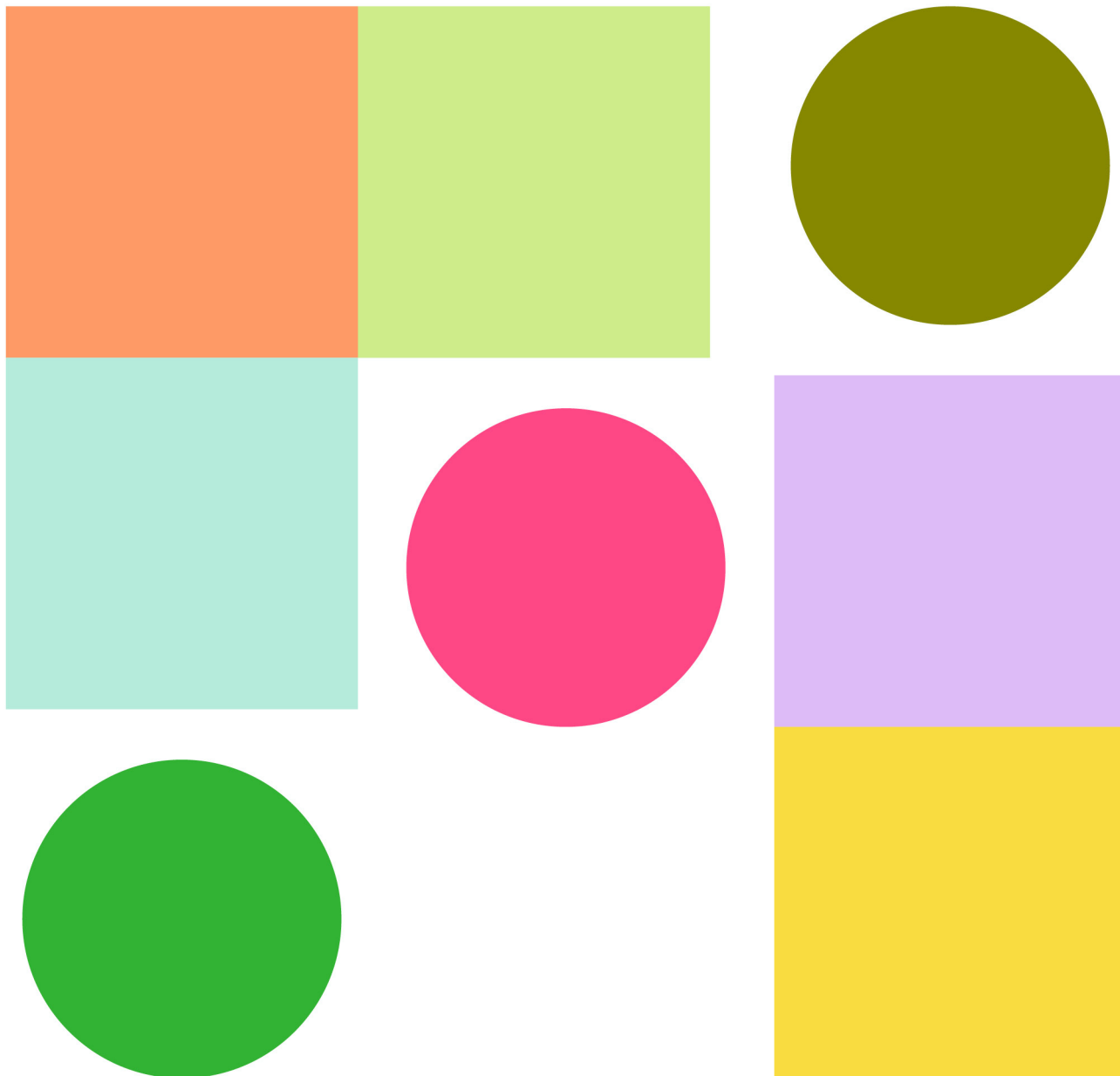


FINNISH
INSTITUTE
UK+IRELAND



**Annual Report
2020**

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland is to promote connections between Finland, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in the fields of education, science, art and culture.

The Institute's activities are centred around two main programmes – Arts and Society. In the past year, the Arts programme has focused on contemporary art, audiovisual art, circus, sustainability in artistic practice and artists' travel, and fostering international opportunities for producers in the performing and audiovisual arts. The Society programme has focused on diversity and equal opportunity in the areas of employment, womens' rights, homelessness and education. In 2020, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, both programmes were re-arranged to support the Institute's networks through challenges caused by the situation, and to maintain international connections and exchange of ideas during a time when it was not possible to travel or meet physically.

In January, the Institute headed to Glasgow with multidisciplinary programming that complemented the Finnish focus at Showcase Scotland, a professional music event at the Celtic Connections festival. The festival took place over the weekend that the United Kingdom left the European Union and entered a transition period that lasted until the end of 2020. While in Scotland, the Institute took the opportunity to reach out to key Scottish stakeholders in the cultural sector to lay the groundwork for future collaborations.

One of the main projects of the year, Dinner Under the Sky – an open air dinner for local resident groups and cultural bodies in Kings Cross – was cancelled in January due to elevated safety concerns in the area. However, while developing the project, the Institute was able to expand its local networks, particularly with resident groups, cultural and academic institutions. These new relationships were supported by the Institute's membership in the Kings Cross Knowledge Quarter.

The theme of the Institute's Open Call for 2020 was '100 years of Tom of Finland'. Chosen projects were planned to be part of a week-long 'Tom of London' festival in Kings Cross in May. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the physical programme had to be cancelled and reimaged as a digital festival. The festival was meant to coincide with the House of Illustration's exhibition of Tom of Finland's original works, but this had to be closed after only 10 days.

The pandemic forced the Institute to make dramatic changes in its work. The quick transition into solely presenting digital online programming was challenging, testing the Institute's resilience and ability to act fast. The skills gained during this time will be beneficial in the future.

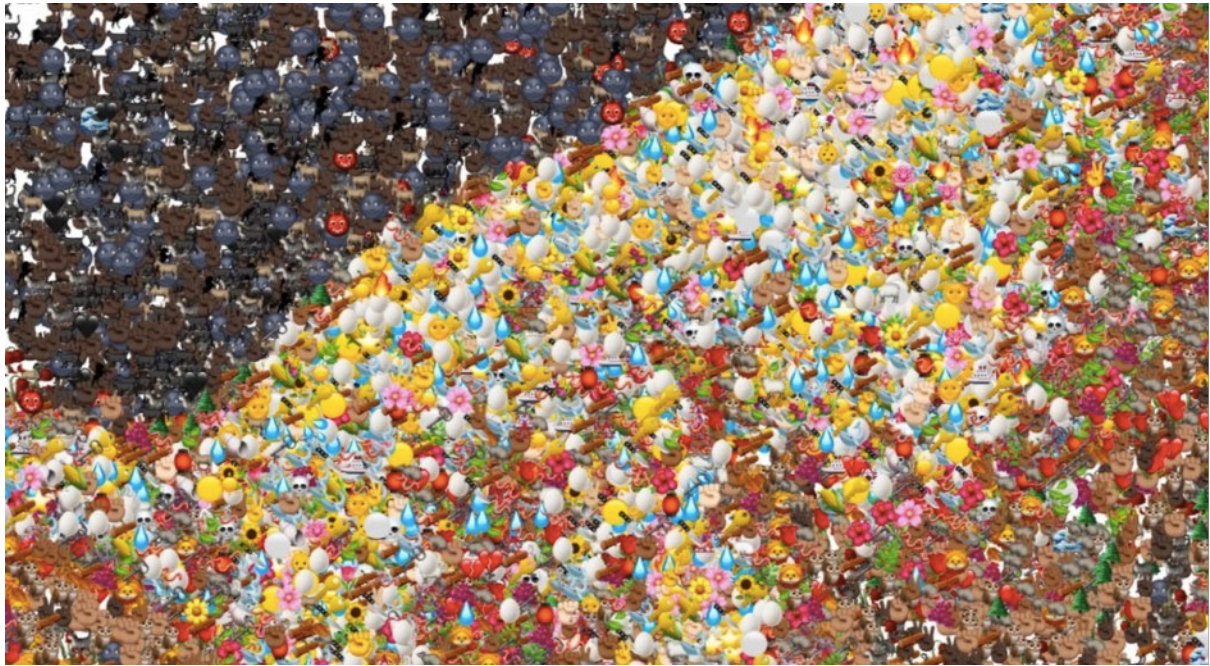
The pandemic also brought closer together the 17 Academic and Cultural Institutes that form the Finnish Institutes' global network, in the form of a joint open call and programme, which hadn't been done before. Through Together Alone, open to all Finnish and Finland-based professional artists and their international collaborators who had lost work opportunities, the Institutes were able to fund 20 artistic projects that documented the global emergency caused by the coronavirus.

In addition, the Finnish Institute network ran a series of development workshops that focused on the themes of diversity, sustainability and governance. This strengthened cooperation is likely to continue, and will lead to more ecologically and economically sustainable programming in the future.

Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland developed new ways to reach wider audiences and learned how to bring added value to our network members without being able to physically meet. In the autumn, the Institute launched Present, an online discussion series that brought together British, Irish and Finnish arts and culture professionals to share ideas and best practices on topical issues, like the future of performing arts, the importance of early-age arts education and a critical analysis of Finland as the happiest country in the world. The series was successful in connecting professionals from the Institute's operating areas as well as reaching new audiences around the world. The Finnish language school at the Institute was also successfully moved online. The digital migration of the Institute's administration processes was completed, allowing more resources for programming in the future.

In 2020, the Institute also planned actively for 2021, which marks the 30th anniversary of the Institute. These preparations included work on a new strategy, new identity and changing the Institute's name. Our old name, The Finnish Institute in London, was replaced by the more precise Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland officially on 30 December 2020. The new name reflects our goal to be more active and present in our whole operational region.

Jaakko Nousiainen,
Interim Director,
London, 24.1.2021



Artist Mikki Nordman's World Wide Window: Agnus Mundi visualises WHO's Covid-19 data with emojis in real time. The project was funded by the Together Alone Open Call by the Finnish Institutes' network. / Mikki Nordman

2. Mission and setting

Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland is a private, non-profit trust, established in 1991. The organisation strives to support positive societal change in Finland, Britain and Ireland. To achieve this mission the trust runs the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland (until 30.12.2020 the Finnish Institute in London).

Target groups

The institute works with researchers, artists, experts and decision makers and enhances networking opportunities for cultural and societal research. It also encourages cross-disciplinary ground-breaking collaboration by creating new networks and partnerships. The institute strives to reach new audiences for Finnish arts, culture and research and connect Finnish individuals and organizations with interesting partners and new funding.

Ways of operating

A significant part of the Institute's public facing work is carried out through open calls, mobility grants and residencies. This enables the Institute to stay in touch with the latest developments in Finnish art and society, and allows the Institute's British and Irish collaborators to get a diverse, timely and inclusive insight into Finnish creativity, research and innovation.

Brexit

In addition to the coronavirus pandemic, 2020 was heavily affected by the Brexit transition period and trade deal negotiations. The unclear situation regarding the future of free movement, EU-funding, study and research in the UK and the narrowly avoided no-deal Brexit, caused worry and additional work for the Institute. However, Brexit also continues to open up new opportunities for the Institute, in the role of an expert in Finnish culture and society in strengthening and building bilateral relationships.

Networks

The Institute is part of a global network which comprises 17 Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes. The Institute also actively collaborates with EUNIC London (European Union National Institutes for Culture) and other Nordic countries' official representations in London. The institute is also a member of Team Finland, which coordinates Finnish initiatives in the UK. In Finland, the Institute works in close collaboration with Circus Info, Dance Info, Theatre Info and Frame Contemporary Art Finland.

Impact and self-assessment

The success of the Institute's programming is measured through audience participation, media visibility and impact on society and policy making. Individual targets are set for each project, and impact measurement is carried out in relation to those targets.

Media highlights

The biggest media hit of the year was the opening of 'Tom of Finland – Love and Liberation' exhibition at the House of Illustration in March. In the UK, the exhibition was featured in mainstream, gay and art media alike. It was listed on *The Guardian* as one of the top five London art shows not to miss. A photo from the opening event was included in the society column of the *Evening Standard*.



'Tom of Finland – Love and Liberation' opening party at the House of Illustration attracted spectacular guests and received wide media attention. / Getty Images

In Finland, the Together Alone projects were well received by the media. For example, *Helsingin Sanomat* featured the circus artist **Sakari Männistö's** 3D-circus project *Unum*.

Kulttuuri | Sirkus

Katsoja pääsee ohjaajaksi Sakari Männistön virtuaalisessa nykysirkusesityksessä

Unum-teoksen esitykset jäävät nähtäville vuoden ajaksi.



Inka Lilja yhdistää ilma-akrobatiaa päälläseisontaan trapetsilla.

Jussi Tossavainen

25.6. 13:26

Helsingin Sanomat interviewed the UK based circus artist Sakari Männistö about his project *Unum*.

Stakeholder survey

The Institute produced an annual stakeholder survey in December to measure and highlight its impact in its operational areas. Responses to the 2020 survey were overwhelmingly positive despite the backdrop of a difficult year: 96% of respondents expressed that they agree or strongly agree with the statement that ‘the Institute contributed to positive change through connecting people’. Similarly, 96% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the assertion that ‘the Institute acted as a source of expertise on Finnish culture and society in the UK and Ireland’. Encouragingly, 100% of respondents felt that the Institute ‘espoused the core values of equality and transparency through its work’. Responses to the survey showed that the Institute’s work is felt to be meaningful and relevant to its partners and audiences. All respondents would recommend the Finnish Institute as a prospective collaborator.

We also asked our stakeholders to reflect on the past year and the future, in light of Covid-19 and Brexit. Respondents envisaged the work of the Institute to be an important remedy against further disruption and division. One answer pointed out that “Your role as a bridge between Finland (EU) and the UK will most likely be even more important. Bringing people, ideas and organisations together will be more important than ever.” In comparison to previous years’ surveys, resilience-related words dominated stakeholders’ descriptions of the Institute.



Respondents of the Institute’s stakeholder survey used these words to describe the Institute.

Strategy 2021–2023: Diverse, Inclusive and Influential

Vision

We create positive change by connecting people through culture, knowledge and art. We highlight the connection between living a fulfilling life and being able to express oneself. We secure and allocate resources in order for Finnish arts and society to flourish internationally.

Mission

We are the most interesting expert on Finnish culture and society in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and a desirable international partner. We are especially known for our cross disciplinary approach and strong minority agenda.

Values

Our work is based on equality, accessibility and transparency. We carry out ambitious, transdisciplinary projects that have a positive impact. We promote an anti-racist culture.

How we do it

We recognise signals of change in the fields of art, culture and society. We seize opportunities and create possibilities for new collaborations and present relevant and engaging cultural events and projects. We support Finnish artists, researchers and social and cultural actors. We act passionately and courageously embracing overall wellbeing, self-expression and individualism in every action. We promote equality and the diversity of Finnish culture and strive to diversify research and science globally. We run two programmes: Arts and Society.

3. Activities

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic the Institute organized or funded 70 exhibitions, events and functions during the year. 32 of these events were physical and 36 took place online. Two were in a hybrid format combining both physical and online. The activities reached over 216 000 people. In addition, the Finnish Institute network's joint project Together Alone reached an audience of over 350 000. The following pages present a summary of our main activities:

Before coronavirus related restrictions

Tuula Närhinen: Deep Time Deposits, residence 16.1.–29.2., exhibition 1.3.–5.4.

Below Zero Finnish Art Prize 2020 winner Tuula Närhinen worked in residence at the Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall to build her exhibition Deep Time Deposits. Närhinen ventured daily to the Thames foreshore to engage in mudlarking - making daily selections from the rich pickings of flotsam and jetsam brought in by the river. The work process was open to the public on Fridays, and walks along the Thames foreshore with the artist were arranged on 31 January and 14 February. Närhinen's exhibition opened at the Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall on 1 March in the attendance of the artist and 60 guests.



During her residency environmental artist Tuula Närhinen did daily mudlarking trips on the Thames foreshore. / Rosaliina Elgland

Producers' House 23.1.–27.3.

Sami Jahnukainen, Minna Huuskonen, Ulrika Vilke, Jere Pensikkala and Emmi Vainio were the last resident producers in this one-year pilot project that came to an end on 27 March. The pilot received remarkably positive feedback from all participating producers, and they all established significant new relationships and collaborations in the UK as a result of the residence.

Finnish Exposure at Celtic Connections 30.1.–2.2.

The Institute organised a multidisciplinary arts & society event called Finnish Exposure at the CCA in Glasgow to coincide with the Celtic Connections festival, which had Finland as their focus country this year. The programme included two discussions, one on the future of science and the other on preserving minority languages, documentary film screenings (*Birds in the Earth* by **Marja Helander**, *Kaisa's Enchanted Forest* by **Katja Gauriloff**, *The Other Side of Mars* by **Minna Långström** and *Who Made You?* by **Iiris Härmä**) and the dance performance *The Days*, choreographed by **Theo Clinkard** for dancers **Maria Nurmela** and **Ville Oinonen**. All events were well attended and received good feedback from the audience.

NEWS

26th January 2020

Language expert calls for Gaelic to be compulsory for all Scottish schoolchildren

By **Judith Duffy**

The Scottish pro-independence newspaper The National wrote an article based on our event, interviewing one of our speakers, Dr Riitta Valijärvi from University College London.

Undocumented Love 30.1.–21.3.

The Institute helped the Finnish National Theatre with research for their documentary theatre piece Undocumented Love. The Institute also organised a circus workshop for Syrian refugee children with the National Theatre, British community artist **Arjunan Manuelpillai** and **Race Horse Company**. The show premiered at the Finnish National Theatre in January.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs country branding day, 4.2.

Pertti's Choice popup, organised by the Institute in the summer of 2019, was presented by **Emilie Gardberg** as an example of successful country branding.

Anita's Reception 12.2.

Administrator **Anita Rockman** left the Institute after over 20 years' service. The Institute held a celebration for her with 35 guests.

EUNIC Regional Cluster Seminar 25.-27.2.

Jaakko Nousiainen represented EUNIC London at EUNIC's regional cluster meeting in Bucharest. Main objectives of the seminar were to better understand EUNIC's strategic partnership with the EU and to learn more about European cultural relations principles and their practical applications.

Team Finland: FBCC Nordic Drinks at the Institute, 27.2.

The Finnish-British Chamber of Commerce organised Nordic Drinks business networking event at the Institute.

Master Cheng at Glasgow Film Festival, 1.-2.3.

Mika Kaurismäki's film was screened twice for full audiences. Kaurismäki attended a Q&A after the first screening.



The opening party of the 'Tom of Finland - Love and Liberation' exhibition was so popular people queued to get in. / Sara Nguyen

Women of the World festival 6.–8.3.

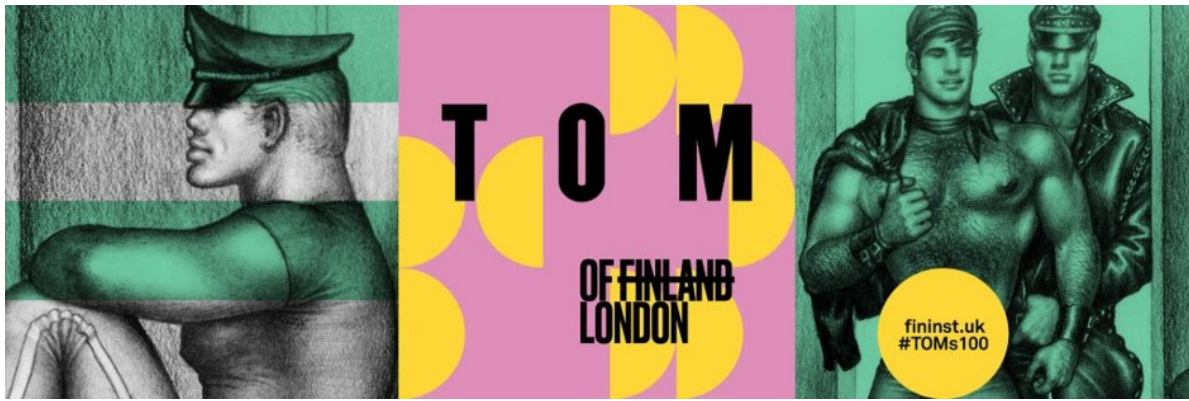
As a part of country branding efforts, the Finnish government awards Hänn Honours for promoters of equality in society. In 2019, the Women of the World (WoW) festival received the prize in the UK. This year's Women of the World featured three speakers who had received Hänn Honours: **Karoline Løvall** from the Norwegian Jenter og teknologi (Girls and technology), **Koen Dedoncker** from the Belgian Men Engage Network, and **Franciszka Sady** from the Polish Campaign against Homophobia. The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored their trips to London and placed a Hänn Campaign ad in the WoW programme leaflet. As part of the programme, Ambassador **Markku Keinänen** presented this year's Hänn Honour at the WoW main stage to **Caroline Criado-Perez**, the author of the book *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*. The initiative for the cooperation came from the Institute. **Ninni Lehtniemi** was invited as a mentor for the WoW Speed Mentoring session.

Nordic Comics Today 13.3.

The British Library organised a Nordic theme day with special emphasis on comics and feminism. Illustrator **Kaisa Leka** attended two different panel discussions during the day. *The Hero(ine)s exhibition* – a 2018 collaboration between the Institute, Institut Français, Lyon BD Festival and JC Deveney, the Lakes International Comic Art Festival and the General Representation of the Government of Flanders in the UK – was also displayed. The attendance suffered from Covid-19 restrictions that at the time of the event were already in effect in the Nordic countries.

During the pandemic

The UK has been one of the most severely affected countries in Europe by the new coronavirus. As the virus spread through Europe in Spring 2020, Finland was quicker to set restrictions than Britain, which caused some confusion with the Institute's British partners. In Britain, different restrictions remained in place to a varying degree throughout the year. In Finland, there were less restrictions, but international travel was almost halted. This meant that nearly all of the Institute's physical events had to be postponed, cancelled or reimaged in a digital form online. In addition, the Institute was not able to support international travel. In March most staff and interns were flown to Finland, where the situation was less severe than in the UK. In August everyone was able to return to London and work part time at the office with the help of intensified air conditioning, cleaning, sanitation and social distancing safety measures in place. As the virus situation grew worse again later in the autumn, the staff continued to work mostly from home until the end of the year.

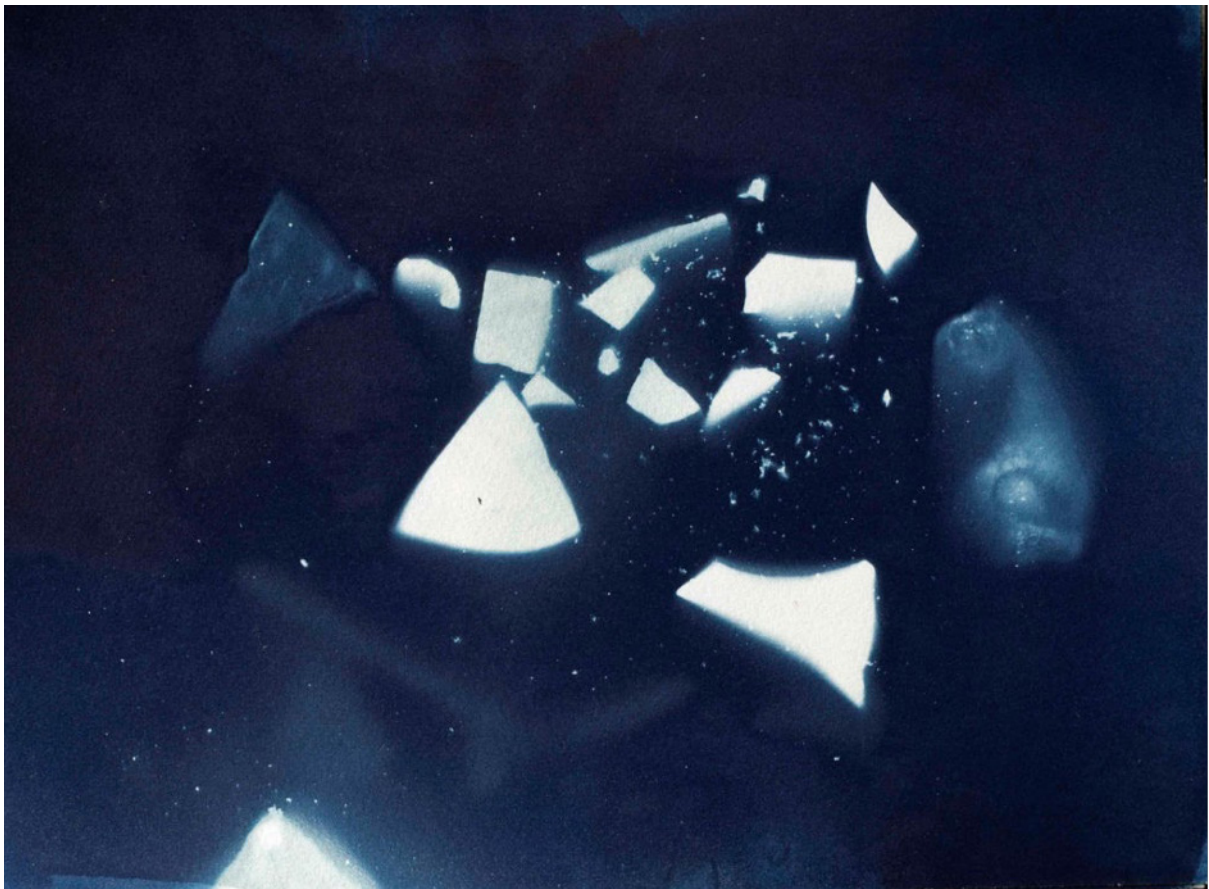


Tom of London Festival celebrating the centenary of the artist was cancelled, but parts of it took place online.

Some of the main coronavirus-affected activities were:

- The last resident of Producer's House Emmi Vainio had to return back to Finland on 19 March, a few days earlier than planned.
- New Nordics theatre festival that was supposed to present new plays from the Nordic countries for the British audience had to be cancelled at the last minute. Later in the year the festival produced online audio readings of the plays, and the festival is set to return in 2021.
- Tuula Närhinen's exhibition was curtailed from 22 March. The Institute created an online gallery of the exhibition to allow more people to see the artworks.
- The run of Undocumented Love at the Finnish National Theatre was interrupted in March. A shorter version of the play is likely to visit Journeys Festival in Leeds in 2021.
- The Tom of Finland – Love and Liberation exhibition at the House of Illustration had to be closed after only 10 days. Virtual tours of the exhibition were organised to celebrate the centennial of **Touko Laaksonen's** birth in May.
- Tom of London festival was transferred online, with social media content related to Tom of Finland, and a visual festival identity from **Emmi Salonen**.
- One of the projects selected through the Institute's Tom of Finland themed open call in 2019 was a virtual reality experience documenting Tom's house and its erotic art collection in Los Angeles. Covid-19 postponed the production of the work as the team was not able to fly to Los Angeles from Finland. The work will be exhibited later in London and Turku.

- TelepArt Tiede mobility support for researchers was launched in February. Due to travel restrictions imposed both by governments and universities, no applications have been received so far. Similarly, the TelepArt Taide for performing artists was put on hold for most of the year.
- European Cultural Capital Galway 2020 activities including the social circus and community art event Wires Crossed was cancelled. Wires Crossed will take place in 2021 in a modified format.



*Tuula Närhinen's chromatography works can be seen in a virtual gallery on the Institute's website.
/ Tuula Närhinen*

The following projects were initiated or modified to meet Covid-19 restriction rules:

Together Alone

In response to the pandemic and the fact that many artists were struggling with their income, the Finnish Institute network launched an open call for collaborative international artistic projects taking place online. The rapidly initiated joint open call between the Institutes was the first of its kind. The key factor for the success of the project was the flexibility by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, which promptly approved the redirection of the Institutes' funding for the open call purposes.

437 proposals were received from Finnish and Finnish-based professional artists, collectives and their collaborators from all over the world. The Institutes were able to fund 20 projects. The projects reached a global audience of over 350 000 people.

Each project was assigned a coach and dialogue partner from different Finnish Institutes.. Jaakko Nousiainen acted as the contact point for three projects: *World Wide Window: Agnus Mundi* by **Mikki Nordman**, *Out from the Flood* by *Invisible Flock & SubZero*, and *Unum*, by Sakari Männistö, **Inka Linja** and **Emile Pienault**.

World Wide Window is an art archive that tells the story of COVID-19's journey and its effects on society. Using historical symbolism, numerical data and algorithms that read WHO's global COVID-19 statistics, Nordman created an artwork, which illustrated the pandemic's daily evolution. In order to echo the nearly biblical proportions of the pandemic, the artist chose to recreate **Francisco de Zurbaran's** painting *Agnus Dei* (1640) using a wide variety of symbols relating to life, death, victory, luck, disease, health and evil. These symbols turned into emojis are a nod to the digital network society that has helped humanity stay connected in times of isolation. The original 'Agnus Dei' (The Lamb of God) has now become 'Agnus Mundi', the Lamb of the World.

Out from the Flood is a continued collaboration between the Yorkshire-based arts studio and artist collective Invisible Flock and SubZero, a Finnish collective of artists and scientists that combines environmental research with art, working at the edge of the Arctic region. Out from the Flood is an online generative data visualization, which explores environmental data measured at the Oulanka Research Station, as it unfolds over this unusual time. Climate data visualisations are particularly interesting at a time with limited activity, air traffic and pollution. The project helps to visualise the influence of COVID-19 on the environment of the National park.

Unum is a series of virtual, °360 circus performances experienced through a mobile phone or tablet and headphones. Latin for ‘solitary’, Unum performances are performed alone, and experienced alone, but the performer and viewer are in the same space through the immersive nature of the °360 video format. The videos are not edited, audience members will see the performance as it happened, there and then. They are pieces designed to be performed to one audience member only: you. Circus art is visceral and physical. Although the push to accomplish a feat is real, it can go unnoticed on stage, perhaps concealed by the performer, or missed by the audience. Here, the performers cannot hide, they are under the all-seeing eye of the °360 camera.

In August four video works from Together Alone were screened in a two-hour compilation on the Helsinki Music Centre’s digital screen. The works presented were **Anna Nykyri’s** *In-between*, **Emreca Tanis’** *H-ome*, Mikki Nordman’s *World Wide Window* – **Agnus Mundi** and **Yassine Khaled’s** *Monitor Man in the Time of Pandemic*.

The project received positive feedback from the field. Many artists reported they had acquired new skills while working on their commissions. Together Alone was also significant for the Finnish Institute network. Coronavirus related restrictions continue, and the need to support artists in this precarious situation has become even more acute . In 2021, the Institute network is planning to launch Together Alone 2.0 open call, which will have a more pronounced focus on developing artistic projects with audience participation and engagement with defined communities. In the future shared open calls like this might become a permanent collaboration model for the Institute network.



Dancer Atte Kilpinen performs in Emreca Tanis’ Together Alone project H-ome. /Emreca Tanis

COVID-19: contact tracing and the costs of non-pharmaceutical interventions 15.5.

The Finnish Science Society in the UK organised a joint online event with The Finnish Institute. A Finnish PhD student of epidemiology, **Janetta Evelina Skarp** from Imperial College presented a free and highly topical lecture.

Sami Kero: Avanto – Icehole 14.7.–31.8.

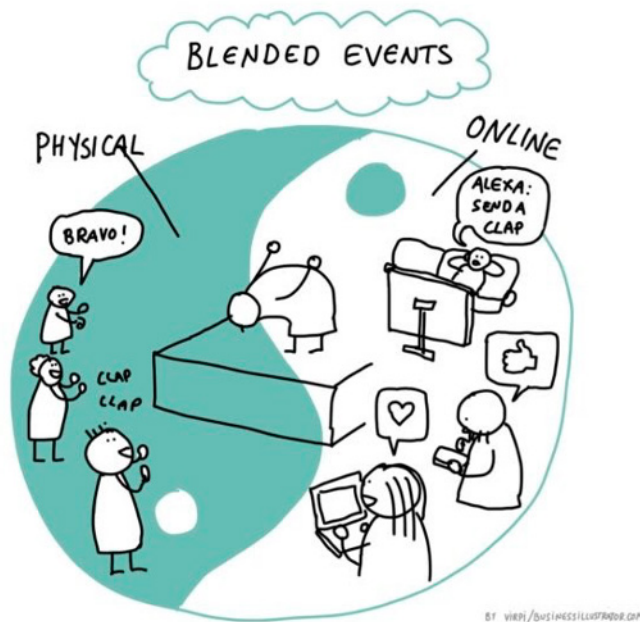
Kero's award winning series of photos of Finnish ice hole swimmers was shown at DLR libraries in Laoghaire-Rathdown, Ireland. The exhibition was organised in collaboration with The Embassy of Finland in Dublin. During the summer there were less restrictions in Ireland, and this exhibition was able to take place physically.

Oulu-Edinburgh STEAM residency open call 14.8.–21.9.

In collaboration with the Institute, the City of Edinburgh and the City of Oulu have established the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) residency project in order to build greater international collaboration between the two cities and to support creative learning for children and youth in both locations. The residency will be awarded to one Edinburgh-based teacher, one Oulu-based teacher, one Scottish artist and one Finnish artist. The artist selections were made by the end of the year. Edinburgh-based **Brittonie Fletcher** and Rovaniemi-based **Miia Kettunen** were selected. The group of four professionals will be given resources to work together as a team to plan and implement STEAM activities with selected schools and teachers in 2021.

Present series, autumn 2020

The Institute organised a series of nine online discussion events focusing on the future of cultural events and activities. The series sought to better understand where the cultural sector is headed in this time where coronavirus, climate change and societal movements have challenged us to rethink our practices. The series asked, what kind of future are we creating? Present showcased best practices and tools for creating impactful experiences to a target audience of professionals in the cultural sector. The topics were explored by prominent Finnish, British and Irish cultural professionals. The conversations were documented by business illustrator **Virpi Oinonen**. Several events reached an international audience of over 100 participants, many of whom were new to the Institute's work. The audience was also notably more international than before, with participants logging in from all over Europe, North America and Asia. The events received enthusiastic feedback from speakers and audience members alike.



Business illustrator Virpi Oinonen took visual notes on the Present series. The notes were emailed to participants after the events. / Virpi Oinonen

Seven Brothers – One Woman Show, 10.10.

To celebrate 150 years of **Aleksis Kivi's** *Seven Brothers*, the first Finnish language novel, the institute commissioned a short film from **Heidi Niemi**. The UK-based Finnish actor has previously created her own version of *Macbeth*, in which she played all the characters. She has performed the show among others at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In this quirky film she similarly plays the roles of all the seven brothers. By the end of 2020 the film had been viewed on YouTube over 1 700 times.



Heidi Niemi as Juhani, the eldest Jukola brother. / Heidi Niemi

SICK! Open call, 11.11.-21.12.

In collaboration with SICK! Festival in Manchester, the Institute launched an open call for Finnish or Finland-based artists with the aim of will commissioning two new pieces of work dealing with key societal issues: one focusing on the complexities of mental health during the menopause, and another focusing on mental health of young men in today's society and the challenges they face.

The projects are to be realised in 2021–2022 and will be presented as part of the next SICK! Festival in Manchester in March 2022. The selected projects will need to build a significant connection with a local community or communities in the Greater Manchester region. SICK! Festival will offer support for the development of the selected projects in terms of creative and dramaturgical guidance.

The open call encouraged practitioners across different art forms to work together with researchers, clinical practitioners, public health professionals and charities to submit proposals that incorporate artistic expression, societal participation, discussions and debate. We especially encouraged those with lived experience of mental health issues and members of underrepresented groups to apply.

The tight focus of the open call narrowed down the number of applications. By the end of the application period the Institute and SICK! Festival received six well focused applications. The selection of commissions is to be made in January 2021.

Invisible Flock The Cost of Innovation Residency Open Call, 17.11.-7.12.

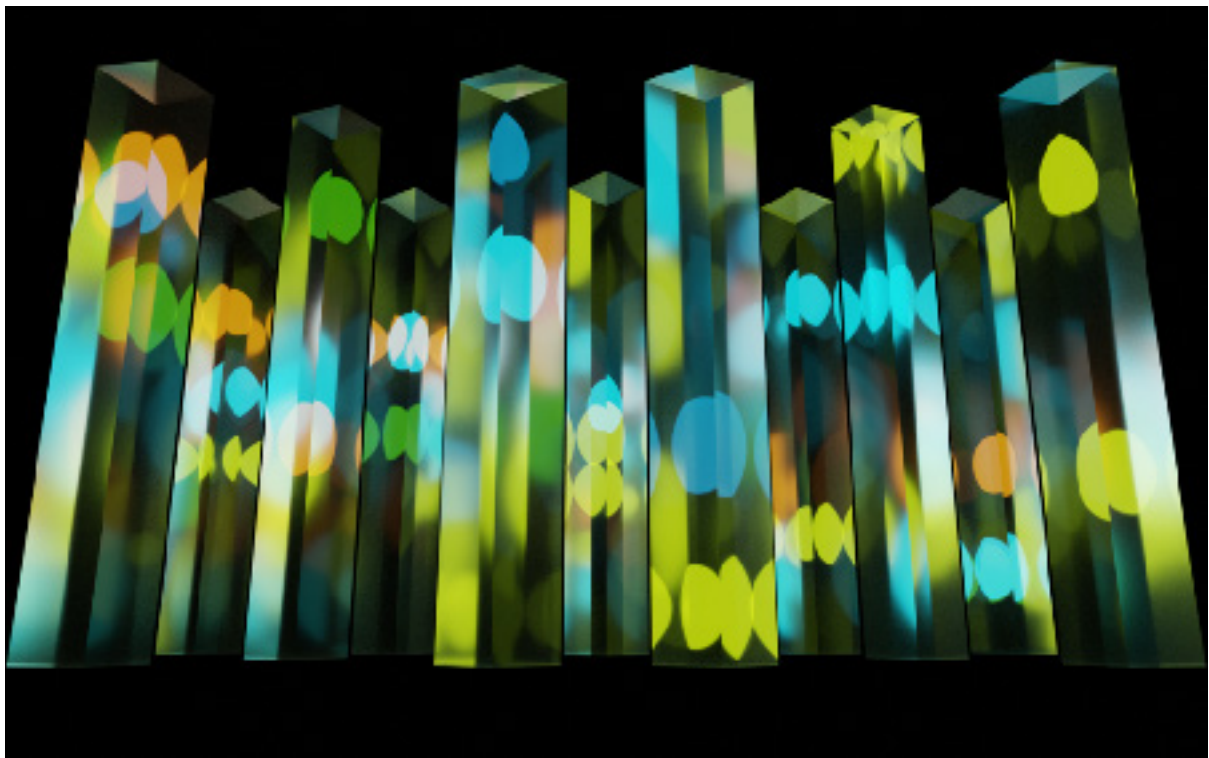
The Institute supported an open call to find a Finnish artists for a residency offered by the award winning interactive arts studio and artist collective Invisible Flock, who are based at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in West Yorkshire. Their residency programme seeks to address the socio-economic barrier to innovation in the cost of new technologies, and offers the selected artists a chance to use LiDAR scanning technology. The residency will offer remote support for the first seven months of 2021, and a one month physical residency after that, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. The residency was awarded to the artist Miia Kettunen, who also received the Oulu-Edinburgh STEAM residency. Kettunen was able to successfully demonstrate how the two residencies would benefit her work in a complementing manner.

Advent Calendar 1.-24.12.

The Institute's interns produced an advent calendar consisting of cultural and other recommendations from experts from the Institute's networks. The advent calendar was published on our social media channels and proved popular with our followers.

Teemu Määttänen's Noste light installation at Southbank Centre 4.12.2020–28.2.2021

Towards the end of the year there was a growing interest in public art available for outdoor audiences. The Institute connected with the Southbank Centre and presented a selection of Finnish light artists to their curator team, to be considered for their Winter Light festival. Media artist Teemu Määttänen's work Noste was selected, and working remotely from Finland, Määttänen was able to guide and instruct the Southbank Centre's construction team to build this large-scale outdoor installation. Noste adorns the Royal Festival Hall's ballroom balcony on the building's Waterloo station facing side, and is one of the main attractions of the Winter Light festival.



The design and building of Teemu Määttänen's Noste took place remotely. The artist himself has never been to the Southbank Centre. / Teemu Määttänen

Development work

In 2020 the Institute updated its strategy highlighting the importance of themes of mental health and well-being and more emphasis on Scotland. As a result of this strategic work the Institute changed its name to reflect its operating areas more equally: Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. London-based Finnish designer Emmi Salonen designed a new playful visual identity for the new name.

Internal development efforts also took place within the Finnish Institutes' network. In spring the network launched a series of online workshops with topics ranging from governance and sustainability to diversity and scenario planning. Emilie Gardberg led the governance workshop giving an overview of the Institute's strategic process to increase efficiency in order to allocate more resources to programming. Jaakko Nousiainen took part in the sustainability group, and Ninni Lehtniemi in the diversity group.

The aftermath of the violent death of **George Floyd** by an US police officer, Black Lives Matter movement spread globally, demanding racial equality. In Finland, the cultural sector was challenged to a Call for Action by a group of anti-racist cultural actors, requiring a critical review of practices from cultural organisations. The Institute organised two workshops for the staff around the list of questions set by the Call of Action. As a result several anti-racist strategies were developed and pre-existing inclusive policies were spelled more clearly out in the institute's documents and communication. Similarly, the Finnish Institutes' network formulated a BLM statement and anti-racism was included in the institute's new strategy.

4. Events calendar and statistics 2020

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
20.11.19 - 7.1.20	Tom of Finland open call	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	20
28.1.- 21.3.20	Undocumented Love	Theatre	Helsinki	National theatre	1060
29.1.2020	TelepART: Marouf Majidi	Music	London	Dash Cafe	100
30.1.2020	Finnish Exposure: Innovations in Technology and Education -panel discussion + Films: The Other Side of Mars and Who Made You	Science, Audio-visual art	Glasgow	CCA Glasgow	40
31.1.2020	Finnish Exposure: Minority Languages in Scotland, Finland and Sweden panel discussion + films: Birds in the Earth and Kaisa's Enchanted Forest	Science, Audio-visual art	Glasgow	CCA Glasgow	40

1.2.2020	TelepART: LAU NAU	Music	London	Cecil Sharp House	100
2.2.2020	Finnish Exposure: The Days	Dance	Glasgow	CCA Glasgow	40
8.2.2020	TelepART: Kinetic Orchestra Dance Company	Dance	London	Jacksons Lane Arts Centre	128
9.2.2020	TelepART: WAUHAUS	Contemporary circus	Cork City	Quarter Block Party	60
12.2.2020	Anita's reception	Other	London	Institute	35
14.2.2020	TelepART: Lolo Brow (Loretta Jayne O'Neill)	Dance	Helsinki	Cultural Centre Caisa	120
16.1.-2.2. ja 13.2.-1.3.	Tuula Närhinen / Below Zero residence	Contemporary art	London	Beaconsfield Gallery	1
25.-27.2.	EUNIC Cluster Seminar Bucharest	EUNIC event	Bukarest	Several	33

27.2.2020	Nordic Drinks	Team Finland event	London	Institute	100
27.2.-16.3. and 4.7.-1.8.	Tuula Närhinen exhibition	Contemporary art	London	Beaconsfield Gallery	400
1.3.2020	Tuula Närhinen opening event	Contemporary art	London	Beaconsfield Gallery	80
5.3.2020	Tom of Finland: Love and Liberation private view	Visual arts	London	House of Illustration	500
6.-15.3.2020	Tom of Finland: Love and Liberation exhibition	Visual arts	London	House of Illustration	200
6.-8.3.2020	WoW Women of the World	Feminism	London	Southbank Centre	2700
13.3.	Nordic Comics Today	Comics	London	British Library	50
23.3.-4.5.	Together Alone open call	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	437

22.4.	Knowledge Quarter Private View of Tom of Finland Exhibition	Visual arts	Online	Online	100
4.5.-	Tuula Närhinen online exhibition	Contemporary art	Online	Online	412
8.5.	Talking Tom of Finland	Visual arts	Online	Online	90
11.5.-	Together Alone: Across the way with...	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	7244
15.5.	COVID-19: contact tracing and the costs of non-pharmaceutical interventions	Science	Online	Online	45
15.5.-	Together Alone: World Wide Window	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	3922
19.5.-29.6.	Together Alone: We need to talk about the future	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	4370
6.-27.6.	Together Alone: Care Practice: Recipes for Resilience	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	14350

9.-30.6.	Together Alone: Felt the Moonlight on my Feet	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	6608
15.6.-24.7.	Together Alone: Demo moving image festival	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	6622
17.6.-12.7.	Together Alone: Unheroic Labours #2	Contemporary arts	Helsinki/ online	Forum Box, online	4167
23.-28.6.	Together Alone: Unum	Circus	Online	Online	3346
24.6.	Together Alone: H-ome	Dance	Online	Online	5043
26.-27.6.	Together Alone: A room with a view	Contemporary Arts	Helsinki, online	Postbar, online	3351
27.6.	Together Alone: In-between	Comics	Online	Online	5760
29.6.-	Together Alone: Keep in touch	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	3591
30.6.	Together Alone: Where from here	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	1473
30.6.	Together Alone: Monitor Man in the Time of Pan- demic	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	5473

1.7.	Together Alone: Solar Walkman	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	2394
3.7.	Together Alone: Network	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	2395
7.7.-	Together Alone: Out from the flood	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	2736
14.7.-31.8.	Sami Kero: Avanto exhibition	Photography	Dún Laoghaire	DLR Libraries	37000
14.8.-21.9.	Oulu-Edinburgh STEAM residency open call	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	20
21.-22.8.	TelepART: MUDWOMAN - Praise to Mother Earth	Dance	li	Lähde! Arts park	30
24.8.-9.9.	Together Alone: World-Body	Contemporary Arts	Online	Online	2470
26.8.	Present: How will Festival Cities survive? Lessons from Edinburgh, Galway and Helsinki	Discussion event	Online	Online	50
29.8.	Together Alone outdoor screening	Contemporary Arts	Helsinki	Musiikkitalo	300
2.9.	Present: Making your festival virtual: No portaloos needed	Discussion event	Online	Online	30

9.9.	Present: Expanding live-experiences: The digital future of theatre	Discussion event	Online	Online	67
16.9.	Present: Accessible orchestras: Connecting with audiences beyond the hall	Discussion event	Online	Online	37
24.9.-	Tuoma A Laitinen: Protean Sap	Contemporary Art	Online	Online	TBC
30.9.	Present: Sharing experiences from Finnish Institutes' Together Alone virtual open call projects	Discussion event	Online	Online	47
9.-11.10.	Petteri Tikkanen: Drawing on Japan video at Lakes International Comic Arts Festival	Comics	Online	Online	500
14.10.	Present: The future of artist residencies: Sustainable travel, presence and practice	Discussion event	Online	Online	92
17.-18.10.	Together Alone: Bodytalk	Contemporary Arts	Helsinki	Kiasma theatre	561

24.10.	Aurora at South Social Festival	Film	London	Genesis Cinema	100
28.10.	Present: Finntopia – British perspectives on the world's happiest country	Discussion event, Team Finland event	Online	Online	108
28.10-4.11.	In Short, EUNIC short film festival: Ami Lindholm: Irresistible Smile animation and Q&A (2.11.)	Film, EUNIC event	Online	Online	2055
11.11.-21.12	SICK! Festival open call	Contemporary art, society	Online	Online	6
11.11.	Present: Choreographing intimacy: Building trust and redefining boundaries for actors	Discussion event	Online	Online	96
17.11.-7.12	Invisible Flock open call	Contemporary art	Online	Online	4
23.11.	Orchestrating healthcare	Music	Online	Online	43
25.11.	Present: Equality in arts education: Arts and culture as childrens' rights	Discussion event	Online	Online	102

1.12.	Rare Exports at South Social Festival	Film	Online	Online	60
4.12.-31.12.	Teemu Määttänen: Noste light installation at Southbank Centre	Media art	London	Southbank Centre	81000
4.12.-31.12.	Teemu Määttänen: Noste light installation at Southbank Centre online views	Media art	London	Online	1966
11.12.	Pertti's Choice Christmas party	Performing arts	Online	Online	30
Total					216510

5. Language courses

The Institute arranges Finnish language courses for adult learners. Language courses were held weekly over two terms in 2020. Course levels ran from absolute beginners to advanced. In the spring the courses were cancelled due to the pandemic. In the autumn lessons were held online and in small groups at the Institute, adhering to Covid-19 restriction rules .

A total of 70 students studied at the Institute during the year with the teacher **Teija Perttilä**. The income from the courses supports the institute's programme budget.

6. Economy and administration

The Finnish patent and Registration Office granted the foundation of the Finnish Institute in London Trust 13.07.1989. The institute was registered in the Trust register 03.04.1990. The business ID of the Trust is 0878534-0. The Trust changed its name on 30.12.2020 to Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland Trust.

The purpose of the Trust is to enhance the relations between the republic of Finland and the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland by supporting education, science, arts and cultural activity. To achieve its mission the Trust runs the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland.

The institute supports Finnish-British and Finnish-Irish research, education and cultural activity related to its mission and supports researchers, experts, academics and artists in their work in the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland. The majority of the funding is granted by the Finnish Ministry of Culture and education (800 000 € in 2020). Government support is essential in order to achieve relevant partnerships and develop a high-quality programme.

In 2020, additional funding was received from the Finnish Ministry of Culture and Education and Wihuri Foundation. The institute also secured funding for the year 2021 from Swedish Cultural Foundation, Finnish Cultural Foundation and Niilo Helander Foundation.

7. The board of the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland Trust

Tommi Laitio, Chair

Johanna Piisi, Vice Chair, until 14.4.2020

Jeremiah Tesolin, from 14.4.2020

Rebecca Walton

Leif Jakobsson

Mari K Niemi

Marianne Saarikko Janson, Vice Chair from 5.6.2020

In 2020 the board convened 6 times. One meeting was held in Helsinki and five online/ in Helsinki. During the meeting on 14.4.2020 the board thanked Johanna Piisi for her maximum term service to the board.

8. Staff and interns at the Institute

Director Emilie Gardberg

Administrative secretary Anita Rockman, until 5.2.2020

Administration intern:

Annika Pellonpää 27.1.–31.12.2020

Director of Programme, Arts Jaakko Nousiainen

Arts programme interns:

Rosaliina Elgland 3.1.–30.6.2020

Sara Nguyen 1.1.–31.12.2020

Director of Programme, Society and Communications Ninni Lehtniemi

Society and communication interns:

Eeva Lehtonen 28.10.2019–28.4.2020

Volter Rechardt 8.6.2020–8.4.2021

The interns were supported by *Erasmus*, *Finnish National Agency for Education*, *Finnish TE-services* and The Swedish Cultural Foundation.

In December director Emilie Gardberg was appointed Dean of *Sibelius Academy* in Helsinki and will leave the Institute on 17.1.2021. As of 1.1.2021 Jaakko Nousiainen will act as the Interim Director until a new permanent Director is appointed.



A group photo from Anita's party. / Sara Nguyen