

Curriculum vitae

Outi Maaret Kotala

born 9. 6. 1974 in Rovaniemi, Lapland.

Master of Arts

Artist, painter and media artist.

Lives and works in Tampere, Finland

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Studies

- 2008-2012 **Avoin taidekoulu.** classical art studies in 3-year curriculum + year of independent artistic work with tutoring
- 2006 **Master of Arts in Media Art,** University of Art and Design Helsinki (currently Aalto University), department of Medialaboratory
- 2001 **Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts,** majoring in Media Art. Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Department of Art and Media

Exhibitions

Solo exhibitions and installations / workshops

- 2025 **"Solstices"** gallery Ronga, Tampere, 4.-23.1.2025
- 2023 **"Equinoxes"** Helsinki Pasila library gallery space, 2.-16.10.2023
- 2013 **"Still – Pysähtyminen"** solo exhibition at Gallery 3H+K, Pori, 8. -28. 2. 2013.
- 2012 **"Open inspiration"** installation at Avoin taidekoulu premises 15. 8. – 28. 8. Helsinki
- 2009 **"Baseline of Memories"** media-art installation in the internet and at the Nummela library 2. – 30. 5. 2009.
- 2007 **"Bazaar of Banalities"** open media-art happening & www-site together with Live Herring group. Jyväskylä 12. – 15. 7. 2007
- 2006 Live Herring **"My Village"** -workshop in the Nordic net art exhibition Live Herring 16. – 19. 11. 2006.
- 2002 **"Mindmapcities"** Media art work on cities and mindmaps,. Tampere and Prague. As a part of the Jiné Finsko – the other Finland -art happening in Prague 26. 9. – 17.11. 2002. Competing finalist for the MindTrek multimedia award 2002.
- 2001 **"The Paper Doll Studio"** Interactive media artwork in the net. Flash and html. Also a data-installation in the final work exhibition of Tampere Polytechnic/School of Art and Media during 1.5. – 15. 6. 2001

Joint and group exhibitions (selected)

- 2022 **"Syysalonki"** Group exhibition at the private art school Avoin taidekoulu, Helsinki, 19.8.-4.9.202
- 2021 **"Colours and Movements"** Group exhibition, Gallery Kookos Helsinki 01.09.-19.09.2021
- 2015 **"Itse teossa"** group exhibition at gallery Ronga, Tampere 23. 6. – 9. 7. 2015
- 2012 **"Ensimmäiset!"** Group exhibition at the private art school Avoin taidekoulu, Helsinki
- 2012 **"Thoughts on Existence"** joint exhibition with Marja Tikka at gallery S-galleria, Helsinki 31. 7. – 27. 8.
- 2009 **"Kaaos"** paintings and animation at gallery Nunes Helsinki, 4. – 22. 11. 2009. Joint exhibition with Marja Tikka.

- 2006 **"Valkoinen"** group exhibition at STOA gallery Helsinki 19.12. – 2006 – 5. 1. 2007
- 2005 **Live Herring:** Invited artist in the Nordic net art exhibition Live Herring 17. – 20. 11. 2005.
- 2002 **"Verkko"** internet installation in Rupriikki museum of Tampere. In cooperation with Tampereen museot and Tampere University Hypermedialaboratorio.
- 2001 **"Mind Chat"** chat installation as a part of the net art workshop live transmission from restaurant Telakka in Tampere 9. – 11. 11. 2001. With the cooperation with Tampere Polytechnic and Pauhu organisation, and it was hosted by John Hopkins from UIAH.

Residency work

- 2014 **Särö artist residence**, Berlin, 14. 6. -28. 6. 2014

Grants

- 2016 **AVEK Digidemo** grant for co-op Lilith: digital art rental service concept
- 2011 **Rauha Hasselblatt** grant for professional education
- 2008-2009 **AVEK** grant for a media art work "Baseline of Memories / Muistojen perusviiva"
- 2006 **AVEK** grant for a media art work "Lumen valo"
- 2002 **Niilo Helander's foundation** grant for a media art project (personal grant)
- 2002 **Central Arts Council multiarts grant** for a media art project (personal grant)

Prizes and honorary mentions

- 2002 **MindTrek 2002 finalist** with the work Mindmapcities
- 2001 First price in the 2001 **Pixxelpoint International Computer Art Festival** competition's Interactive work category with the work "The Paper Doll Studio"
- 2001 **Les e-Magicians -multimedia festival.** Work "The Paper Doll Studio" chosen to be presented during the international multimedia festival in Valenciennes France 23. -27.11. 2001.

Memberships

I'm a member of Artists Association MUU, Avarataide ry, Ornamo Art and Design Finland, co-op Lilith and a support member for Avoim Taidekoulu art school.

In Tampere, Finland, 30. 1. 2025

Artist statement

I have a background in media art, but in later years I've shifted from digital art towards more traditional painting and abstract or semi-abstract works. My main mediums are oil pastels and oil colors.

In my art making I seek equanimity and stillness of mind, freedom from internal and external expectations. As an artist, I see myself as a conduit for inspiration. I keep refining an abstract artwork until the pieces click into place on the canvas. Only then the artwork is able to find a balanced vibration and is lit with internal light.

Meditation is an essential part of my artistic process. The simplified symbols for my abstract works often show themselves to me in meditation, sometimes in my dreams. These archetypal themes are pre-eminently aesthetic in nature, relying on the expressive power of colors.

To counterbalance my studio work I do plein-air painting in nature, especially in the summer. Landscape painting is returning to the concrete, a liberation from the diligent attention to abstraction and clarity in my abstract art.