

### **ALMA HEIKKILÄ**

Alma Heikkilä (b. 1984) lives and works in Helsinki and Hyrynsalmi, Finland. Heikkilä's painterly, sculptural and spatial works materialize merged agential aspects of humans, non-humans and infrastructures affected by the various dimensions of the global ecological crisis. She completed an MFA at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in 2009. Her work has been presented recently at Gwanju Biennale 2016, Museum of Contemporary Art Estonia (EKKM), 14th Vilnius Painting Triennial, Norrköping Art Museum, EMMA Museum and Gallery AMA. Heikkilä is the co-founder of Mustarinda association whose goal is to promote the ecological rebuilding of society, the diversity of culture and nature, and the connection between art and science.

### **MIKKO LIPIÄINEN**

Mikko Lipiäinen is an artist-activist who's work is mainly socially engaged and multi-disciplinary varying from community organizing to problematize gentrification, challenging art world and mainstream media to touch issues related to migrant labour through open source product design processes and reflect the discourses and roles adopted by media-activists through performance and participatory drama.

He has been working mainly in Finland, co-designing and facilitating many local and international activities in a Tampere based DIY cultural centre Hirvitalo together with its politically and culturally active public. Lately he's been slowly developing informal learning and citizen science activities in rural Bahia, Brazil through the experimentation of hackerspace form.

Mikko Lipiäinen is also part of the organizing body of Pixelache festival, one of the notable new media art events in Europe. He is currently studying in MA of New Media Art programme in Liepaja University.

### **ARISSANA PATAXÓ**

Arissana Pataxó develops her artistic production, in various techniques, by approaching the indigenous thematic as part of the contemporary world. Arissana enrolled in a Fine Arts Course at the School of Fine Arts- Federal University of Bahia in 2005 and completed her degree in 2009, developing alongside her studies, extensive activities and educational programmes with the Pataxó tribe; workshops and the production of educational material. In 2007, Arissana had her first solo exhibition 'Sob o olhar Pataxo' at the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, UFBA, Salvador, Bahia. Since then, she has engaged in the artistic world by participating in several exhibitions, such as the Regional Visual Arts Salon of Porto Seguro (Bahia) in 2009; the international exhibition 'Eco Arte' at the Museum of Arte of Montenegro (Rio Grande do Sul), in 2011 and the most recent travelling exhibition 'Mira! Artes Visuais Contemporâneas dos Povos Indígenas' showcased in Belo Horizonte and Brasília.

### **REETTA PEKKANEN**

Reetta Pekkanen (b. 1985) is a writer based in Tampere, Finland. Her poetry greets the reader with sharp edges, rhythmic surprises and friendly reminders of non-human existence. Often deriving from observations from the concrete surroundings, Pekkanen's seemingly simple use of language expands the literal meanings into philosophical reaches toward more purposeful truths.

Pekkanen's first collection of poetry, *Pieniä kovia nuppuja* ('Small hard buds') was published by Osuuskunta Poesia in 2014. Critically acclaimed, it got rewarded with several literature prizes (Katri Vala Award 2015, Tiiliskivi Award 2015, Silja Hiidenheimo Memorial Stipend 2017) and was short-listed for the Helsingin Sanomat award for the best debut in literature of the year.

Currently Pekkanen is working on finalizing her second book of poetry, parts of which are now being exhibited at TSSK - for the first time in public.

Reetta Pekkanen has studied creative writing in Oriveden Opisto and Kriittinen korkeakoulu. After finishing her MA in Finnish language (University of Tampere 2012), she has devoted her time for writing, teaching and working at the international artist residency Arteles Creative Center. She is a board member of the nationally renown literature organization Nuoren Voiman Liitto.

**JUSSI KOITELA**

Jussi Koitela (b.1981) is a curator based currently in Helsinki. He has since 2012 been working on and with artist's responses to economical structures and discourses in the context of Skills of Economy curatorial research. Koitela is interested in developing curatorial, institutional and discursive practices that merge together different areas of an artistic practice, a research and politics in pervasive forms.

Recent curatorial work include Entangling Matter and Meaning/Intra-Structures – Monster of the Seven Lakes at Treignac Projet, Agency for De-development in Tromsø at Vårscenefest Festival, Mattering City at SixtyEight Art Institute, City Agents at Estonian Museum of Contemporary Art (EKKM), Skills of Economy Sessions at Finnish Theatre Academy, Baltic Circle Festival and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art and Untitled (two takes on crises) – You Must Make Your Death Public at de Appel arts centre. Koitela edited Finnish Art Policy Handbook, published by Checkpoint Helsinki and Baltic Circle Festival 2015. During 2015/2016 Koitela was participant of De Appel Curatorial Programme.

Most recently he have presented his thoughts on the post-human performativity of the curating-curatorial at Survival Kit 9 festival in Riga, Working Conditions workshop at Faculty of Visual Art, Jakarta Institute of Arts and at Soils, Séances, Sciences and Politics seminar organised by Institute for Provocation and Goethe Institute Beijing.