

I'USINE GALERIE

40 rue du Doyenné · B-1180 Bruxelles

Ouvert jeudi - samedi de 14 h à 18h, dimanche de 16 h à 18h ou sur rendez-vous

TIINA HEISKA

“Butterfly caught”

Finnish artist Tiina Heiska's work is based on photography, which she uses as a sketch or a draft for the later painted image. Her works carry a sated and poetic mystique owing to the painterly quality but also to the fact that their inherent narrative is never obvious. Her work is intricately linked to cinematography, but where traditional cinema relies on a continuous flow of events and thereby creates a story with a beginning and an ending, Heiska's work is comprised of several series of stills which form no obvious storyline but rather leaves it to the viewer's imagination to bridge the gap between image and story.

A female character, whose age is rarely discernible, and whose surroundings convey the peculiar sadness of impersonal hotel rooms, frequently inhabits Heiska's paintings. Quite often this seductive and vulnerable creature seems to be balancing on the

edge between woman- and girlhood thus charging the images with a dangerous sexual quality.

The fervent display of shoes, stockings and dresses convey an almost fetishist love of female accessories in Heiska's paintings. But by laying out the female accessories for her characters to wear or discard at will, Heiska is playing with identities, turning her works into existential games of dressing up. The theme consequently becomes one of dressing up in order to assume a different identity: A girl going through her mother's wardrobe wearing the high heels that connote a woman, or someone wearing a wig to go with a new dress or a different personality. The objects chosen by Heiska are by no means coincidental; they are the ones that carry the highest potential for transformation.

Tiina Heiska's work revolves around the concept of identity focusing on perception, transformation and desire. The artist deals with the meaning of identity through questions into the realm of sexuality, age, and gender.

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Tiina Heiska, born 1959 in Helsinki.

Academy of Fine Arts, MA, 1996–2001
University of Art and Design Helsinki UIAH, pedagogical studies
of an artist 1992–95
Academy of Fine Arts, BA, 1983–87

Joint exhibition

- 2008 London Art Fair, UK
- 2007 Berliner Liste 07 (I'USINE GALERIE), G
ART Copenhagen, Dk
- 2004 On the Road, Lissabon
- 2001 TAJU, Hyvinkää, Finland
- 1996 Kalmari Gallery, Vääksy, Finland
- 1995 Espoo V, Otso Gallery, Espoo, Finland
- 1994 XL Art Fair, Turku, Finland
- 1993/94 Annual Exhibition of Finnish Artists, Karkkila, Helsinki, Finland
- 1992 Uusimaa regional exhibition, Helsinki, Finland
- 1988/90 Young Artist's Exhibition, Helsinki, Finland

Group exhibitions

- 2008 Galerie MöllerWitt, Copenhagen, Dk
- 2007 Galerie Birthe Laursen, Copenhagen, Dk
I'USINE GALERIE, Brussels, B
- 2006 I'USINE GALERIE, Brussels, B
- 2005 Gallery Bakeliittibambi, Helsinki, Fin
- 2003 Galleria Mältinranta, Tampere (with Heidi Romo), Fin
- 2002 Naantali Art House, (with Heidi Romo and Riikka Wesamaa), Fin
- 2001 Petra Raasio Gallery, Joensuu (with Heidi Romo, Riikka Wesamaa)
- 2000 Gallery Johan S., Helsinki (with Kristina Riska), Fin
- 1996 Galleri Torben Krag, Växjö (with Gunilla Kihlgren), S

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Solo exhibitions

- 2008 I'USINE GALERIE, Brussels, B
- 2007 Galerie Susan Nielsen, Paris, F
- 2006 Gallery Bakeliittibambi, Helsinki, Fin
- 2005 Gallery Ama, Turku, Finland
Galerie Birthe Laursen, Paris, France
- 2004 Gallery Bakeliittibambi, TILA II, Helsinki, Fin
- 2002 Gallery Bakeliittibambi, TILA 1, Helsinki, Fin
- 2000 tm-Gallery, Helsinki, Fin
- 1994 tm-Gallery, Helsinki, Fin
- 1993 Gallery Katariina Gallery, Helsinki, Fin
- 1991 Gallery Artina, Helsinki, Fin

Grants

Finnish Cultural Foundation 1995, 2003, 2005, 2006
Alfred Kordelin Foundation 2001, 2003
Public Display Grant for Visual Artists 2002
City of Espoo Cultural Board 1988, 1995
Arts Council of Uusimaa 1994

Works in collections

Private collections
Helsinki City Art Museum
Amos Andersson Art Museum
State Art Collection
The Saastamoinen Foundation