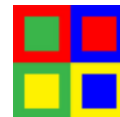




art centre Saksala ArtRadius –FINLAND-

address: Karhuntie 11
51600 Haukivuori
Finland

contact: Marja de Jong
W: www.saksala.org
E: mail@saksala.org
M: 00358(0)504625675



ACTIVE WITH ART IN RURAL HERITAGE SAKSALA – HAUKIVUORI – ETELÄ-SAVO – FINLAND

culture is the expression of civilization and art is the visualization of culture.

Art is a basic human attitude; it gives content to one's life and thoughts and the integration of art in the future view will be an innovative action of great importance.

BACKGROUND AND IDEA OF THE ART CENTER

International art centre Saksala ArtRadius is a many-sided private art organization in the rural area of eastern Finland. It is based on the vision that art is part of human existence and that culture is the result of participation in civilization.

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius is a unique private organization in the field of art that combines benefit and non-profit, and is for the most part working in the public sector with private investments. It is also a pioneer in making a contribution towards new economic activity, in particular in the area of recreation and tourism. In that way art becomes an engine for rural development.

Saksala ArtRadius as a private organization has taken care of, and protected the former old people's home Saksala for fall into disrepair. Saksala ArtRadius has given the place a new future by renovating the buildings into an INTERNATIONAL art center of high quality and artistic content. The private place has now several new public functions like: art project, artist-in-residence, transnational network, attention for the history of the region, the development of new social awareness and structures, and bringing new art experiences to the northern region of Mikkeli.

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius is a way of living; it shows the responsibility for the future of the region, it respects the history and the agriculture roots.

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius makes the region attractive to come for a visit, a holiday, a longer stay, and also to move permanently.

Saksala ArtRadius is not a plan, not a paper, not a wish, but an existing pioneering organization with great power.

It is inspiring to feel and see the result of the involvement of the local society with the development of this inspiring art center. It is clear that Saksala ArtRadius is an important partner in the creative, cultural and economic development of the region.

The art center is an important ambassador for the region of Etelä-Savo and for Finland in general.

art highlights civilization - art marks the way the human race is going through the history

LOCATION HAUKIVUORI

The geographical location of Haukivuori includes SAKSALANHARJU. The population of Haukivuori is more than average international; nearby there are 4% foreigners of the total population of 2300 inhabitants, while average in whole Finland is 2%. Bosnian, Burmese, Afghans, Dutch, Russian, Estonian inhabitants among others has settled down in rural Haukivuori and have partly started to integrate to the local culture, but are also partly living separated from it because of their background. The art center is an important and useful mean to exchange different cultures and to build new structures.

ART CENTER LOCATION

Saksalanharju, an ancient settlement site, is situated in South-East rural Finland between small cities Mikkeli and Pieksämäki. On the hill of Saksalanharju is founded the art centre "Saksala ArtRadius". The profile of the art centre is based on co-operation art projects, art education, international cultural exchange and cultural tourism. Modernized residences are available visiting artists, visitors and researchers. There are also work spaces, ateliers, exhibition spaces and good working spaces possibilities outdoors. www.saksala.org

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

The art center is world wide cooperating with art, culture, social and tourist organizations. The network of Saksala ArtRadius is increasing all the time.

Exchange in the field of art, art education, culture and tourism are resulting in innovative processes for future development.

The exchange is important to widen the individual horizon. It will give young people new impulses to accept other views and to cross their boundaries.

In exchange the rural area is a valuable source for sustainable developments.

The art center is an example for the innovative development of historical places in the country side.

vision

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius in the rural area of Finland is an organization with an exceptional and innovative character combining, on a high level and quality, Finnish nature, culture and art together with (international) cultural tourism and makes it profitable for all residence artists, art lovers, visitors and guests. It has proved to be an important cultural contributor to an isolated rural society through innovative art projects in cooperation with artists in the artist-in-residence program.

The core of the art center is the international artist-in-residence program, which is open for artists from around the world. In this program artists interact with other artists and in art projects, which is an important source for the exchange with the local society. Through that it contributes extremely to the self-awareness of people in their search for their rural identity. The art center initiates and cultivates creative processes which are important stimuli for new directions in art and society (the economy included).

These days art centre Saksala ArtRadius is housing the biggest and most challenging rural artist-in-residence in the NORDIC region, with an average of 20 artists per year in different programs. From the beginning the artist-in-residence program is based on settling a refreshing art community in the remote rural environment of east Finland. Far away from urban society the place creates space, concentration, exchange, challenge, and experiences in artistic, social and communicative fields.

Saksala ArtRadius is based on the idea to create a place where art is the natural situation and is represented in all the activities without the label 'only for professionals' It intends to be an inviting area for all who want to take part in an essential part of human life and want to be active in and with art in professional way and/or as a free time activity.

Besides the art center in the small village Haukivuori has developed a former old people's home into a central cultural place. The international contacts, visitors and artists have given the local culture a positive push. There has started an interest in the own history and culture in the rural and isolated context. It is important to attend this consciousness which is so different from the urban view.

experimental artistic experiences and new ideas are available and will broaden the individual vision of the artist and all other participants in the art center

The art centre collects personal historical material from Haukivuori people and organizes exhibitions, is planning art presentations and invites artists to give their personal view on all the material and stories. Also artists participate in this process with their own view and contributions.

The main vision is represented through:

1. artists are able to open the artistic area and to explore in a creative way human reality and invite by their vision others to reflect their own perception on reality
2. art extends one's own view on reality, the world, it gives more dimension to one's life
3. with art the geographic area will be more attractive and will give more profit to the people who live there and those who want to visit or stay in the area.
4. be active with art will extend the feeling of wellness it gives long term effects in one's life
5. art is an essential part of the primary and secondary education

The art center has created a place to concentrate to retreat, to collaborate, start exchange and study. The location, ambiance and atmosphere are very authentic; here artists can work on their art production, special projects and develop new artistic work by facilities.

Most artists are from urban area and they prefer a residence and art project in a rural area. It is the isolation, the silence, the pure landscapes and community they are looking for.

The difference between their original home town and the location of the art center is usually a culture shock. It takes a few weeks to be settled and to find a personal reply on the seclusion. The artistic impact is interesting and is able to open new views and artistic dialogue.

During the past years a wide range of experiences with different international collaboration projects, international artist-in-residence programs, qualified symposiums and innovative art projects like the unique forest LABYRINTH have taken place. These experiences are the conditions and an excellent base for new experimental challenges.



children participating in LABYRINTH symposium -local community involved by artists in XROADS – artist at work at LABYRINTH installation

projects

The art center is a place where artists can stay, work, meet, discuss, develop and present their work. It gives space, facilities and support to develop a personal view on art and the own artistic work. It builds towards personal artist's networks in the field of art. These all are ambitious goals.

From the beginning the dialogue with the artistic field is contributory to the direction of the art center.

The art center offers a breeding place for ideas, contacts and projects in different ways.

The main idea is an open mind for the way artists can develop their artistic vision.

Different art activities like symposiums, art projects, exhibitions, lectures, workshops and art education in the residence give the artists a possibility to work in different fields of art.

There are possibilities to participate in the artist-in-residence program, to be invited for a symposium, to take part in art projects.

The location of the art center in the rural area of eastern Finland is inviting artists to concentrate on their projects. During the stay of an artist we promote the cooperation with the local community even as participation in art education projects and/or in workshops with other visitors of the art centre. The art center has also a respected art education and child art center.

Finally it is also a place where visitors can stay, can enjoy the different presentations, can take part in art activities and can meet artists and their work.

COOPERATION

Saksala ArtRadius cooperates with:

LOCAL/REGIONAL

HAUKIVUOREN TAPAHTUMAYHDISTYS RY

AREFS TAIDE JA KULTTUURI RY

HAUKIVUOREN ALE –ASTE and YLÄ-ASTE

MIKKELIN TAIDEMUSEO – MIKKELI

GALLERIARI – MIKKELI

MIKKELI EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

RURAL INSTITUTE – MIKKELI

TRAVEL MIKKELI

ETELÄ-SAVON AMMATTIOPISTO - MIKKELI

different departments of the art centre:

1. the AllaprimA Museum for child art, contemporary art and young art
2. the FOAM sculpture park
3. artist-in-residence programs
4. art courses
5. art education programs
6. symposiums
7. (international) art and collaboration projects
8. forest-LABYRINTH
9. CHILDREN'S LABYRINTH
10. CHILDREN'S FOREST

After a partly renovation of the former old people's home Saksala in Haukivuori the first artists were staying in the end of 2005. The art center has proved to be a unique place for artists with an open mind to be a part of a developing art experience.

The network of the art center is increasing very fast and there are contacts around the world with different kind of art institutes and organizations, artists can have profit from this network.

From the beginning the art center is international oriented with the intention to open the rural environment for artists from all over the world. The location offers excellent facilities for innovative art projects which can contribute to new artistic experiments. International professional artists and experts are full time or temporary part of the staff.

The combination with art education is a great experience for artists to develop specific teaching skills and set up art programs for children in different ages.

INTERNATIONAL

AllaprimA FOUNDATION - the NETHERLANDS

BABAYAN CULTURE HOUSE – CAPPADOCIA – TURKEY

Centre d'Art i Natura – FARRERA - Spain

RICKLUNDGÅRDEN – SAXNÄS - SWEDEN

SART FOUNDATION – the NETHERLANDS

OPEN AIR MUSEUM IN PEDVĀLE – LATVIA

ART IN MOTION – BEROWRA – AUSTRALIA

FINE ARTS WORK CENTER – PROVINCETOWN MA – USA

MACDOWELL COLONY – PETERBOROUGH NH – USA

VERMONT STUDIO CENTER – JOHNSON VT – USA

little Art – MUNICH – GERMANY

ICAF – WASHINGTON - USA

member of organizations-associations in the field of artist-in-residence-art education-



TransCultural Exchange
– Boston MA – USA
artist-in-residence



ResArtis
artist-in-residence
NETHERLANDS



Finnish Artists'
Studio
Foundation



ALLIANCE OF ARTIST
COMMUNITIES - USA



DE KUNSTLINIE –
ALMERE – NL
art education



vocational
education

Saksala ArtRadius can be found on many websites on the internet. The own website www.saksala.org has over 100 000 visitors a year. On the social media like **LinkedIn, FaceBook and Twitter** it has an own account.

art projects within the contemporary art/culture context locally, nationally and internationally

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius is a young art centre (founded 2003, first residence 2005-2006) and has built up a remarkable network with different kind of organizations in the field of art and culture.

There is cooperation with the Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta, the artist-in-residence group in Etelä-Savo, the AllaprimA Foundation in the Netherlands, the Mikkeli Art Museum, TransCultural Exchange in the USA, ResArtis and TransArtists in the Netherlands, the Mikkeli University of applied sciences, Mikkeli municipality and also with regional, national and international artists.

The art center has an expanding network with like-minded artist-in-residence programs in the USA, Turkey, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Baltic countries and Russia and other regions.

The art center is also active in the field of art education and cooperates with e.g. InSEA, ICAF Foundation, Little ART, Mikkeli Education department, Pieksämäki Education Department.

In the field of art education the art centre has the professional expertise of Marja de Jong with her long term experience and knowledge in the art school AllaprimA Art Atelier in Zwijndrecht and teacher Trainings College in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and international exhibitions, lectures and workshops with child art. During a residence period artists can develop their skills and vision in art education by participating in practical workshops in primary and secondary schools.

The art centre is organizing symposiums in the field of sculpture, art education and music.

There is a program with commissions for artists to realize projects, like the LABYRINTH, CROSSROADS SAKSALANHARJU, SAKSALANHARJU history, TRIANGLE ROCK, DANCE, MUSIC FESTIVALS, ART AND CULTURE EVENTS WITH LOCAL SOCIETY, and STUDIO IN FIELD programs.

A program with special lectures and courses by regional, national and international artists and curators is in the schedule for winter time.

PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTED:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| 2005 | REDUCTIVE ABSTRACTION | sculpture symposium |
| 2006 | HOMO ERECTUS | sculpture symposium |
| 2006 | CHILDREN'S FOREST | children's construction area in the forest |
| 2006/2007 | ART ENLARGES THE AREA | developing cultural traveling in Etelä-Savo - EU project |
| 2006/2007 | forest LABYRINTH | nature labyrinth project |
| 2007 | NATURALLY ART | art education project and symposium |
| 2007-2008 | OpeArtEdu | art education project with Mikkeli schools |
| 2008 | SOJOURN IN WHITE | international artist collaboration project |
| 2008 | FINNISH FOREST – SOURCE OF ART | forest-LABYRINTH installation symposium |
| 2008 | NATURALLY | art education symposium |
| 2009 | ARS • NATURA | sculpture symposium Mikkeli puisto |
| 2009/2010 | CROSSROADS SAKSALANHARJU | Nordic artist collaboration project |
| 2010 | CHILDREN'S LABYRINTH | installation symposium |

ANNUAL PROJECTS

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---|
| annual | TAIDEKIRPPUJEN YÖ | art fair event at the end of the summer |
| annual | HAUKIVUORI MUISTOISSAMME | history of Haukivuori |
| ongoing | artist-in-residence | international artist program – the year round |

PLANNED PROJECTS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| WE COME FROM HERE | youth and art education project |
| VIA.ARS.NATURA | art near/on local roads in the hinterland |
| TRIANGLE ROCK | international collaboration/exchange art project |
| A LOVELY PLACE | transnational network with local art program |
| ART IN MOTION | experimental dance festival |
| PUPPET THEATRE FESTIVAL | workshops experimental puppet theatre in the LABYRINTH |
| VOCAL AND SOUND | new creative vocal and aural experiences |
| RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU | experimental arts & craft community |

studios, apartments and staff

The former old people's home Saksala is now an international art center.
There are realized 6 studios (one room apartments) in the residence part of the art centre.
They are complete furnished and have a kitchen, shower and toilet.
The size of the apartments is from 28-40 m².
There are three workspaces in the basement and a large central atelier in the attic.
In the outside area are different places to work.
The staff exists of one full-time worker and different volunteers.

The founder Marja de Jong is full time working in the art centre; she is an artist, art teacher and organizer.
Most volunteers are students of academies in different countries working from 1-3 months.
The international sculptor Lucien den Arend is member of the artistic staff.
The staff is assisted by different professional artists with international reputation.

program's criteria for selection of participating artists/cultural operators

The artist has to send the application form and information about the artistic work, ideas and plans related to the project or artist-in-residence.
The artist has to have a professional education and/or a professional way of working.
There has to be an artistic vision on the participation in the art project.
The artist has to have the intention to cooperate with other artists, or persons in the art centre.
The application form and information has to give a positive image of the artist.
During the year we try to get artists into different kind of projects.

It is the intention to get artists from different countries to make an international work place in the rural area of Finland. We are promoting and supporting the international exchange between artists from this region and the rest of the world.

Each application will be examined by the selection committee.

artists/practitioners who have participated in art programs and stayed in the residency

2010

Pedro Jaime Riva Argentina
Hanri van Heerden South Africa
Anna-Lea Kopperi Finland
Pål Jomås Norway
Siard NL/Finland
Matias Jansons Latvia
Tiina Mielonen Finland
Alexander Nikitin Finland
Marja de Jong NL/Finland
Rumen Dimitrov Bulgaria
Marc walter Canada
David Kochavi Israel
Nadia Zubareva Russia
Marjan Booy the Netherlands
Mariëtte Cordes the Netherlands
Ilse van den Berk the Netherlands
Sergey Komarov Russia
Dominique van Ipenburg Netherlands
Isabella Rouquette Belgium

2009

Céline Roesthuis the Netherlands
Delphine Kini - Austria
Ilse van den Berk the Netherlands
Gerlinde Miesenboeck Austria
Tiina Suhonen Finland/Norway
Alexander Nikitin Russia/Finland

Marjan Booy the Netherlands
Berry Kolmans the Netherlands
Karen Kerkhoven Australia
Mariëtte Cordes – the Netherlands
Nadia Zubareva Russia
Ludmila Belova Russia

2008

Cassie Thornton USA
Miyuki Kido Japan
Mari Shields USA
Catherine Bull USA
Ilse van den Berk the Netherlands
Claire Watson Australia
Behrouz Rae Iran
Fereshte Moosavi Iran
Marie-Julie Jacquet France
Jean-Christophe Piette France
Marijke Bongers the Netherlands
Varol Topaç Turkey
Jolanda Schouten the Netherlands
Céline Roesthuis the Netherlands
Marjan Booy the Netherlands

2007

Irene Anton Germany
Ulrika Sparre Sweden
Mari Shields USA/Netherlands
Clara van den Bosch the Netherlands
Jolanda Schouten the Netherlands
Marjan Booy the Netherlands
Henk de Croon the Netherlands

2006

Irene Anton Germany
Ulrika Sparre Sweden
Philippe Cusse France
Jolanda Schouten the Netherlands
Cully Renwick USA
Willy Smits the Netherlands
Jil van Seventer the Netherlands
Inge Rosen the Netherlands
Anna Toljamo Finland
Brigitte Saschofer Austria
Janina Rudnicka Poland
Rumen Dimitrov Bulgaria
Louche Romania
Veli Blakcori Kosovo
Yildiz Guner Turkey

2005

Ton Kalle the Netherlands
Mari Shields –USA/NL
Roland de Jong-Orlando the Netherlands
Jaak Hillen Belgium
Kiril Praskov Bulgaria
Varol Topac Turkey
Elina Tuhkanen USA
Jonathon Bailey Australia
Sarawut Chutiwongpeti Thailand
Marius Monkam Cameroon
Isaac Foka Cameroon
Cecile Bayimbe Cameroon
Marthe Elangue Cameroon
Norbert Kwayl Cameroon
Jules Ndombou Cameroon

publications | catalogs | art books | banners



2010 CHILDREN'S LABYRINTH



2006 HOMO ERECTUS



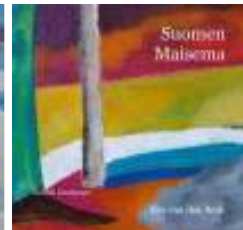
2005 LESS IS MORE AGAIN



CROSSROADS SAKSALANHARJU



SAKSALA ON THE ROCK



SUOMEN MAISEMAA

