

Merja Ranki
sculptress
ceramist
b.1955



CV

Sculptress and ceramist Merja Ranki graduated from the AALTO University of Art and Design in Helsinki 1998. The active artistic career with exhibitions of sculptures and installations in different materials started in 1981. Mastering several materials and being inspired by them the artist entitles herself as a material adventurer. In her works she combines the reality and dreams and the conflict between them. The visual characteristics of her works could be described as a smiling surrealism where conceptual art is served with laughter. At the present she is working within public art and managing artist studios in Helsinki and Kerava, Finland.



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education

2011	Self portrait -methods, Arts Academy of Turku University, Finland
2009	Vocational Teacher Education, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland
2003	Art education, Lahti Polytechnic, Finland
1998	Master of Arts, The University of Art and Design AALTO Finland
1996	Sculpture, ceramics, Escola Massana, Barcelona, Spain
	Sculpture, The National Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Finland
1980-1988	Experimental sculpture, drawing, painting Kerava Art School Finland
1976	Free Art School, Helsinki, Finland
1980	The Commercial College of Malmi, Helsinki, Finland
1978	The Marketing Institution, Helsinki, Finland
1975	Matriculation Examination, Helsinki, Finland

commissions, public art

1995-2017 Curated public art projects and community art projects in Vantaa, Tuusula, Espoo, Järvenpää and Helsinki Finland

workshops and community art projects

2011 The Wishing Well, FBD Järvenpää training center, Järvenpää, Finland
2008-2010 SAVISALKKU-workshops for the children, Helsinki, Finland
2008 On the Bridge, exhibition workshops for children, The Art Museum of Kerava Finland
2006-2007 Code A4, workshops for adults, children and special groups, The Art Museums of Lappeenranta, Rovaniemi and Vantaa, Finland
2005-2006 The Wall, community art workshops, Tuusula, Finland
2005 AJ'A – The Fish Trap, community art project, Benin, Africa
2004 The Knots, community art project workshops, Espoo, Finland

performances

2006 Gone With The Fire, happening of The Night of the Arts in Tuusula, Finland
2003 Knots and Flames, happening of The Night of the Arts in Tuusula, Finland

solo exhibitions

2016 *Body, Death and Laughter* Rantakasarmi, Suomenlinna, Finland
2016 *Body, Death and Laughter* Galleria Uusi Kipinä Lahti, Finland
2015 Keho, Kuolema ja Nauru *Body, Death and Laughter* O Gallery Helsinki
2010 ON THE ROOTS, together with Jaana Brinck, The Art Museum of Lapinlahti, Finland
2008 Sillalla, On the Bridge, The Art Museum of Kerava, Finland
2006 Pilvipaimen ja muita tarinoita, Tuusula Art Center, Finland
2009 PILVISTÄ, sculptures, Gallery 5, Oulu, Finland
2005 Pilvipaimen, sculptures, Gallery Pirkko-Liisa Topelius, Helsinki, Finland
2003 Isän maasta, isän kädestä, Gallery ALLI, Kerava, Finland
2002 Solmuja, Knots, Gallery ALLI, Kerava, Keravan Kartano, The Art Factory, Porvoo; Galleria TOUKOKUU, Helsinki
2000 Pyykkipoika ja 7 prinsessaa, Gallery JANGVA, Helsinki, Finland
Pyykkipoikia, Galleria ALLI, Kerava, Finland
1999 Äidin Pyykkipoika, Gallery Naistenhuone, Helsinki, Finland
1998 Mielen Tilat, sculptures, ATSKI-gallery, UIAH; Helsinki, Finland
1996 Roll Up, ceramic sculptures, ESCOLA MASSANA, Barcelona, Spain

selected group exhibitions

2014 VOTLAND ceramics Nordic House Reykjavik Iceland
2013 Art4 sculptures AHJO Art Center Joensuu Finland
2012 Master Class, paintings Grosstadt St Petersburg **Russia**
2012 Pares I Filles, Centro Cultural La Casa Elizalde, sculptures, video, Barcelona, Spain
2011 Isät ja tyttäret, Pares i Filles, Pihatto Gallery, sculptures, video Lappeenranta, Finland
2011 4+4, Northern Ceramics, Helsinki, Finland
2009 The CLOUD, sculptures, The Gallen-Kallela Museum, Espoo, Finland
2008 MATERIALISTS 2, Uppskera og hantverk, ceramics, Akureyri **Iceland**
2007-2006 KoodiA4, installations, The Art Museum of Vantaa, The Art Museum of Rovaniemi
South Karelia Art Museum, Lappeenranta, Finland
2001 AIKAVIILA, installations, video, The Art Museum of Vantaa City, Vantaa, Finland

curated shared exhibitions

international

2013 From Pottery to Plastics, conference Museo di Tolfa, **Italy**
2013 PORTRAIT NOW Frederiksborg Castle, Copenhagen **Denmark, Sweden**
2012 Master Class, paintings, St Petersburg, **Russia**
2007 Tuusula Art, 30th anniversary exhibition, sculptures
Kontour Galerie, Celle, **Germany**
2000 K 2000 conference, ceramics, Lappeenranta, Finland
1998 Stockholm Art Fair, ceramic sculptures, Sollentuna, Stockholm, **Sweden**
1996 Networks in ceramics, international conference, ceramic sculptures, Helsinki, Finland

national

2016 Kehossa, Keholla, Kehotta Lapinlahti Gallery Helsinki
2015 Konst& Form Gumbostrand Gallery Sipoo Finland
2015 Keramiikka tilassa *Ceramics in space* Design Museum Helsinki
2013 Pyhäniemi Mansion summer exhibition Hollola Finland
2013 Union of Finnish Art Organisations The Art Museum of Hyvinkää, Finland
2003 A Century of Finnish Ceramics, The Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Knots, installation, South Karelia Art Museum, Lappeenranta, Finland
VIRTAA, district show, installations, Porvoo, Finland
2008 Todella Siistiä, Really Neat, sculptures, The Art Museum of Rauma-city, Finland
2007 KUUMA region exhibition, sculptures, The Art Museum of Kerava-city Finland
2002 Finndesignnow-02, sculptures, Fiskars, Finland

2002 Union of Finnish Art Associations, 60. Anniversary Exhibition, The Art
Museum of Savonlinna, Savonlinna, Finland
2009-1975 Exhibitions in Finland

awards

2012-2000 awards from The Arts Council of Finland, Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Frame,
The Finnish Cultural Foundation, The Wihuri Foundation of Finland, Pohjola-Norden Arts
Arts Promotion Center Finland, Tuusula county

works in collections

Vantaa City, Finland, Master Class Gallery St Petersburg, Russia, FBD Järvenpää
training center, Tuusula Commune, The Finnish Art Association, Lapinlahti Hospital, Helsinki,
LIFIM, Institute of Business Management, Porvoo, Villa LYHDE, Activity Center,
private collectors

art organizations

2013- **Art4** group (Brinck, Latva-Somppi, Ranki, Turpeinen)
2012 Artists O ORNAMO
2011 ÖY ry (The Unit) artist studios, founder member, Kerava, Finland
2010 Studio METSO, artist studios, founder member, Helsinki Finland
2007- Art Association SAVEA, Finland the president
2007-2010 KUUMArt, fine art association, founder member, Finland vice president
2006-2011 Artist's Associations of Uusimaa, Finland the president 2007-2010
1999- The Sculptors Union Finland
1982- The Fine Art Association of Kerava, Finland the president 2002-2006

artist residences

2016 ACC Arctic Ceramic Center Posio Finland
2013 Oaxaca Mexico
2011 Grassina Florence Italy
2004 Villa Karo, Grand Popo Benin, Africa

publications

2014 **Ceramics & Space**, The Finnish Association of Designers Ornamo
2012 **Sinkka**, Kerava Art Museum 1/2012 The Block Opera -exhibition
2012 **Pares i Filles**, exhibition catalogue Centro Cultural La Casa Elizalde
2010 **Suomalaisia Nykyaiteilijoita Lähikuvassa** Finnish Contemporary Artists,
Pirkko Vekkele, Ilpo Vainionpää WSOY
2009 **PILVI, taiteellisia sääilmiöitä** THE CLOUD, artistic weather phenomena,
exhibition catalogue, The Museum of Axel Gallen-Kallela, Espoo, Finland
1998 **REUNALLA, Peripheries** exhibition catalogue, Finnish Academy of Fine Arts
1998 **11 x 98 taik**, catalogue, The Stockholm Art Fair