has since then actively have solo exhibitions, most recently at Galleria Ama in Helsinki and Joseph Nease Gallery in Minnesota in 2022. She has also participated in numerous group exhibitions in Finland and abroad. Her works are in several public and private art collections, such as Malmö Konstmuseum, Finnish State Art Collection, Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, Rovaniemi Art Museum, Turku Art Museum, WAM Turku City Art Museum, Tampere Art Museum, Oulu Art Museum, and The Aine Art Museum, Tornio.

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Papinkatu 21, Tampere, Finland

Opening: October 17, 2025 | 5–7 PM

Open: Wed–Fri 12–18, Sat–Sun 12–16