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A LIGHT ARTIST RETURNS TO HIS FAMILY ROOTS

The exhibition "Sculptural Light" by light artist Jyrki Sinisalo will open in the Hoovigalerii of Haapsalu Kunstikool on 26.7.2023. The exhibition "Sculptural Light" consists of 14 separate light works. The exhibition is open until 13.8.2023.

Jyrki Sinisalo has had a career of almost 40 years in the field of light. In recent years, his work has been exhibited at Galleria Topelius in connection with the Lux Helsinki in 2022 and at Laterna Magica in 2023, among others. He has also participated in several group exhibitions. Sinisalo has also designed lights for numerous puppets and spoken theatre performances, most recently for the Patricia Cornelius play by Helsinki's Valtimonteatteri in spring 2023.

Light and shadow are Jyrki Sinisalo's way of perceiving the world. Light creates an aesthetic footprint. It is not the amount of light that matters, but the aesthetic experience. "It is important to me that my works are in dialogue with those who experience them. The role of art is to make something visible, to move and provoke thought. I am interested in the totally unique light of my works and the aesthetic footprint it creates. In my work, the whole is crucial. Form always comes after light. But light always needs form. My challenge is to find the right composition between light and form. The things around the light bring out the individuality of the work. Light always needs an object to be perceived," says Sinisalo.

The sculptural light and violins recall the artist's work history from many different angles. Haapsalu's exhibition also has two clear personal themes. All works are framed in boxes. "The boxes bring back memories of working at the Green Apple Puppet Theatre for almost 20 years. The boxes are like a miniature theatre that contains my whole life," says Sinisalo.

Another theme is sustainability. All the works are mainly made of recycled materials. The life and the past lived in this way are alive in the background of the works. Although the works are personal, Sinisalo hopes that everyone who experiences them will make their own interpretations of the works.

Haapsalu Kunstikool has had very high-quality exhibitions in its galleries every year. "It is an honour to be in this company and to bring the first exhibition of light art to this continuum. Kunstikool Hoovigalerii is a place made for light art. The old building creates a wonderful setting for my exhibition. I would especially like to thank Haapsalu Kunstikool. You have welcomed me very warmly," says Sinisalo.

My mother's family roots in Vormsi

Light artist Jyrki Sinisalo's roots are in a family from the Swedish coast on the island of Vormsi. His mother's father, Hans Lindqvist, was born in Kerslet on the island of Vorms, in a house called Mussas. Hans was educated in St Petersburg as a goldsmith and jeweller. From St Petersburg, Hans and his family fled the revolution to Finland in 1920. He was an Estonian citizen at the time and never changed his citizenship. "The circle closes, as it were. About 100 years ago, Hans came to Finland. Now it's my turn to come to Estonia with my exhibition, to my family roots."

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