

Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale 2019

Biannually, the small and well-known foundry village of Fiskars will flourish in a completely new way when the Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale opens in this culturally and historically valuable industrial milieu of natural beauty in West Uusimaa. This curated festival combining modern art and design will engage artists, designers, local communities and various audiences. The Biennale will offer a topical, egalitarian platform for encounters between makers and enthusiasts. In addition to the three main exhibitions located in the village, smaller satellite events will be held throughout the Raasepori region. In all of its operations, the festival will emphasize a more sustainable and diverse equal-opportunity way of working. On the basis of these values, the international biennale will grow, subsist and develop into a meaningful phenomenon, while maintaining an intimate and down-to-earth atmosphere.

Founded on the Fiskars river in 1649, the small foundry community is considered the birthplace of Finnish industrialism. The historical buildings in the village, all listed for conservation, and the surrounding biodiverse hardwood forests make the area a unique destination. Currently Fiskars Village is home to some 600 inhabitants, and it is a significant centre for handicrafts in Finland.

The art curator of the Biennale **Jenni Nurmenniemi** will highlight interspecies coexistence and the functionality of materials instead of the human-centered perspective. Keywords include immersiveness, porosity, breathability and transparency. The temporal layers of the environment, the continuums between the spaces occupied by the Biennale, and extended connections to the village architecture and social structure will be emphasized by means of contemporary art.

The design ensemble will be curated by designer **Jasper Morrison**, the master of minimalistic details, who is intrigued by daily objects formed over time and their purpose of use. Creativity also deforms and deepens over time, and to reflect this idea, Morrison invites different generations of designers to participate in this exhibition, with no upper limit.

The third Biennale exhibition, the FACTORY collection produced by ONOMA, The Cooperative of Artisans, Designers and Artists in Fiskars, will be curated by **Anniina Koivu**. This show will reflect on the creative potential of "the village as a factory", look into historical and contemporary production processes and present new perspectives for design making, by combining experimental ideas and methods.

The artists and the designers will be published in the end of January.

Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale is made by Luovi Productions (est. 1995). Luovi is most well known as the producer of the largest design festival in the Nordics, Helsinki Design Week. Luovi is working together with ONOMA, the Cooperative of Artisans, Designers and Artists in Fiskars. The brand design is by Werklig.

The first Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale will open to the public on the 19th of May 2019. The exhibitions will be open until the 15th of September.

