

# SIRPA SÄRKIJÄRVI

## The Artifact and Living

“It is interesting to observe the dimensions of a lifeless artifact, such as a painting, to create views into the world of a living being, the inner world of a human. At the same time, one can reflect on the essence or the vacillating nature of truth and illusion.

The most recent paintings of this exhibition have been created during this exceptional spring and therefore childhood was chosen as the theme. After all, we have all been children, but even more broadly speaking, this time has forced many in isolation to reflect on their human self and their relationship with their surroundings. We have been amongst family or without it. Childhood, i.e. growth, parenting, childlessness, joy, happiness, interaction, pain, challenge, abandonment, acceptance. These are all perspectives to consider when looking at the new paintings.

It was nice and relieving to see how naturally the visual language of my art, which represents contemporary painting, worked out. The liquid, water-like flow, the connection of characters to their emotions and presence, instantly became part of the unique indoor and outdoor space of Punkaharju Hotel. The scenery of the ridge, surrounded by its bright and clear lakes and unique set of buildings, creates opportunities to experience parallel experiences arising from the stories of the historical environment and reflections of what it is to be human in the worlds of my paintings. As a person who loves history, it was a pleasure to take part in this dialogue.

Like the surroundings, I hope to be able to offer the viewer a place to rest, calm down, and recharge. Paintings can help you find perspectives to look, feel, and think about the outer and inner worlds. The paintings, nature, and history come together in a place where it is natural for humans to engage in this dialogue. A sense of outsidership, which is typical for humans, is a dimension that in these elements, can lead to a connection with the self and surrounding world, at this moment, through presence.”

The summer exhibition at Punkaharju Hotel features paintings by the visual artist Sirpa Särkijärvi over several years, making it possible to observe the development of her painting expression over the previous 10 years and the ‘Canvas’ series, which was an interdisciplinary collaboration project between fashion designer Henrica Langh and Sirpa. Henrica Langh created a collection of dresses that Sirpa Särkijärvi finished with her own charged painting expression.

Art and fashion have long had a connection; paintings have shown people dressed in the finest fashions, and fashion designers often seek inspiration from the world of art. The ‘Canvas’ collection takes this relationship between art and fashion to another level. ‘Canvas’ questions the boundary between art and fashion by turning a dress into a canvas.

The Artifact and Living exhibition at Punkaharju Hotel can be seen from 10.6.2020 when the hotel reopens its doors to guests.

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