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RÄPPÄNÄ – VENT

Alvar Aalto Museum and Jyväskylä Art Museum 3.6.-18.9. 2016

Two brothers, two artists, one of whom is a designer and the other a conceptual artist – both approach work from their own perspectives, but sometimes cross paths. One of the themes is sauna, because for both artists, the sauna represents the connection between the Finnish soul and Finnish landscape. The exhibition name: Vent, (räppänä) refers to the smoke hole in a traditional Finnish smoke sauna, through which toxic smoke must be evacuated before enjoying the cleansing steam of the sauna. Jussi Heikkilä has made several works about the path to the sauna, which starts with a trip to the sauna, and ends up in smoke. On the other hand, Simo Heikkilä has test-built different saunas and designed sauna fixtures. Other connecting themes relate to the artists relationship to tools, recycling and books.

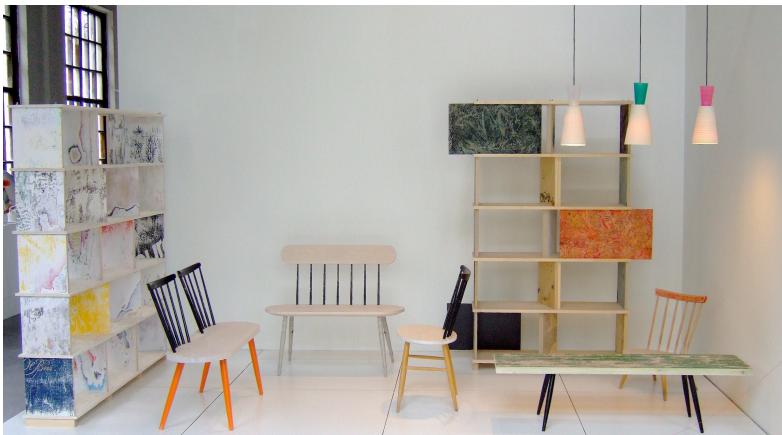
Both Simo (1943) and Jussi (1952) Heikkilä were born in Jyväskylä, Finland, and represent Finnish excellence in their own field: one as a designer and the other as a visual artist. Connected not only by brotherhood, the two creators are also similarly interested in metaphor and continual development through process related work. Ecology and the necessity of fine craftsmanship are also commonalities for both artists in their discipline. This exhibition shows a selection of retrospective work from both artists along with new work as well as projects that touched on the same themes that are particularly important to both.

Jussi Heikkilä is a revisionist of Finnish conceptual art. Through his projects he considers the Earth's condition, for which birds and the sea function as indicators of ecological balance. Heikkilä's approach is scientific, consciously ethical and aesthetic. Through landscape, observation and unique perceptions, Heikkilä presents a prismatic display of techniques and materials from diverse mark making to found objects and even diamonds. Heikkilä's art provokes insight in its quiet exuberance.

Simo Heikkilä the recipient of long-term work-grants, had the tremendous opportunity to make an exceptional career as a designer. Because of this, he has been able to test unique prototypes for which the sole purpose was to study the solidity of structure and the different possibilities of various materials. Heikkilä is a wood advocate, and is interested in both the aesthetic of solid wood and the ultra-light possibilities of formpressed constructions.

The Alvar Aalto Museum and the Jyväskylä Art Museum share a common history. This exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary for both museums. The content of the exhibition combines art and design showing work by Interior Architect and Professor, Simo Heikkilä, who designed the Alvar Aalto Museum's permanent exhibition in 1998. Along with work by Jussi Heikkilä, whose extensive solo exhibition, Observatory, was shown at the Alvar Aalto Museum in 1992.

The exhibition is composed of furniture, light fixtures, photographs, artworks, installations, videos and interviews.



Simo Heikkilä, remix – recycling project, 2008 Jussi Heikkilä, Antarctic, 2004

Jussi Heikkilä, *Haliaetus albicilla, Cygnus olor*, 2014 Simo Heikkilä, experimental sauna, 2010

Exhibition working group: Jussi and Simo Heikkilä, museum directors Tommi Lindh (Alvar Aalto -musem and Päivi-Marjut Raippalinnan (Jyväskylä Art museum), museum curators Leena Lokka and Katariina Pakoma and the exhibition curator Teija Isohauta.

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