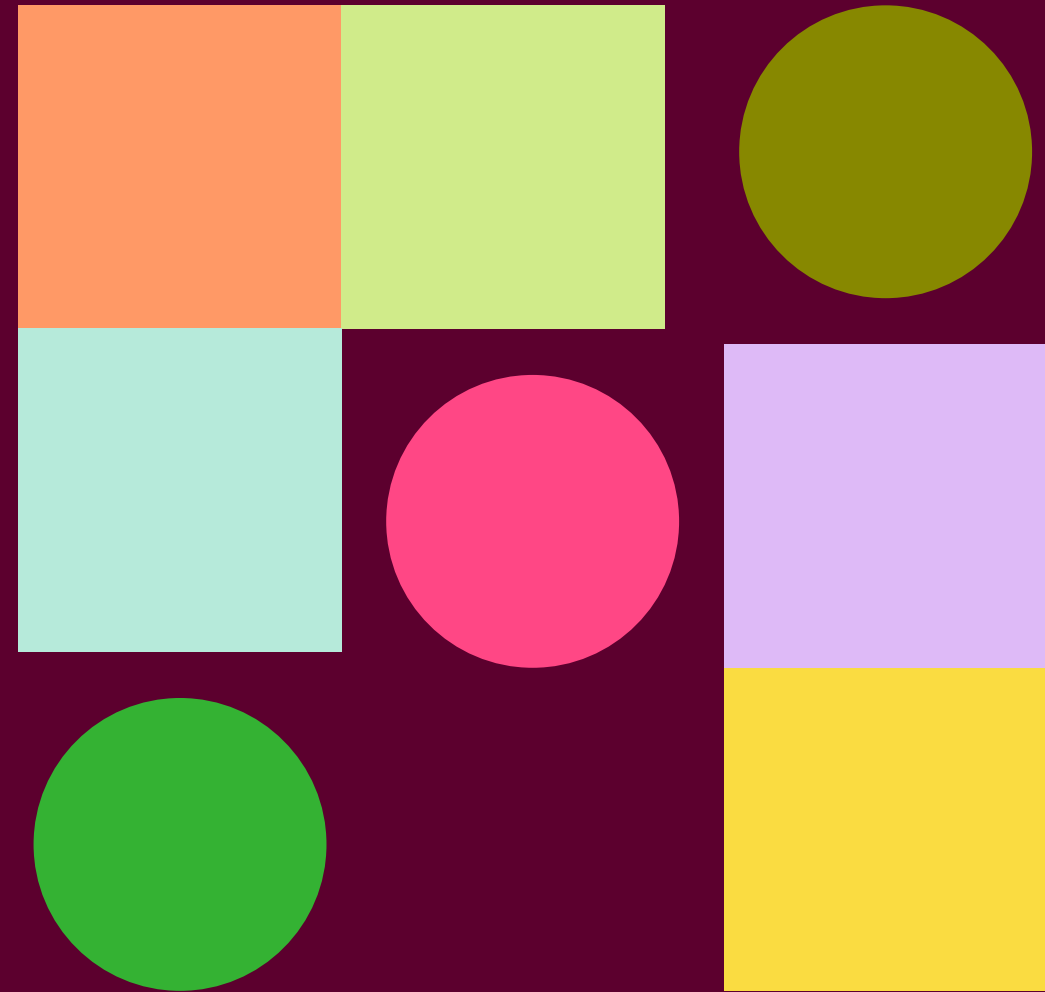
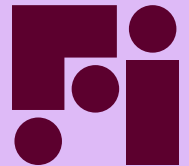


# Annual Report 2022





**” The Institute is an open, proactive, positive, critical, inclusive and welcoming partner.**

Quote from the 2022 stakeholder survey

# 1 Summary

## 2022 key figures

### Programme reach

Events audiences

345 000

Wider audience reach

(including outdoor art works and installations)

950 000

### TelepART mobility support

Performance productions

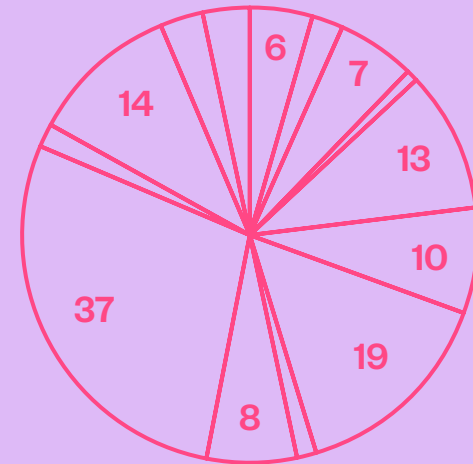
17

Research visits

5

Finnish students

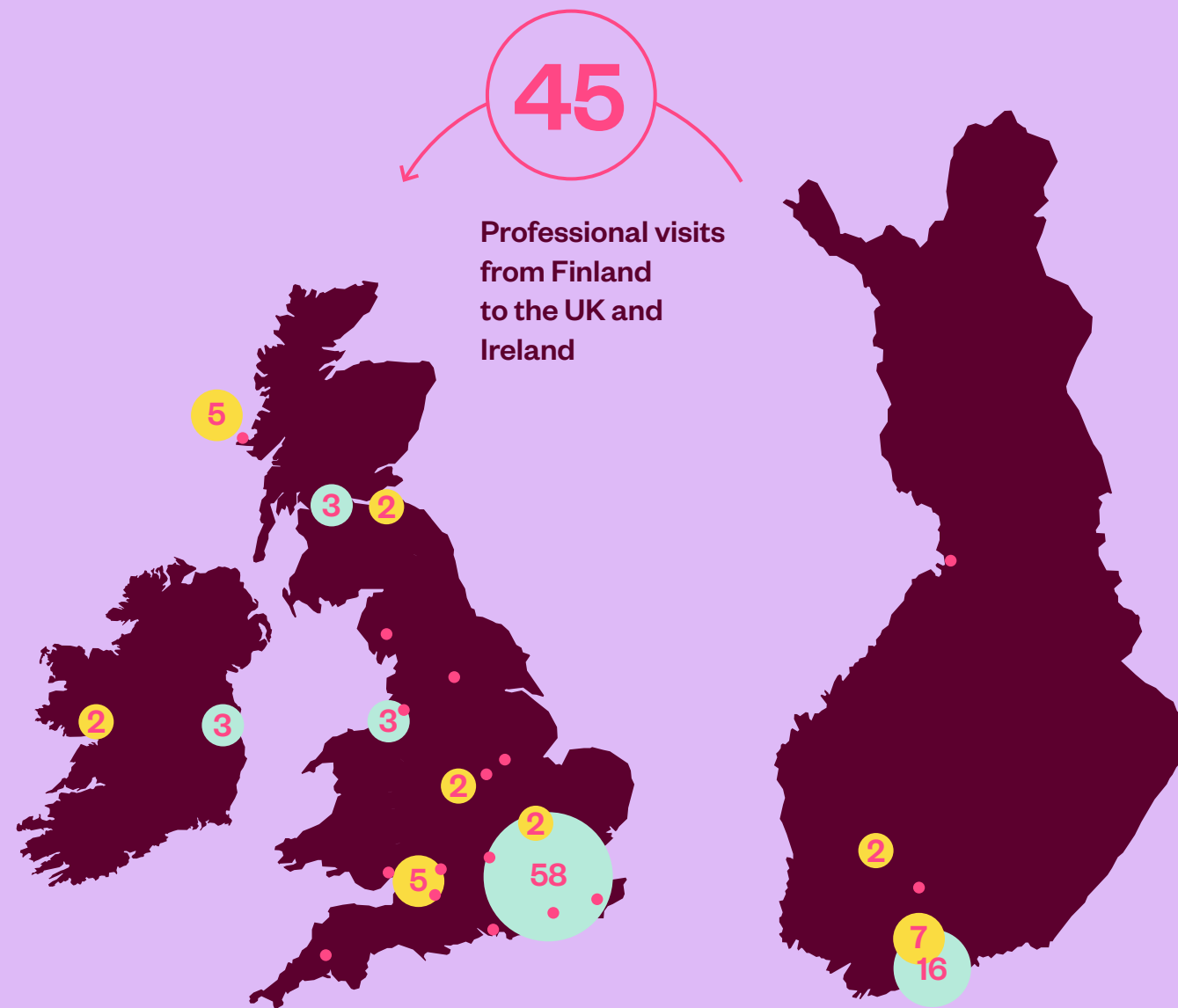
114



- Architecture 6
- Audiovisual arts 3
- Circus 7
- Comic arts 1
- Contemporary arts 13
- Dance 10
- Film 19
- Literature 2
- Music 8
- Performing arts 37
- Photography 2
- Society 14
- Visual arts 4
- Other 4

130

Events in 30 locations in the UK, Ireland, Finland and 2 online



45  
Professional visits from Finland to the UK and Ireland

10  
Professional visits from the UK and Ireland to Finland

96

Events in the UK

- 58 in London
- 5 in Bristol
- 5 on the Isle of Tiree
- 3 in Glasgow
- 3 in Manchester, 2 in Birmingham
- 2 in Belfast
- 2 in Cambridge
- 2 in Edinburgh
- 1 each in Ashford, Bath, Brighton, Bowness-on-Windermere, Calstock, Cardiff, Chichester, Leeds, Leicester, Malmesbury, Nottingham, Oxford, Salford and Skye

5

Events in Ireland

- 3 in Dublin
- 2 in Galway

27

Events in Finland

- 16 in Helsinki
- 7 in Espoo
- 2 in Tampere
- 1 in Janakkala
- 1 in Oulu

2

Events online

## Summary

**In 2022, the operations of the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland largely recovered to their pre-pandemic level. As a result, the programme could be implemented without major changes to the planned schedule. During the year, the activities of the Institute's main partners also returned to customary form.**

**The Institute was able to focus well on its main tasks, to support the internationalisation of Finnish and Finland based professional artists, creatives, and researchers, plus, promote the pertinent issues of equality and diversity in the arts and on a societal level.**

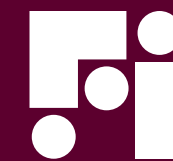
The Institute continues to get positive feedback from its stakeholders and is considered a desired partner. We have continued to build our partner network, particularly in Scotland, and we are also actively seeking new collaboration opportunities in the Republic of Ireland. As an EU country, Ireland is free of the visa and mobility issues that slow down many Finnish-UK collaborations.

Highlights of the programme included a joint Nordic festival of new circus and performing arts, *Nordic Exposure* at Jacksons Lane Theatre in London, a commissioned Finnish sauna at the London Festival of Architecture, and a contemporary art exhibition, *Elastic Alliances*, as part of the Institute network's multi-year *Together Alone* project. The exhibition also comprised a seminar on the topic of artistic collaborations and the challenges of carrying on with creative processes, in a state of emergency and working together across geographical borders in a time of travel restrictions.

Other notable projects included a programme highlighting Tove Jansson's civic activism and relationship with nature, a seminar tour on the topic of *Creative Ageing* in Ireland and the UK, the production of *Never Forever Always*, a digital game on youth and mental health, as well as Essi Rossi's performance on sexual diversity,

Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland is a private, non-profit trust, established in 1991. It's mission is to enable progressive personal and societal change through art and culture. To achieve this mission the trust runs the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland (until 30.12.2020 the Finnish Institute in London).

In 2022 the Institute was involved in 130 events in 30 different locations in Finland, Ireland, the UK and online as commissioners, funders, co-commissioners and co-funders. The Institute also fostered international collaboration through production, residency and travel support. In addition the Institute offers Finnish classes.



FINNISH  
INSTITUTE  
UK + IRELAND

the last two projects were in collaboration with the Manchester-based SICK! festival.

In addition to programming, the Institute organised Finnish language courses for adults. The hybrid format (part online, part in person) has proven to be successful. This allows for students to join classes from a wider geographical area.

Some 345,000 people were reached directly by the Institute's programme activities. Including art installations in public spaces, the estimate can be raised considerably to around 950,000 people.

As a result of the pandemic, the global network of the Finnish Institutes has become closer than ever before. Examples of this can be seen in best practice sharing on diversity and equality issues as well as the *Together Alone / Together Again* project. Started in 2020, the project has created an artistic record of the coronavirus pandemic and our collective recovery from it. The project will culminate in the autumn of 2023 in a festival showcasing highlights of this three-year journey.

Our collaboration with the Nordic embassies and the Faroese representation in London, the Finnish Embassy in Ireland, team Finland and EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture) continues to be strong and active. The Institute's Society Programme Director Neicia Marsh was elected in the presidency team of EUNIC London for a one year term in July 2022, giving us a stronger say in EUNIC's joint programming and bringing more European voices into the cultural mix of the UK.

**Jaakko Nousiainen**  
Director  
London, 1.2.2023





**” The Institute enables international collaborations and projects by and between artists, creatives, curators and experts.**

Quote from the 2022 stakeholder survey



# 2

## Mission and setting

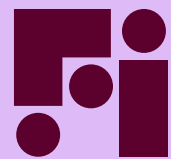


# Strategy 2021–2023

The Institute's strategy is a tool for guiding programme planning and development of the partner network. The institute's mission was revised and reworded by the board in 2022.

The Institute's activities are centred around Arts and Society programmes. In 2022, the Arts programme focus areas were contemporary art, audiovisual art, circus and sustainability in artistic practice. The Society programme worked on diversity issues and bringing underrepresented artists into focus. The Institute also supports artists' and specialists' travel and international collaborations. In addition the Institute offers Finnish classes.

## Diverse, Inclusive and Influential



FINNISH  
INSTITUTE  
UK + IRELAND

### Mission

We enable progressive personal and societal change through art and culture. We enrich and diversify connections and collaborations between cultural professionals in Finland, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

### Vision

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 secure and allocate resources for arts and society to flourish. We seize opportunities and create possibilities for new collaborations

and present relevant and engaging cultural events and projects. We support Finnish artists, researchers, social and cultural actors. We promote equality and the diversity of Finnish culture and strive to diversify research and science globally.

We work to ease social tensions. We build societal dialogue through culture, and we speak about our values through our actions. We work in a pragmatic and forward-thinking manner. We adhere to anti-racist and intersectional principles in our work. Our operations are guided by social responsibility, equality, sustainable development, openness, and transparency.

Our programme is internally divided into the areas of Arts and Society, to serve the designation of responsibilities and to ensure both areas of the programme have the required professional expertise and attention. However, the external and strategic objectives are shared, which is why we in particular seek to support projects that combine artistic expertise and quality with social relevance and importance.

We work independently, but in collaboration with Team Finland in London and Dublin, EUNIC as well as the Nordic embassies and the Faroese Representation in London.

# Mission and setting

**The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland champions dialogue and exchange of ideas between artists, creators and societal changemakers in Finland, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.**

## **Target groups**

The Institute works with artists, experts and decision makers and enhances networking opportunities for cultural and societal exchange. The Institute also encourages cross-disciplinary and ground-breaking collaboration by creating new networks and partnerships. The Institute actively builds new audiences for Finnish arts, culture and research, plus, connects Finnish individuals and organisations with interesting partners and funding opportunities in the UK and Ireland.

## **Ways of operating**

A significant part of the Institute's public facing work is carried out through co-commissions and co-productions with partners as well as offering mobility grants and residency support. 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.

## **Post-Brexit mobility**

The Institute's role in strengthening international mobility has changed as a result of Britain's departure from the European Union. Visa regulations and restrictions on mobility have caused a lot of confusion, but the situation has become more manageable over 2022 as more experiences and best practices have been gathered. The situation has also created business opportunities for new kinds of tailored visa service providers.

## **Networks**

The Institute is part of a global network which comprises 16 Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes, one less than before: Due to Russian's aggressions and war in Ukraine combined with Russia's foreign agent laws, the Institute in St. Petersburg was forced to close down its operations in 2022.

The Institute collaborates actively with EUNIC London (European Union National Institutes for Culture), the Nordic countries' and regions' official representations in London and the Finnish Embassy in Dublin.

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 and 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, an annual stakeholder survey and our societal impact, e.g. ensuring that public events are accessible and that our programming is inclusive and equal. Individual targets are set for each project, and impact measurement is carried out in relation to those targets.

In 2022 the Institute started a Theory of Change process, which aims at developing a more detailed evaluation framework and clarifying what specific information is needed in order to evidence the impact of the Institute's work. This will allow the Institute to build a practical plan for data collection, including deciding how and when to go about gathering data and who should be responsible for collecting it. The plan will be brought into practice and piloted in 2023.

### Media highlights

Throughout the year, the Institute's programme gathered 55 notable mentions in Finnish, Irish and UK media.

The biggest media hits of the year were Nordic Exposure at Jacksons Lane, The Finnish Sauna and Tom of Finland Art & Culture Festival.

### Communications reach

#### Web page views

# 43 372

#### Newsletter subscribers

# 1 579

#### Instagram followers

# 3 225

#### Facebook followers

# 6 530

#### Twitter profile visits

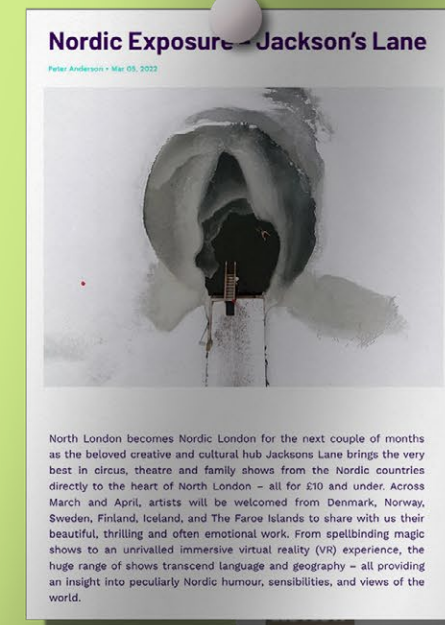
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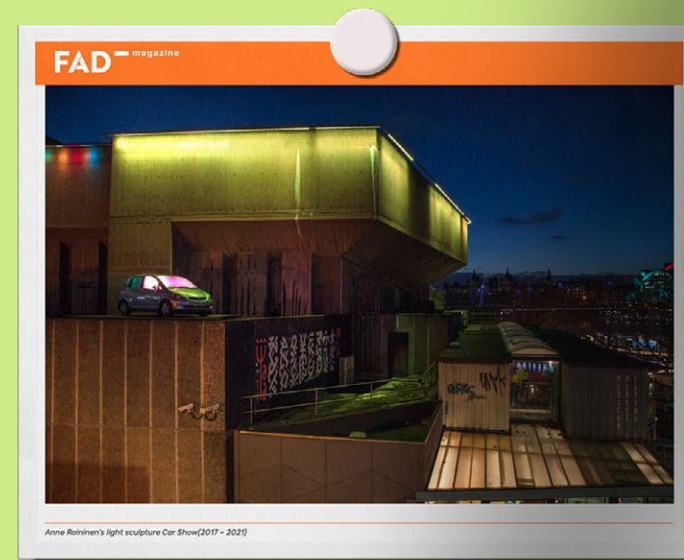
Dazed 7.10.2022



Dazed 7.10.2022



Spotlight on Culture 5.3.2022



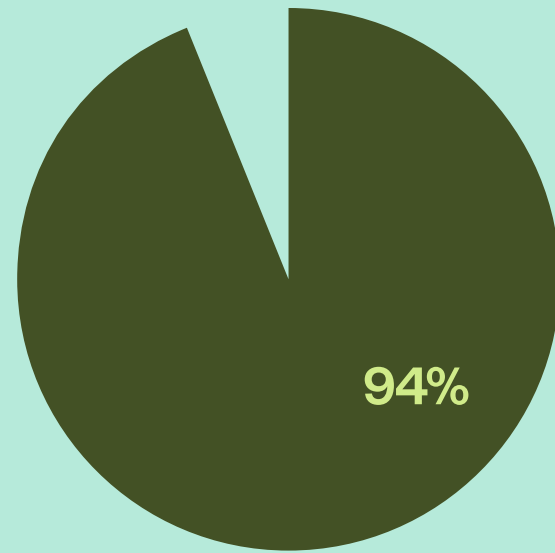
Fad Magazine 23.12.2021



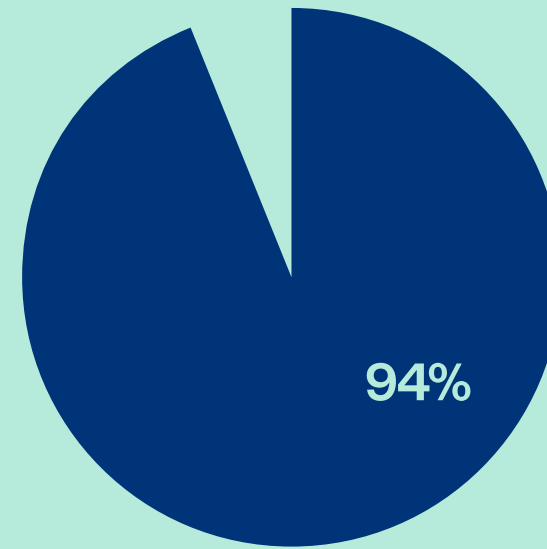
The Guardian 7.5.2022

# Stakeholder survey

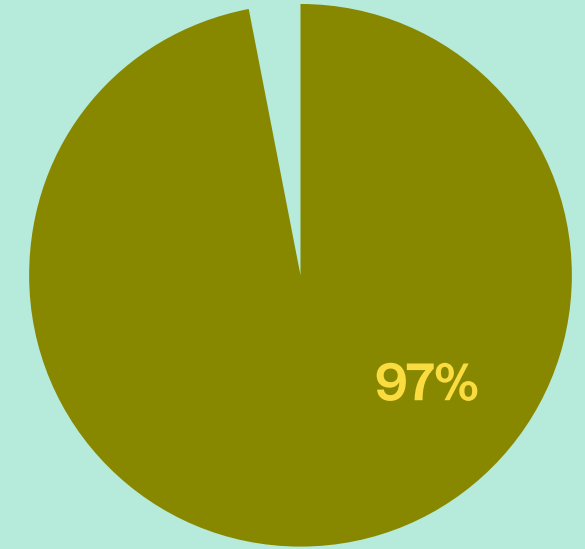
The institute carries out an annual stakeholder survey to gain feedback from its partner network, including both individuals and organisations.



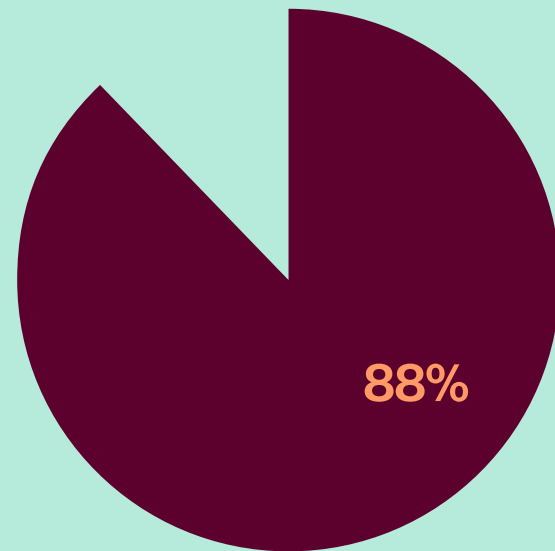
94% of the stakeholder survey participants agree or strongly agree that the Institute has created positive change by connecting people through culture and art.



94% of the participants find the Institute's work meaningful and relevant to the work they do



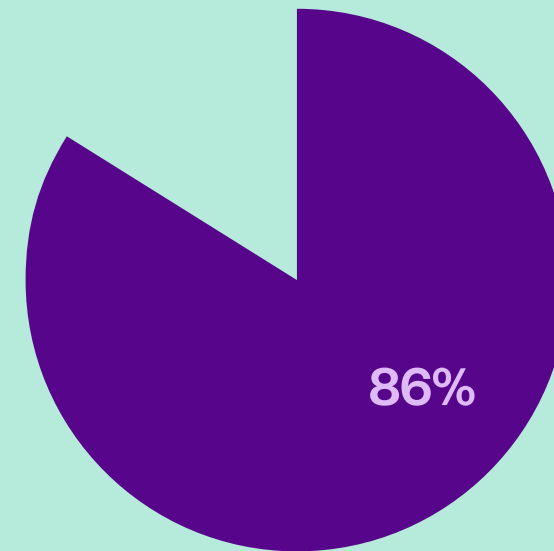
97% would recommend the Institute to the others as a prospective partner.



88% agree or strongly agree that the Institute operated according to its values of equality and transparency.



Comparison to 2021: 86%



86% of the participants agree or strongly agree that the Institute has acted as a source of expertise on Finnish culture and society in the UK and Ireland.



Comparison to 2021: 75%



**” The Institute is a collaborative and supportive partner with an eye for innovative projects, which gives a platform to exciting Finnish artists and offers impactful cultural experiences.**

Quote from the 2022 stakeholder survey

**3**

## **Featured Projects**

# Nordic Exposure

Co-commission

The Nordic Exposure season brought performers from the Northern countries to London to share their talents with audiences at Jacksons Lane.

## 9.3.

### Three Men from the North by Nordic Council

'Three Men from the North' by The Nordic Council is a show about awkwardness. It is a show steeped in tradition and nostalgia built on contemporary circus, working with combinations of juggling, live music and aerial rope. The show is blunt and to the point in a way that only Finnish humour can be, Swedishly self-aware and with a hint of Icelandic peculiarity.

## 19.-20.3.

### Hold On by Fheel Concepts

'Hold On' is an entirely different way to experience circus: it is an immersive experience in mixed reality. Based on former aerial artist Corinne Linder's life experiences, Hold On offers the opportunity to discover the different sensations usually experienced by artists on stage: the danger, the adrenaline and the joy. Visuals combined with scents and interactions take the audience into the unique and extraordinary world of aerial circus artists.



Three Men from the North  
Photo: Megin Zondervan



### 26.3.

#### **Piste, piste, piste by Portmanteau**

'Piste, piste, piste' combines contemporary circus with illusion and handmade projections to transform the stage into a universe that allows room for the audience's own imagination. This wordless performance directed at children and young audiences tells a story of the three little dots transforming into lines. Using movement and visuals created with overhead projectors, performers Luis Sartori do Vale and Mira Ravald transform a blank white stage into a dynamic and poetic visual environment.

### 24.4.

#### **Them by Spindrift Theatre**

In Them by Spindrift Theatre four women from Iceland and Finland explore how toxic masculinity shapes gender roles, narrows our horizons, and makes people behave against their better nature, bringing to light the taboos of masculinity.

### 30.4.-15.

#### **Get Lost and Found: Mischief and Mystery in Moominvalley**

Based on the much-loved novels by Tove Jansson, and created in consultation with Sophia Jansson, the show takes the audience on a journey to Moominvalley. The show features puppetry, an ingenious pop-up book set, original music and interactive storytelling.





# Elastic Alliances

Co-commission

Elastic Alliances exhibition at Hanaholmen Cultural Centre in Espoo presented fragments of eight international collaborative projects created as part of the Together Alone 2.0 project organised by the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes.

## 8.4.-22.5.

The artists and artist collectives in the exhibition were Milena Oksanen & Diego Machado, Anni Puolakka & Ellie Hunter, Pehme collective, Minna Pöllänen & Bang Geul Han, European Theatre Collective, Johanna Rotko/BIOART LAB, Jaana Pirskanen & Half A Map, and The Veerkracht Collective curated by Jani Kaila.

## 28.4.

**Artistic Collaborations in a Flux**  
Artistic Collaborations in a Flux seminar was held at Hanaholmen in conjunction with the Elastic Alliances exhibition. Consisting of two panel discussions and two keynote speeches, the seminar dealt with the themes of how artists can collaborate and carry on creative processes in a state of emergency, and how to work internationally at a distance. All of the panellists were artists participating in the Elastic Alliances exhibition: Jaana Pirskanen, David Kozma, Milena Oksanen, Minna Pöllänen, Jani Kaila, Johanna Rotko, Meriam Trabelsi, and Ellie Hunter (virtually). Keynote speeches were given by Viviana Checchia from Delfina Foundation (pre-recorded) and Daniel Wiesenfeld from B-LA Connect.



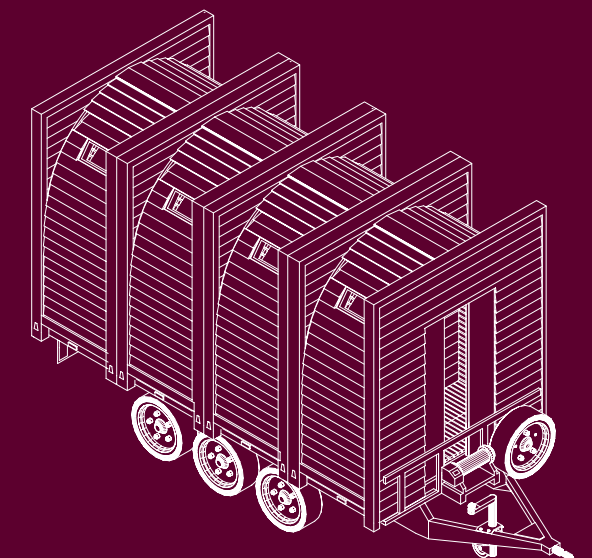
# The Finnish Sauna

Co-commission

The renowned Finnish architect Sami Rintala and students of architecture from the University of Westminster, in association with the Institute, joined forces to create a one-of-a-kind sauna.

*"It was very interesting to see how people interpret the sauna since we had people in the team who had never been to one. We had an opportunity to expand our knowledge about Finnish saunas"*

Erika Boguckaite, sauna building group member



The Finnish Sauna  
Photo: Laura Vuoma



### **20.-29.4.**

#### **Sauna workshop**

Sami Rintala and professor David Scott from the University of Westminster held a sauna design workshop for Westminster University students. 10 students participated in the construction of the sauna.

### **15.6.**

#### **Diplomatic Sauna Society**

In collaboration with the Embassy, the Institute organised a sauna evening for the University of Westminster students, who took part in the design and building work of The Finnish Sauna.

### **29.6.-8.7.**

#### **The Finnish Sauna at the London festival of Architecture**

The sauna opened to the public at the London Festival of Architecture, a month-long celebration of architecture and city-making, taking place every June across London. The sauna was launched with a private event on 29 June, and from 1 to 8 July it was open for the public to use. The Finnish Sauna was a huge success, gaining a lot of great attention from the public.

The sauna was located at Victoria Embankment Gardens, in the heart of London. The design of The Finnish Sauna is inspired by the London tube, the architecture of the sauna is based on the traditional sauna building methods. Through its construction, a new generation of architectural voices explored how contemporary architecture can draw from historical and sustainable building methods.

### **29.7.-8.10.**

#### **The Finnish Sauna at Beaconsfield**

The Finnish Sauna was open to the public at the Beaconsfield Art Gallery between 29 July and 8 October.

### **14-16.10.**

#### **Comics in the Sauna at Lakes International Comic Art Festival**

The Finnish Sauna was taken to Lake Windermere as a part of the annual Lakes International Comics Art Festival. One of the events is Comics in the Sauna at the Windermere Jetty Museum. The event had guest appearances by Finnophiles Oliver East and the wonderful McGarry brothers.



# SICK! Festival

Co-commission

**7.-22.5.**

## **Mindgames, Never Forever Always**

SICK! Festival faces up to the complexities of mental and physical health through many art forms – such as dance, theatre, film, and spoken word – as well as through discussion and debate.

Presented as part of SICK! Festival 2022, Mindgames Arcade was an interactive gaming gallery housed in three open-side shipping containers. This hands-on and unique videogame arcade was built on The Green, close to North City Library on the corner of Moston Lane and Hemsley Street in North Manchester. With a focus on wellbeing and happiness, the installation explored the connection between computer games and our mental health.

A new console game *Never, Forever, Always*, produced in collaboration with the Institute, was presented as part of the Mindgames Arcade. The game has been in development since December 2021 and all of the young people involved in its creation, from Finland and the UK, have been directly affected by mental health challenges, either their own or those close to them. At the start of the project, the youngsters were taught basic skills relating to game development before starting work on their own game. The idea is that the new video game reflects the lived experiences of people who are navigating mental health-related challenges. The game design group worked under the guidance of game designer Eetu Rantanen.

Never Forever Always  
Photo: Claire Angel



**25.-26.5.**  
Ejaculation Falls

*"International opportunities have an important role in creating opportunities for diverse conversations."*

Essi Rossi, director, Ejaculation Falls

Ejaculation Falls, a performance created by Finnish Theatre-director Essi Rossi, sees a group of people gather together to celebrate sexual diversity. The performance is an opportunity to share things regarding sex and sexuality that are often hidden or silenced in public conversations. The performance leads its viewers to the other side of norms and collective beliefs. It invites us to examine sexuality's power and various dimensions, to give new words to the ways in which we talk about sex. Ejaculation Falls was performed at STUN Studio / Z-arts in Manchester.



# TOVE JANSSON

Commissioner, Co-funder

## 21.6.

### Tove screening and Q&A

The Institute organised a screening of the film Tove at Rio Cinema in Dalston, London. The screening was followed by a live Q&A with the film's producer Andrea Reuter and intimacy coordinator Pia Rickman.

## 23.-25.9.

### Sea Change Festival

Celebrating women in film, Sea Change film festival was organised by Screen Argyll on the island of Tiree in the Hebrides. This year the festival was running a special track to honour the life and work of Tove Jansson with a series of Finnish films and a number of Finnish industry speakers. The programme included film screenings, workshops and a Moomin themed trail.

## 10.12.

### Tove Jansson's Queer World

An event dedicated to celebrating Tove Jansson's queer heritage and a broader exploration of family, belonging, queer childhoods, creativity and nature. Known internationally as the creator of the Moomin universe, she has become a queer icon for a new generation of LGBTQI+ creatives.

The event took place at Queer Britain on 10 December, and it included a screening of Kanerva Cederström's film Travels with Tove, a comic strip workshop by Aleesha Nandhra, a lecture on Tove Jansson's life and work by Kati Mustola and finally a panel discussion 'Queer ways to thrive'.

# Creative Ageing

Co-production

## 5.-9.9.

Four Finnish creative ageing experts & contributors toured the UK and Ireland to share their work. The Creative Ageing tour stopped for discussion events in Dublin, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and London. The focus of the events were in culture, arts and creativity in care homes, including how the social care and arts sectors can work together.

The Baring  
Foundation

## LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE

Creative ageing in Finland

*By David Cutler, Raisa Karttunen and Jenni Räsänen*



The Baring Foundation  
8-10 Moorgate  
London EC2R 6DA  
[www.baringfoundation.org.uk](http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk)  
Twitter: @baring\_found  
October 2021  
ISBN: 978-1-906172-56-5

MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
FINLAND

KAAPALI

ARMAS

# 4

## Language courses



## Language courses

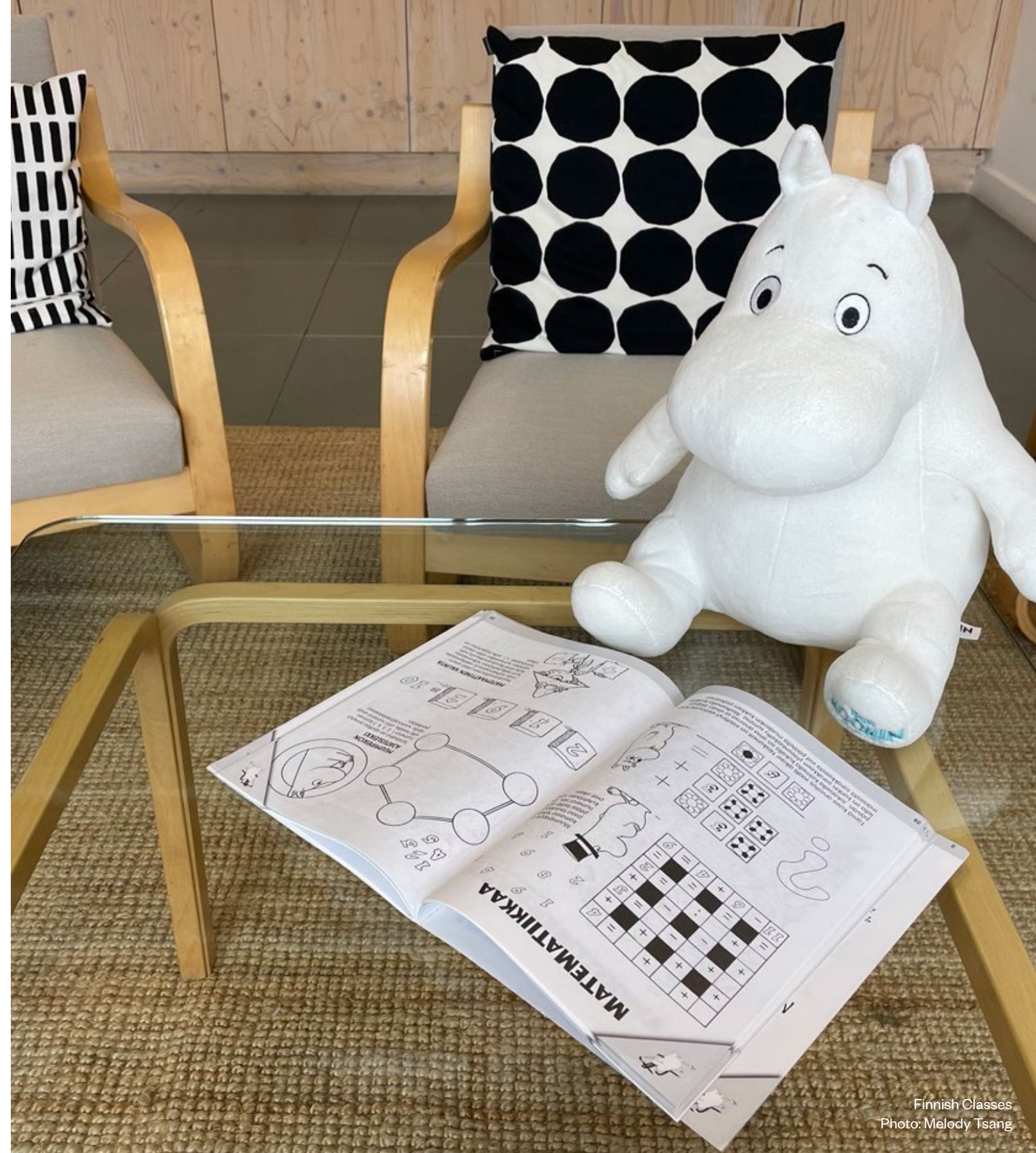
The Institute arranges Finnish language courses for adult learners. Language courses were held weekly over three terms in 2022. Course levels ran from absolute beginners to advanced. The classes took place online and at the Institute.

A total of 114 students studied at the Institute during the year with the teacher Teija Perttilä. The income from the courses supports the institute's programme budget.

---

Students

114





**” Amazing course and teacher,  
I look forward to it and I really  
appreciate how affordable it  
is for everyone – Kiitos!**

Quote from the Finnish language course participants

# 5

## Economy and administration

# 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 (780,000€ in 2022). Government support is essential in order to achieve relevant partnerships and develop a high-quality programme.

In 2022, additional funding was received from the Swedish Cultural Foundation and the Wihuri Foundation. The Institute also secured funding for the year 2023 from the Wihuri Foundation.

## **The board of the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland Trust**

Tommi Laitio, Chair  
Marianne Saarikko Janson, Vice Chair  
Jeremiah Tesolin  
Rebecca Walton  
Leif Jakobsson  
Mari K Niemi

In 2022 the board convened 6 times. One meeting was held in person in Glasgow, three online and two were held as email meetings.

## **Staff and interns at the Institute**

Director  
Jaakko Nousiainen

Director of Arts Programme  
Karoliina Korpilahti

Director of Society Programme  
Neicia Marsh

Project assistant  
Annika Pellonpää

Communications intern Sanni Lappalainen, 10.1.–9.11.2022, supported by the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI), remotely in Finland

Goldsmiths' College Art Administration and Cultural Policy MA programme work placement, Yuting Yen, 23.2.–25.5.2022

# 6

## Appendix: Further Projects

## Further Projects

The Institute organised or funded 130 events, exhibitions and functions during the year. Throughout the year it was very obvious that people participating in our activities were relieved and happy that the coronavirus related restrictions were no longer in place. Physical gatherings were not only welcomed but also appreciated to a new level.

**20.1.-17.2.**

**James Prevett: Things for Homes / Homes for Things**

**Communications (project funding in 2021)**

The research project called Things for Homes / Homes for Things explored peoples relationship to sculpture in the home. It was commissioned by the Thamesmead Arts and Culture Office (TACO!). As a part of this project, James Prevett and writer Annie May Demozay created Conversation Pieces, a series of audio programmes where they interviewed people in their homes about things they keep around them.

**9.2.-11.4.**

**Below Zero open call Co-commission**

Below Zero, the unique UK based contemporary art prize for Finnish artists emerging on the international scene, returns to Beaconsfield London in 2023, in association with the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, in collaboration with Serlachius Museums. The open call for the 2023 edition resulted in 70 applications.

**2.-13.3.**

**Glasgow Film Festival**

**Travel support**

This year's Glasgow Film Festival featured Finnish films 'The Blind Man Who Did Not Want to See Titanic' and 'The Gravediggers' Wife'.

**7.-31.3.**

**Artist Residency Swap in Ireland**

**Production and travel support**

Finland-based artists Valentina Gelain and Bekim Hasaj visited Ireland as a part of Artist Residency Swap programme.

**7.3.**

**Sámi Pavilion launch event at the ICA**

**Production support**

The Nordic Sámi Pavilion launch at the ICA featured a panel discussion with the artists Pauliina Feodoroff, Anders Sunna and Máret Ánne Sara, followed by a screening of short films by Ann Holmgren, Marja Helander and Elle Marja Gaup.

**16.-17.3.**

**Screenings of Girl Picture + Q&A with director Alli Haapasalo at BFI Flare**

**Travel support**

Director Alli Haapasalo's Girl Picture was screened at BFI Flare Film Festival on 16 and 17 March. The film was featured at the opening gala of the BFI Flare on 16 March with the director attending for an audience Q&A.

**14.4.-19.6.**

**Juha Pekka Matias Laakkonen's exhibition at Gasworks**

**Production support**

Juha Pekka Matias Laakkonen's exhibition at Gasworks presented a newly-commissioned performance and large-scale sculpture called Framed Sea Cow. Like with many of Laakkonen's works, this new work had a performative element. Over the span of the durational performance Laakkonen created a wooden replica of a sea cow based on a skeleton documented by German explorer Georg Wilhelm Steller in 1742. The extinction of the sea cow only a few decades after its

scientific "discovery" is the first historical extinction of a marine mammal at human hands. Laakkonen brought Steller's sea cow back into existence by carefully crafting and assembling the wooden skeleton based solely on the written description provided by Steller in the 18th century. The exhibition was the first UK institutional solo exhibition by Juha Pekka Matias Laakkonen.

**1.5.-30.6.**

**Temple Bar Gallery+Studios residency/HIAP International Residency Exchange**

**Residency support**

Miranda Blennerhassett and Jack Faber were chosen for the residencies taking place in Helsinki and Dublin. Miranda Blennerhassett spent three months in residency at Helsinki International Artist Programme (HIAP) from February to May 2022, while Jack Faber's two-month residency is still ongoing until June 2022 at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios in Dublin.

## 5.5.-29.8.

### Eyes as Big as Plates at Barbican's Our Time on Earth

#### Production support

Eyes as Big as Plates is an ongoing collaborative photography and sculpture project by Norwegian-Finnish artist duo Karoline Hjorth and Riitta Ikonen. What started out as an exploration of depictions of characters from Nordic folklore has since evolved into a continual search for modern human's belonging to nature. The images in the series present solitary figures in a landscape, dressed in elements from surroundings that indicate neither time nor place. In the images, nature acts as both content and context: characters literally inhabit the landscape wearing sculptures they create in collaboration with the artists.

Eyes as Big as Plates formed a part of the Barbican's Our Time on Earth exhibition. The exhibition, created with guest curators Caroline Till and Kate Franklin, displayed artistic dynamic responses to the climate emergency with perspectives spanning art,

science, activism – and more. By bringing together actors from various fields, the exhibition highlighted the need to work together across disciplines to tackle climate change together. The exhibition displayed news ideas about the way we live, where technology brings us closer to nature, and indigenous insight reconnects us to our roots.

## 7.5.

### In Short Europe Film Festival

#### Co-commission

On the occasion of Europe Day, EUNIC London, the EU Delegation to the United-Kingdom and the Institut français du Royaume-Uni teamed up to present In Short, Europe, a festival highlighting the outstanding short film work from 25 European countries in animation, fiction and documentary. In Short, Europe was a celebration of relationships, however weird and wonderful, a celebration of loving encounters.

## 16.-21.5.

### #StopHatredNow - Practising Coexistence

#### Project support

#StopHatredNow is an intercultural and anti-racist platform organised in collaboration with several art and intercultural organisations. It strives to create discourse and offers tools to create a more inclusive, diverse and feminist art field. #StopHatredNow is aimed in particular at individual artists, cultural influencers, and institutions of art and culture, but anyone interested in the topics is welcome. The 2022 event was organised as a hybrid event, with most of the events being held online on Zoom, with some physical events in Helsinki.

## 28.5.

### Juha Pekka Matias Laakkonen: Flock of Birds

#### Production support

As part of Juha Pekka Matias Laakkonen's exhibition Buoyancy at Gasworks, Laakkonen expanded on his durational and process-based approach and presented his first ever musical performance. It was

presented at Montgomery Hall Community Centre, and it was devised in workshops together with a professional composer and non-professional musicians.

Laakkonen's work reflects on the impact of human interactions with the environment, while also tackling wider existential questions around time, death and the limits of scientific knowledge.

## 23.6.

### Finnish Poetry Night at the European Poetry Festival

#### Travel support

Finnish Poetry Night celebrated contemporary Finnish poetry through collaboration and performance. The featured poets included Sini Silveri and Milka Luhtaniemi. The Finnish poets visited London to share their work with brand new collaborations, made for the event, with British-based counterparts. Supported by a fantastic array of European poets, also sharing new works in duos, this event showcased the vital, vivid and innovative poetry of one of Europe's most expansive poetry scenes.

## 24.6.

### We Should All Be Dreaming

#### Co-commission

We Should All Be Dreaming is an ongoing practice initiated in 2018 by artist-activist duo Sonya Lindfors and Maryan Abdulkarim. The project focuses on the radical potential of decolonial dreaming as a restorative and subversive practice and materialises through different iterations that are always context specific.

We Should All Be Dreaming invites people to spend time listening and dreaming together in an attempt to collectively imagine new futures. Situating itself somewhere between a collective think tank, a choreographed gathering and a performance the project invited participants to radically dream of new utopian futures together.

We Should All Be Dreaming was a part of the AISTIT Coming to our senses project, and the publication Words Make Worlds was published alongside.



LifeLine event / Photo: Jaakko Nousiainen

## 16.7.

### LifeLine event

#### Co-funder

LifeLine featured a community cast of 150 people from all walks of life who performed Europe's largest highwire spectacle over the River Corrib in the heart of Galway City. LifeLine drew on the transformative power of circus arts to deliver wellbeing impact and provoke discourse on mental health across the island of Ireland. The event's main organiser was Galway Community Circus. The institute supports their work.

LifeLine culminated with the world premiere of BassAlto, a visual and poetic circus show by a new all-female company of professional wirewalkers performing alongside ten local community performers. BassAlto was created as part of a Creative Europe funded co-operation project between Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Galway Community Circus, The Serious Road Trip Romania, Université libre de Bruxelles and the European Funambulism Network.

## 16.7.

### Finding Balance: A Workshop & Discussion about Youth and Mental Health

#### Co-commission

Institute, Jigsaw Galway and Galway Community Circus organised a youth mental health panel discussion on the practical ways we can take care of our mental wellbeing.

The event aimed to respond to the themes being investigated within Galway Community Circus' Lifeline highwire spectacle and will focus on understanding mental health, having a greater awareness of what helps and hurts our mental health, and recognising what helps and blocks us from accessing support.

## 21.7. The Happiness Project book launch

**Co-funder**  
MAP6 & The Photographers' Gallery held a photography social and a book launch for Finland: The Happiness Project on 21 July. MAP6 visited Finland to try to understand why its people are so happy. The resulting nine projects with diverse viewpoints questions and presents ideas about how we can live healthier, happier and more positive lives. The Institute supported the production of the book.

## 14.8. Undocumented Love by the Finnish National Theatre at Journeys Festival

**Co-commission**  
Undocumented Love was an evening of live music from Finnish duo Sanna and Ali, who perform Middle Eastern folk and pop music as well as new arrangements and original compositions. The show was produced by the Finnish National Theatre. Ali Saad and Sanna Salmenkallio are an Iraqi-Finnish duo, exploring

Arabic and European culture through music. In their work, ancient Arabic poetry and decorative styles meet Northern minimalism to create a spellbinding new sound.

## 23.9.-29.9.

**Dido's Bar**  
**Co-funding**  
Set in a music club, teetering on the edge of belonging, Dido's Bar was a new immersive theatre and music production. It is an epic retelling of Virgil's Aeneid, a story of migration, love and assimilation. It is retold for the 21st century through the eyes of refugees today, and created and performed by a multilingual international ensemble of actor-musicians. The work is inspired by Dash Arts director Josephine Burton's encounter with Kurdish Iranian refugee and now Finnish resident, composer Marouf Majidi. Dido's Bar was performed in London, Manchester, Leicester, Portsmouth and Oxford. The cast also included the Finnish actor Tuukka Leppänen, and Riku Kantola was in charge of music and sound arrangements, as well as sound design direction.

## 27.9.-2.10. Encounters Film Festival

**Co-funding**  
Rooted in Bristol, each September the Encounters Short Film festival supports and nurtures new talent in animation, short film and VR by providing a platform for emerging and established filmmakers from around the world. In 2022 the festival selected the following Finnish films as part of their programme: Flying Potato (dir. Elina Oikari), Le Saboteur (dir. Anssi Kasitonni), My Home (dir. Azar Sayar), Primal Therapy (dir. Santtu Salminen). The Institute supported the directors' travel to the festival.

## 6.10. The Other Approach discussion event

**Co-production**  
The Other Approach examined 'living' as suggested by Finnish architecture, which is often qualified as being at a crossroads: of the vernacular and modernism, of the East and West, of natural and high-tech, of the nightless night and of round-the-clock darkness. From such an in-between space, do we

have particular insight into mediating between the opposites and extremes that define contemporary life – into approaches that challenge, complement and contradict the global status quo? This event considered a range of topics from the diversity of living to anarchistic work homes and Nordic Noir in architecture.

The event included a keynote speech from Teemu Kurkela (JKMM Architects) and introductory talks by Finnish architects from the University of Cambridge: Prof Dr Minna Sunikka-Blank (Churchill College), Dr Sofia Singler (Homerton College), Prof Dr Antti Ahlava (Clare Hall College and Aalto University).

## 8.10. Pajtim Statovci in London and Brighton

**Travel support**  
Finnish novelist Pajtim Statovci came to the UK to celebrate the publication of his new novel BOLLA on 7-8 October, with appearances in London and Brighton.

## 8.-9.10. Tom of Finland VR

**Co-production**  
Tom House the VR (Virtual Reality) Experience is a documentary virtual reality piece that immerses the viewer into the rooms of 1421 Laveta Terrace, better known as Tom House. It is the former Los Angeles residence of the legendary artist Tom of Finland (1920 – 1991), where he mastered his artwork and lived over the last decade of his life.

The VR experience is produced by Donkey Hotel, a studio of award winning filmmakers and digital creatives in Helsinki, Finland. Co-commissioned by the Institute, the work is directed and written by Márton Jelinkó and Carlos Marroquin and produced by Sami Jahnukainen. The final work will be ready in 2023. A demo version of the piece was shown at the Tom of Finland Festival weekend in Shoreditch, London, arranged by the Tom of Finland Foundation.

## 12.-14.10. Wolf Safari at Fierce Festival

**Travel and production support**  
Wolf Safari is a participatory performance based on a collective exercise in which the participants form a pack of wolves that wander around the city space at night. The transformation from human to wolf is based on a simple set of behavioural patterns borrowed from wolves and adapted for humans. In the performance the participants howl like wolves, search each other, create a pack and go hunting for an animal of prey. After the hunt, the participants participate in a final discussion to share their experiences and findings.

Wolf Safari is performed by The Other Spaces collective, which is one of the most influential and international Live Art groups in Finland. The group's artistic work is based on collective bodily exercises and participatory performances that enable an experiential contact with non-human forms and phenomena, in other words "visits into other spaces".

## 5.-16.10. BFI London Film Festival

**Travel support**  
The annual BFI Film Festival featured four Finnish films this year: The Woodcutter Story, Eight Deadly Shots, Boy From Heaven and Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power.

## 18.10.

**On Cohabiting**  
**Co-production**  
On Cohabiting was a discussion, walk, and a screening event focusing on Chiswick Eyot, a small island on the river Thames. The event was a part of the ongoing work by artist Arja Renell and is based on her long term enquiry into the disappearance of the eyot due to Mitten Crab and Himalayan Balsam.

## 28.10.-1.11. A Weekend of Feeling Wor(I)ds

**Travel and production support**  
Correspondence is an age-old method for being in touch, keeping in touch, and exchanging experiences, feelings and stories. Feeling Wor(I)ds proposes a method of corresponding with one another's practices,

responding with thoughts, questions, experiences, work in progress – slowly feeling them out in relation. As a part of the project Camille Auer, Ashanti Harris, Katharine Macfarlane, and Astrida Neimanis exchanged words and worlds through a process of email correspondence from May to September. A Weekend of Feeling Wor(I)ds was built on that correspondence and produced a programme of performances, sound works, sensory exercises, collective research, and publication making on Skye. The Institute supported Camille Auer's participation in the project.

## 12.11. Leeds International Film Festival: Blue Note by Pavel Andonov

**Travel support**  
Pavel Andonov's Blue Note was shown as part of the Not to Touch the Earth programme, and also competed in the international short film competition. Blue Note was awarded with a special mention in the competition.



10.11.22-31.1.23

### EGS' Winter Letters at Southbank Centre's Winter Festival

#### Co-production

Southbank Centre's annual Winter Lights festival included a commission by internationally renowned Finnish graffiti artist EGS, whose piece 'Winter Letters' brings together the craft of glassblowing and the medium of light to create a striking and unforgettable sculpture.

18.-26.11.

### Baltic Circle International Theatre Festival

#### Travel support

The 19th iteration of the international theatre festival Baltic Circle took place from the 18 to the 26 November 2022 in Helsinki, Finland. The festival included performances from rampa associations who are an international working group of chronically sick artists, "inviting precarious perspectives". The group's starting point in 2022 has been questioning the systematic demands of productivity and performing. Each artist seeking for their

perspective, they together create a performance-event of contradictory voices. The group practises collective art-making, care-taking, connecting, access-creating, and consenting, in the time of COVID19.

26.11.

### Helka Kaski's Paperworksbody at Fest-en-Fest

#### Travel and production support

The Institute supported Finnish dance artist Helka Kaski performance 'Paperworksbody' during this year's Fest en Fest. The performance is a combination of the performers' movements and materials, like rolls of paper and threads. As a result, it constitutes a landscape which transforms at its own pace, and participation is coincidental.

1.12.

### Institute's Christmas Reception

#### Networking

The institute organised its annual Christmas reception for its stakeholders and network.

11.12.

### Finnish/Female/Feminist Filmmakers at Close-Up Film Centre

#### Production support

Close-Up Film Centre brought a programme of 10 short films by pioneering Finnish female filmmakers from 1960s to 1990s. The programme featured films for example from Eila Kaarresalo, Marjut Rimminen and Marja Pensala, all screened on 16mm prints. Curator Milja Mikkola of Midnight Sun Film Festival introduced the programme, and the screenings were followed by a Q&A with director Marjut Rimminen who was presented by four films in the programme.



The Days. Ville Oinonen and Maria Nurmela / Photo: Karoliina Korvuo

### TelepART

The institute supported the following events through its TelepART mobility programme:

14.1.-31.5.

**Esko Suoranta**, research visit, Birmingham

8.-27.3.

**Agit-Cirk + Makeshift Company**, Ghost Town performance, Helsinki

12.3.

**Cucina Povera**, music, Sonica Glasgow

21.-25.3.

**John Court**, performance and artist talk, Belfast International Festival of Performance Art

26.3.

**Charity Kase**, performance, International Helsinki Drag Art Festival

19.4.

**Elina Mustonen**, concert, Cambridge Early Music

19.-29.4.

**The Days**, dance performance, Salford, Nottingham, London, Bath, Calstock, Ashburton

1.-4.6.

**Tonny Kirabira**, research visit, University of Tampere

8.6. & 27.7.

**MOÏ MOÏ collective**, Matter of Course, dance, London

28.-30.6.

**Avril Tynan**, research visit, University of Chichester

2.-7.7.

**Pippa Reid-Foster and Eva Alkula**, concert, Janakkala, Tampere, Helsinki

9.7.

**Islaja**, concert, Beaconsfield, London

18.-20.7.

**Taneli Puputti**, research visit, Oxford University

30.7.

**Johanna Juhola**, concert, WOMAD Festival

24.-26.8.

**Stephen Mottram**, performance, SAMPO Festival

3.-9.9.

**Elvin Brandhi and Nural Moser**, performances, Drifts Festival

16.-17.9.

**Jake Dupree**, performance, Second International Queerlesque Festival, Helsinki

8.10.

**Twenty Years Later – Still Here!**, performance, Cirko Helsinki

12.-16.10.

**Music in the Glen**, concert, Irish Festival of Oulu

26.10.-4.11.

**Silvia Manazzone's The Cannoneer**, performance, Ekata Theatre, Helsinki

12/2022-1/2023

**Amin Labbaf**, research visit, University of Edinburgh

### Travel support

The Institute supported the following professionals' travel to Finland:

**Freddie Opoku-Addaie** (Dance Umbrella) + **Jazmin Chiodi** (Dublin Dance Festival), travel to Ice Hot Helsinki

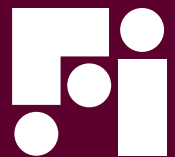
**Tim Harrison**, curator of We Live Here art project

**Chris McCormack** / Art Monthly to ARS22 and Elastic Alliances exhibition openings

**Nadine Khalil**, freelance journalist to ARS22

**Canan Batur**, curator of live programmes, Nottingham Contemporary, Frame Contemporary Art Finland's Rehearsing Hospitalities event

**Tony Mills**, Dance Base (Scottish National Centre for Dance)



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