

Curriculum Vitae

Leena Seppä

born 1966

lives and works in Helsinki and Hamina, Finland

studies:

- 2006-10 Visual Artist. Art School Alfa-Art, Helsinki, Finland
1987-92 Master of Arts. University of Art and Design, Helsinki, Finland
- 2011-14 Chinese ink painting and calligraphy
by Xiong Zhichun and Wu Jingliang, Helsinki, Finland
- 1998 Chinese calligraphy by Liu Ya Lin, Beijing, China
1985-87 Art School, Folk Academy of Västra Nyland, Karjaa, Finland

memberships:

- Finnish Painters` Union
The Artists` Association of Kotka
The Finnish Watercolor Society
Art Teachers` Union

solo exhibitions:

- 2014 Hamina Tattoo International Military Music Festival, Pakkala House
2013 Gallery Dix, Helsinki
2012 ANT Gallery, Helsinki
2010 Gallery Hugo&Helene, Hamina
2009 Hamina City Library Gallery
2007 Gallery Hugo&Helene, Hamina

group exhibitions:

- 2013 Kaapelitehdas, Käytävögalleria, Helsinki
2013 Gallery Uusikuva, Kotka. The Artists` Association of Kotka, annual exhibition
2012 Heinola Art Museum. The Artists` Association of Viipuri, annual exhibition
2012 The Lasipalatsi Gallery, Helsinki
2011 Gallery Uusikuva, Kotka. The Artists` Association of Kotka, annual exhibition
2010 Kanneltalo, Helsinki
2010 Kaapelitehdas, Puristamo, Helsinki
2008 .Zone, Helsinki
2001 Wanha Satama, Helsinki
1992 Gallery Juukeli, Juuka
1992 Gallery Kustaa, Valkeala

teaching:

- 2003-2014 Lecturer in Visual Arts, Helsinki Comprehensive School
1998-2003 Art teacher, Helsinki Comprehensive School
1997-98 Art teacher, Western Academy of Beijing, China
1992-95 Lecturer in Visual Arts, Espoo Comprehensive School
1992-96 Art teacher, Kerava School of Art

scholarships:

- 1992 University of Art and Design, Helsinki

Artist Statement - LEENA SEPPÄ

The built environment is composed of different layers of time. These layers have for some time now been the starting point for my paintings. Man-made building solutions, some of which are strange while others show great ingenuity, act as sources of ideas for my new paintings.

The shapes of buildings, the roughness of surfaces and the traces of life inspire me. They lead me to experiment with layers also in my paintings. The places that I paint stem either from personal experience or from past landscapes. Old residential areas, some even in ruins, tell tales of past times and whisper of new opportunities. Some of the landscapes continue to exist only in people's memories and in old black-and white photographs.

I use mostly oil paints, but also increasingly the Chinese ink painting technique, or a combination of these two. I feel that the delicate hues of the ink bring out the melancholy of the cities in ruins.

My way of painting is layered, just as the subject matter that I explore. My work is characterized by the harmonious and at times scarce color schemes as well as the soft steps of gradations. My paintings are silent, but there is a human presence even if it is not visible. Buildings and places have a story to tell. I hope that also the viewer will find them.