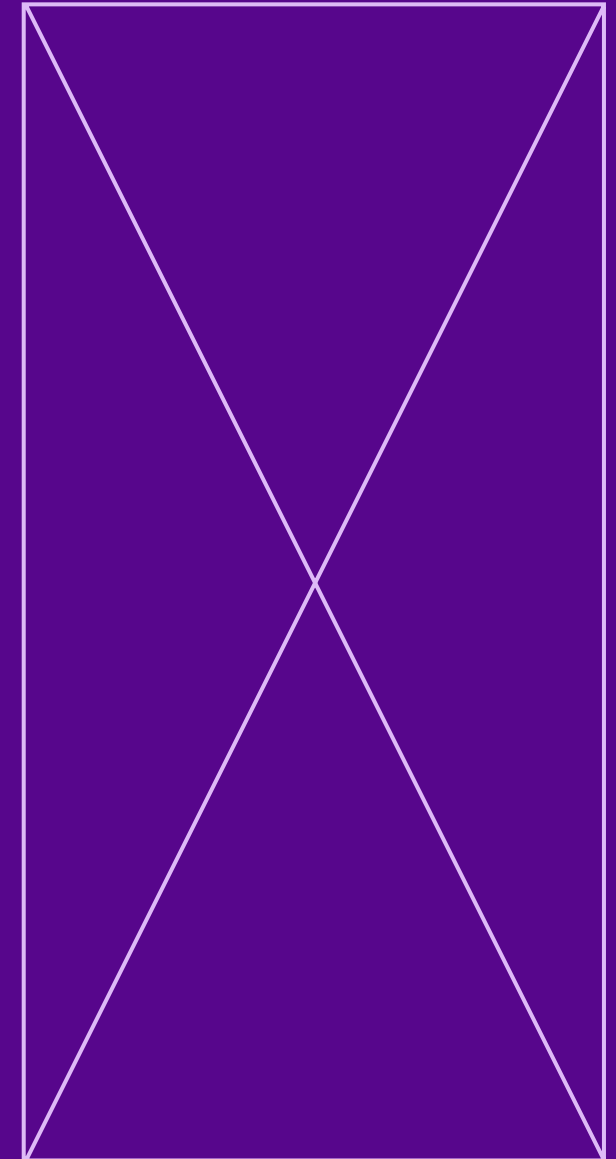
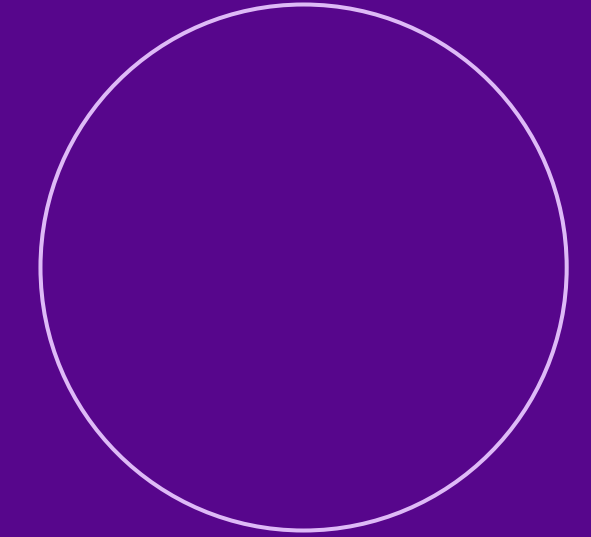
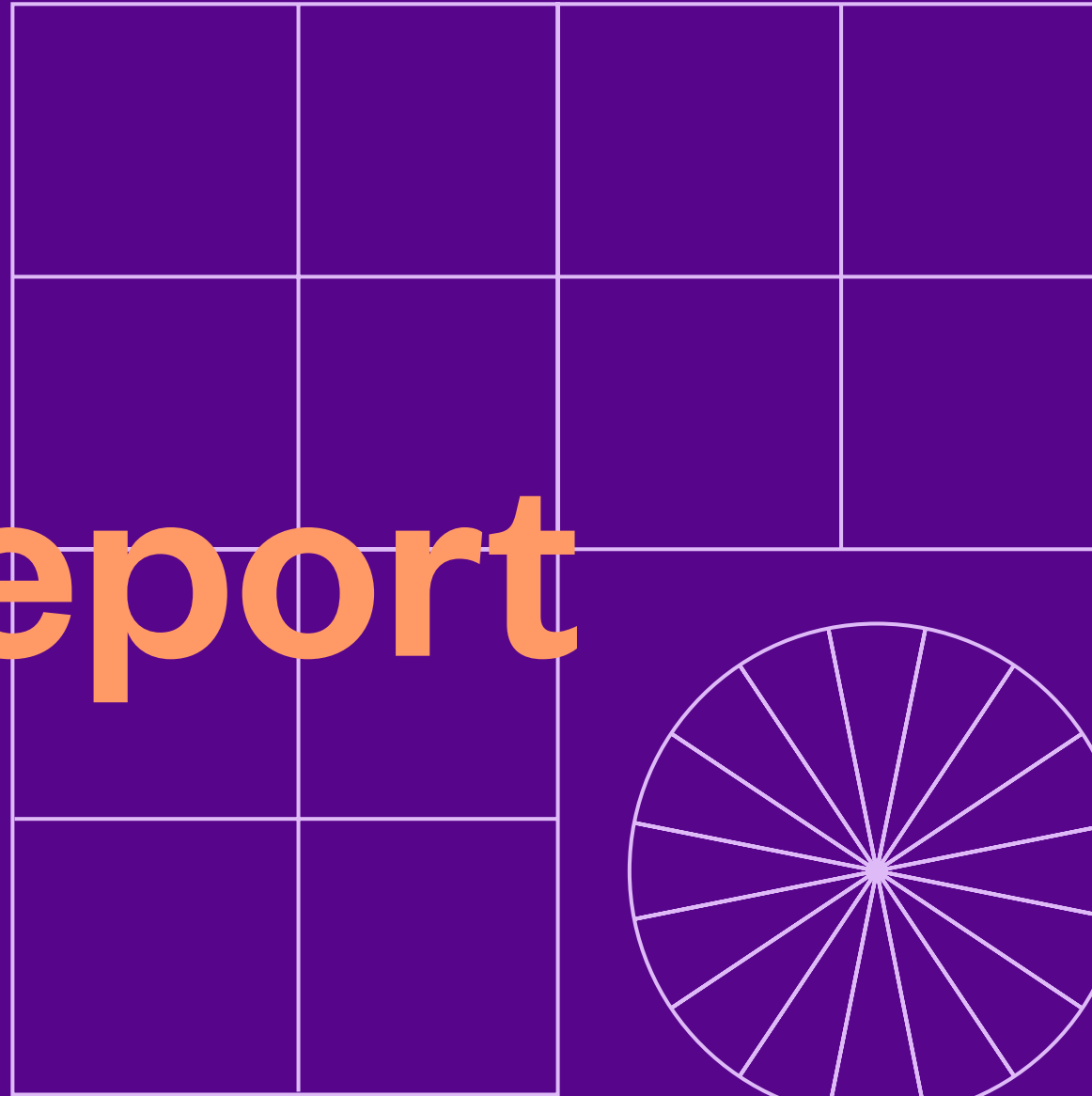


Annual Report 2021





” Important part of building the overall correct, positive, professional, creative, innovative picture of Finland in the UK/Ireland.

1 Summary

Summary

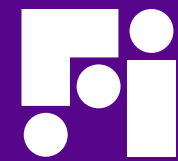
The year 2021 was an exceptional year in the Institute's history. Due to the effects of Brexit and the prolonged coronavirus pandemic, the Institute's operating environment changed dramatically. In practice all indoor gatherings and public events were cancelled for the first months of the year, forcing the Institute to work remotely, relying solely on online programming. In addition, Britain's new visa regulations posed further challenges for international mobility.

This combination of challenges created many uncertainties and insecurities in the Institute's partner network. The cultural sector in particular was hit hard by the pandemic. Many organisations and individuals in our network faced economic struggles, and had to find new ways to survive the dire circumstances.

As a reaction to these issues the Institute increased and developed its online programming and sought to relay the latest information on work visa regulations to the Finnish professionals and institutions in our network. We also grew and emphasised outdoor programming, which could be carried out in a safe socially distanced manner.

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 2021, the Arts programme focused on contemporary art, audiovisual art, circus and sustainability in artistic practice. The Society programme focused on diversity and bringing underrepresented artists into focus. The Institute also supports artists' and specialists' travel and international collaborations.



FINNISH
INSTITUTE
UK+IRELAND

Internally, the year brought many changes for the Institute. Two new Programme Directors were recruited in the spring and they started their three-year tenures in August. With the new programme team the Institute focuses on developing new ways of working with our partner organisations to meet the challenges of the post-Brexit and post-Covid cultural landscape, where also the issues of sustainability, cultural diversity and inclusivity are pertinent.

Despite the uncertainties and disruptions that shadowed 2021, the Institute remained a highly desired partner. Finnish social models, experts and artists have been of great interest. The Institute developed its partner network especially in Scotland, where many cultural and societal organisations are actively looking for new connections in the Nordic countries. We are also promoting more effective and long-term programming in Ireland, which, as an EU country, offers a more agile environment in terms of mobility.

The global network of the Finnish Institutes has built more direct collaborations and joint activities during the pandemic, most notably in the form of the Together Again project, which secured new funding to continue until 2023. In its framework eight new artistic projects, led by Finnish and Finland-based artists, were commissioned in 2021. We also continued to strengthen our collaboration with the Nordic embassies in London, the Finnish Embassy in Ireland, team Finland and EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture). The Finnish language school continued in hybrid format, following the coronavirus-related recommendations.

Jaakko Nousiainen
 Director
 London, 31.1.2022

1

The Institute celebrated its 30th birthday all through the year with a publication highlighting social innovations that promote equality. The comic book *An Equal Future – Inspiring Social Innovations from Finland, the UK and Ireland* was published in Finnish, Swedish and English along with a supporting series of online events that reached a worldwide audience as well as international media attention.

2

In the summer, the London Design Biennale featured a Finnish pavilion for the first time. *Empathy Echo Chamber*, created by artist-designer Enni-Kukka Tuomala and commissioned by the Institute, challenged ideas of polarising and isolating echo chambers of our digital world. The London Design Biennale was one of the first major cultural events of the year in London that people were able to attend in person indoors. This made the work that was built around the idea of one-on-one meetings and conversations timely and resonant.

3

Other main projects of the year included *AISTIT / coming to our senses* and its London chapter *Weaving, yearning*, a public sound installation by artists Kalle Nio and Hans Rosenström in London's King's Cross. As a whole, *AISTIT / coming to our senses* was a large-scale contemporary art programme in five European countries, commissioned and co-produced with the Finnish Institute Benelux, Institut Finlandais and Finnland Institut in Deutschland. The artworks were also presented in Helsinki as part of the Helsinki Festival, where *Weaving, yearning* gained a lot of positive attention.

4

As outdoor pieces, both *Weaving, yearning* and another of our programme highlights, a Tove Jansson themed nature trail that was created at Europe's largest urban wetlands, Walthamstow Wetlands in London, could be enjoyed safely, maintaining social distancing. The Tove Jansson trail was particularly popular as a day trip destination in the summer.

5

The year came to an end with a pertinent exhibition by the Sámi artists Outi Pieski, *The 47 Most Wanted Foremothers*, which explored the colonisation of the mind and body in Indigenous Sámi women's history through the lens of an object, the ládjogahpir hat.

1



2



3



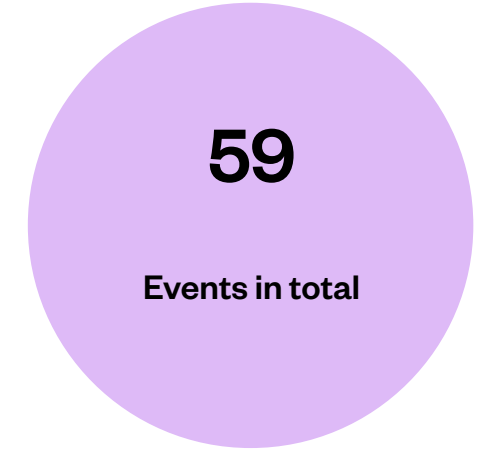
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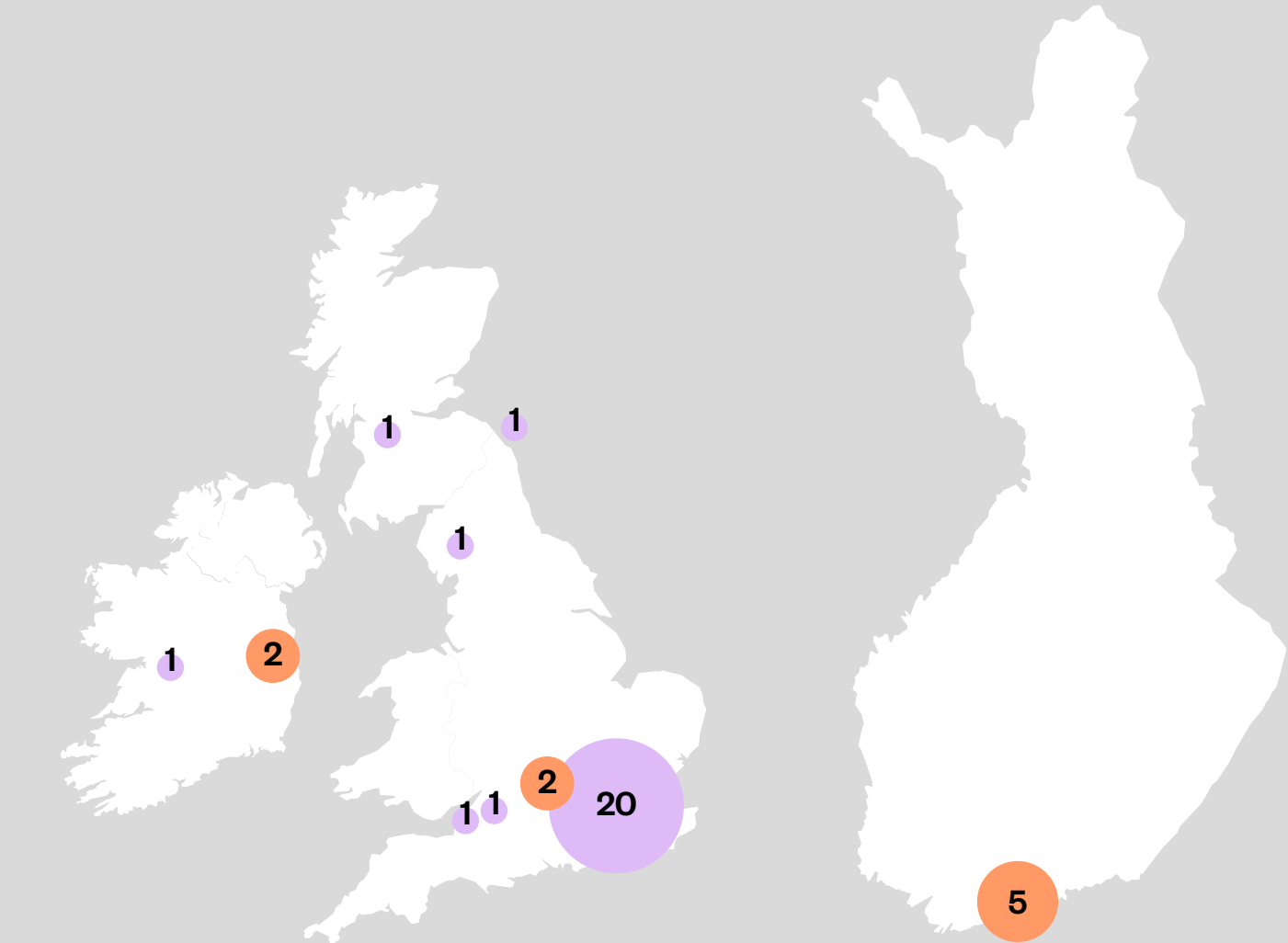
5



2021 key figures



Events in numbers	11 Audiovisual arts
5 Film	1 Performing arts
2 Design	5 Music
14 Contemporary arts	2 Comics
1 Theatre	3 Photography
13 Society	2 Other



In Ireland:
1 event in Galway
2 events in Dublin

In the UK:
20 events in London
1 event in Lindisfarne
2 events in Oxford
1 event in Glasgow
1 event in Clevedon
1 event in Bradford-on-Avon
1 event in Kendal

In Finland:
5 events in Helsinki

” Valuable work with
a positive attitude.



2

Mission and setting

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 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 and 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 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 continued coronavirus pandemic, 2021 was heavily affected by the aftermath of Britain leaving the European Union. Most notably new visa regulations and rules caused confusion and worry in the arts sector in particular. Some of The Institute’s long term partners and network members openly admitted to taking a time-out to reassess the ways they support international exchange.

However, the new situation also strengthened the Institute’s bilateral relationships. The Institute took an active role in sharing new visa-related information and arranged a webinar, targeted to Finnish performing arts professionals and organisations, on new regulations and work visas needed for performing in the UK.

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), the Nordic countries’ 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 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 policymaking. Individual targets are set for each project, and impact measurement is carried out in relation to those targets.

Media highlights

The biggest media hits of the year were *Empathy Echo Chamber* at the London Design Biennale, which was featured, among others, on the Evening Standard, Financial Times, Dezeen and Channel 4 News, the audio artwork *Weaving, yearning* as part of the AISTIT / *Coming to our senses* exhibition, which received a lot of positive attention in Finnish media, and the Tove Jansson nature trail in Walthamstow Wetlands in London, which was featured on The Observer in the UK and covered widely by STT Media in Finland.

dezeen



Enni-Kukka Tuomala creates inflatable chrome "echo chamber" for London Design Biennale

Dezeen 20.6.2021

Töölössä ihmetellään jokailtaista säntillisesti soivaa ”munkkilaulua”, joka alkaa hymistä vaimeasti auringonlaskun hetkellä

Etu-Töölössä on soinut iltaisin puoli yhdeksän aikoihin hymisevä, voimakkuudeltaan selvästi kuultava musiikki. Alueen asukkaat ovat arvuutelleet sen alkuperää.



Weaving, yearning -ääniteos johdattaa kuulijat Taidehallin edustalta Temppeliaukion kirkolle. KUVA: SAARA AUTERE / HELSINGIN JUHLAVIIKOT

Helsingin Sanomat 3.9.2021

The Observer
Tove Jansson



Susannah Clapp

@susannahclapp

Sat 5 Jun 2021 16.30 BST



How Tove Jansson's love of nature shaped the world of the Moomins



Tove Jansson and Tuulikki Pietilä on the island of Klovharun. Photograph: Per Olov Jansson

The Finnish artist's work was hugely influenced by her passion for the great outdoors - in particular the tiny island of Klovharun

The Observer 5.7.2021

Tove Janssonin rakkaus saareen värittää lontoolaisen kos-teikkoalueen - ja viesti on vielä-kin ajankohtainen



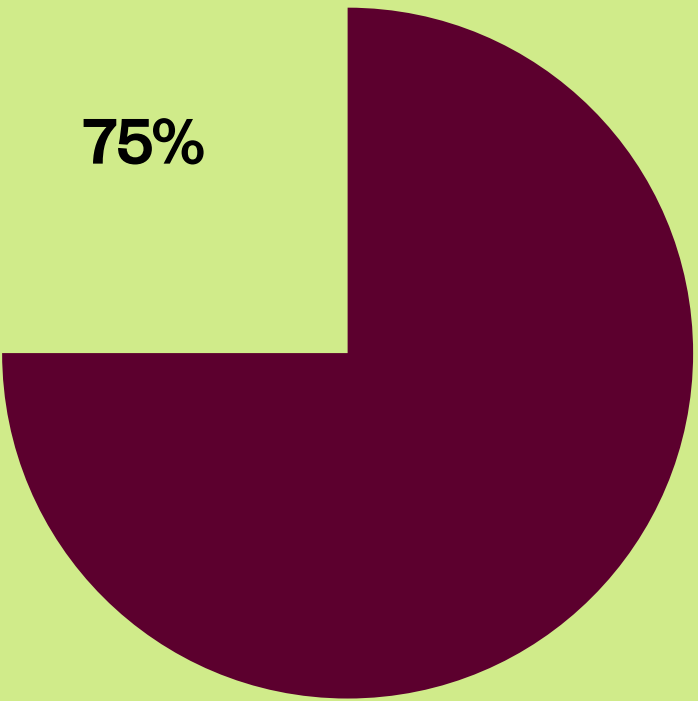
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STT 18.6.2021

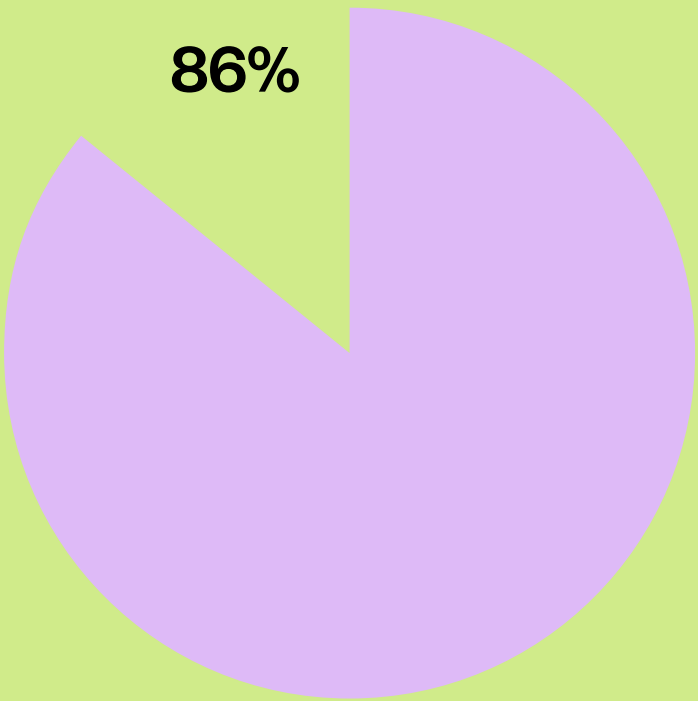
Stakeholder survey

The Institute produced an annual stakeholder survey in December to measure and highlight its impact in its operational areas. Responses to the 2021 survey were positive: all of the respondents expressed that they agree or strongly agree with the statement that ‘the Institute contributed to positive change through connecting people’.

Quotes that can be found in this Annual report are derived from our stakeholder survey’s feedback.



All of the 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’. 75% of respondents felt that the Institute ‘espoused the core values of equality and transparency through its work’.

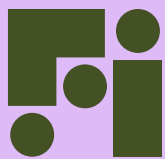


86% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Institute’s work is felt to be meaningful and relevant to its partners and audiences. All respondents would recommend the Finnish Institute as a prospective collaborator.

Strategy 2021–2023

The Institute’s strategy strongly guides both programme planning and the development of the partner network.

Diverse,
Inclusive and
Influential



FINNISH
INSTITUTE
UK+IRELAND

Mission

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.

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 seize opportunities and create possibilities for new collaborations and present relevant and engaging cultural events and projects. We support Finnish artists, researchers, as well as social and cultural actors. We promote equality and the diversity of Finnish culture and strive to diversify research and science globally.

The Institute runs two programmes: Arts and Society. This division is primarily internal and serves the designation of responsibilities. However, the external and strategic objectives of the two programmes coincide, which is why we in particular seek to support projects that combine artistic expertise and quality with social relevance and importance.

The Institute works to ease social tensions. We build dialogue through culture. Our operations are guided by social responsibility, equality, sustainable development, openness and transparency.



” Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland is forward-looking, international, meaningful, human sized, (e)quality and thoughtfulness in the core.

3

Activities

Activities

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Institute organised or funded 59 exhibitions, events and functions during the year. Of these events, 34 were physical and 25 took place online. The activities reached about 909,000 people.

The coronavirus pandemic forced the Institute to rapidly adapt its programming online in 2020. We learnt by doing and developed best practices along the way. This helped us in planning our 2021 programming and we were able to create meaningful online encounters between our stakeholders, despite also sensing the symptoms of growing online fatigue that started to creep in and affect both our audiences and expert network members as the pandemic continued.

Online events have allowed us to reach geographically wider audiences all the way from Asia to North America. Working with online events has also increased our agility:

It is faster to produce an online event than a real life event with several participants – they can be in various geographical locations at the same time. This has given us the opportunity to present the ideas of Finnish experts and professionals to a much wider audience when compared to in-person events.

However, online events typically suffer from a weaker sense of community. Audience members may also easily feel disengaged and passive. To prevent this from happening, the Institute put a lot of effort on good online facilitation, hoping that this would give our audiences an increased sense of security and lowering the threshold of joining in conversations.

Online events also reminded us of the importance of real life events and gatherings. In a situation where we could no longer could take them for granted, we have been able to rekindle the appreciation of people gathered together for a shared experience. The Institute’s work in creating these encounters feels more important than ever before.

Online events:

4.1. The Institute’s new name and identity launch

The Institute’s name was officially changed to Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. The decision to change the name arose from a recognised need to have a name that would better and more inclusively reflect the Institute’s geographic operating environment. The name was announced together with the new visual identity designed by Emmi Salonen from Studio Emmi. The UK Design press gave positive coverage for the identity.

5.1. Dogs Don’t Wear Pants at the South Social Film Festival
A film by J-P Valkeapää was screened at the online festival.

25.1. An Equal Future comic book was published online

26.1. Reinventing education webinar
With Embassies in London and Dublin and Business Finland

5.2. Juan delGado at the British Museum
The British Museum organised an online screening of Juan delGado’s artistic documentary film *In the Shadow of the Midnight Sun*. The film was partly funded from the Institute’s Open Call in 2019. DelGado was also interviewed in the British Museum’s Hidden/ Revealed online series.

19.2. Bringing Light Art to London: Artists Leo Villareal and Teemu Määttänen in Conversation
Artists Leo Villareal and Teemu Määttänen both use technology and light to change the urban landscape. Both were exhibiting their work in London. Villareal’s major

public art commission *Illuminated River* lit up London’s iconic bridges while Määttänen’s *Noste* enlivened Southbank Centre’s facade. The artists discussed their work in an online conversation organised in collaboration with Illuminated River Foundation and the Embassy of Finland in London.

22.2. The Finnish Institute in collaboration with SICK! Open call
The Institute and SICK! Festival in Manchester called out for projects ideas for two new pieces of work dealing with key societal issues: one focusing on the mental health during the menopause, and another focusing on mental health of young men in today’s society and the challenges they face. Finnish NGO Kukunori’s application with a project proposal on gamification, music and young men’s mental health got selected. As this project required a lot of resources, the Institute and SICK! decided to dedicate

the whole open call budget for this project instead of commissioning two separate works.

2.–5.3. Glasgow Film Festival “Big vs Small” & “The Last Ones”
Two Finnish films were shown at the festival which took place online.

18.3. UCL UK Nordic Mobility Seminar
University College London organised a two-day online seminar about mobility between Nordic countries and the UK. Ninni Lehtniemi spoke at one of the panels.

19.3. Curatorial Ethics
Supported by the Institute, curator Mirjami Schuppert arranged an online workshop on curatorial ethics in collaboration with Void Gallery in Londonderry.

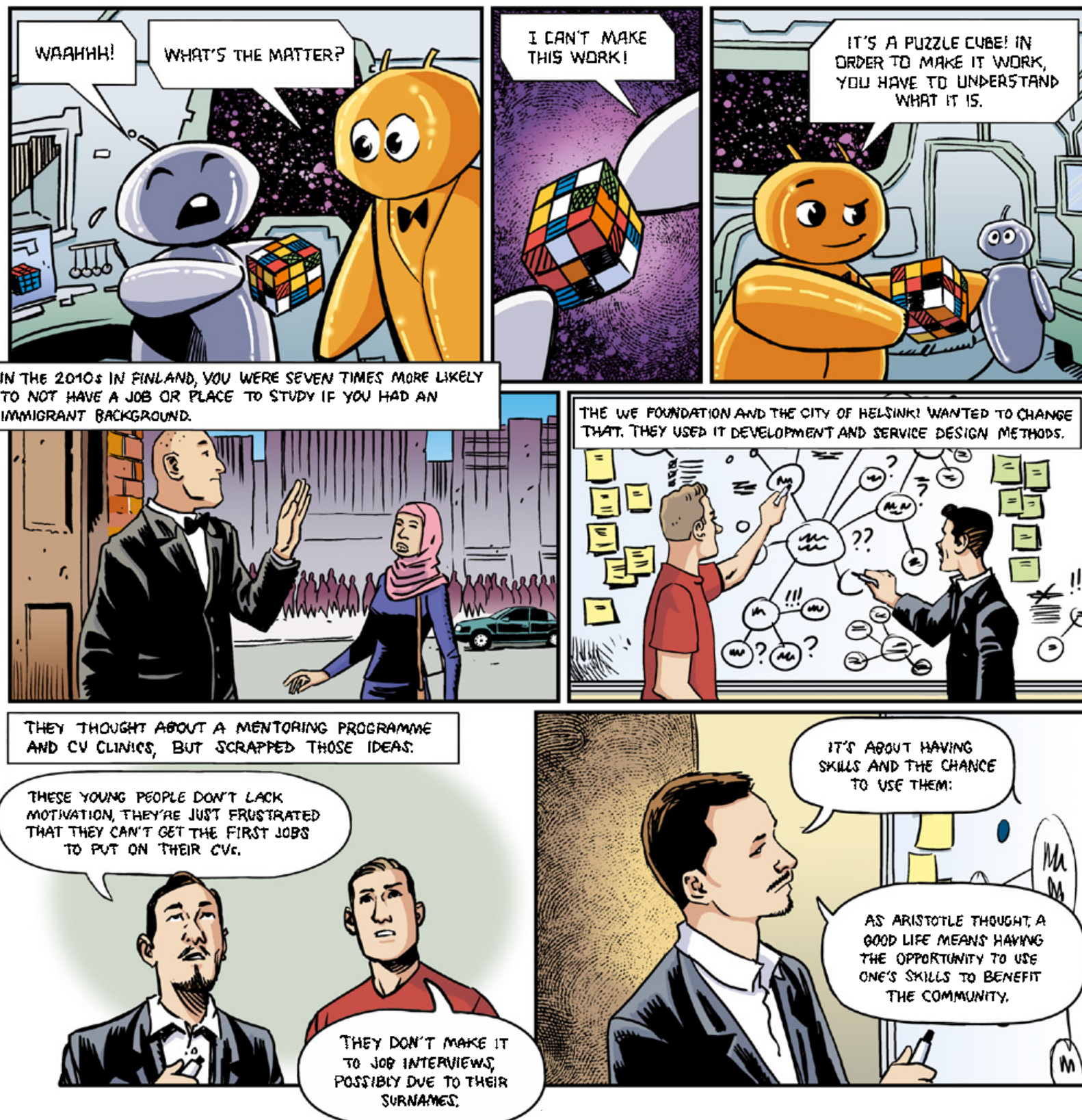


3.2.–5.5. An Equal Future – online events

The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland celebrates its 30th birthday with a publication highlighting social innovations that promote equality. The comic book *An Equal Future – Inspiring Social Innovations from Finland, the UK and Ireland* appears in Finnish, Swedish and English. The innovations were selected following interviews with experts from the three regions. Three leading comic artists worked on the book: Maria Björklund from Finland, Darryl Cunningham from England and PJ Holden from Northern Ireland.

Before the pandemic the plan was to promote the book through a campus tour around the UK, but the series of events was transferred online. The discussions expanded the books' theme and were documented by business illustrator Virpi Oinonen. The events reached a relevant, worldwide audience and even some international media attention.

JOB'D



3.2.

An Equal Future book launch, with Lakes International Comic Arts Festival

The event celebrated the artists and other people involved in the making of the book. The artists shared their experience. The conversation 'Turning social innovations into a comic book' was moderated by professor of sociology Andrew Miles from University of Manchester.

24.2.

Physically distanced, socially connected

Youth mental health and accessible free-time activities, with Galway Social Circus. As Covid-19 restrictions limited young people's access to free-time activities, we organised this highly topical conversation with Galway Social Circus. The topic was discussed by Pihla Aaltonen (Sekasin Chat), Juliette O'Donnell (Galway Community Circus) and Irma Sippola (City of Helsinki).

10.3.

The Finnish Baby Box Goes Global, with Finnish Embassy in London

The Finnish baby box served as a model for the Scottish baby box, introduced in 2017. Also the Welsh government is piloting a baby bundle model. Dr Annariina Koivu from University of Tampere, Ella Davidoff from the Welsh government, Maria Gray from the Scottish government and Heli Suominen from the Embassy discussed the Finnish maternity package model and its international applications. Japanese journalist Asaki Abumi attended the event and wrote a story based on it in The Asahi Shimbun Globe. The print edition has a circulation of 5 million copies.

8.4.

Universal Basic Income after the Pandemic, with RSA Scotland

Jamie Cooke from RSA Scotland, writer Tuomas Muraja and researcher Minna Ylikännö discussed the Finnish basic income trial and what it means for the future of basic income. The audience included designers of the Irish UBI trial and the conversation was featured in a story by Scottish newspaper The National.

29.4.

Empathy as a Radical Tool Workshop with Enni-Kukka Tuomala

Empathy artist and designer Enni-Kukka Tuomala directed a workshop that taught empathy for oneself, other people and the environment. Tickets were sold out.

5.5.

Europe Day Party with Pertti's Choice

The series of An Equal Future events ended with a party organised with Pertti's Choice artists. The night included a private view of Kalevi Helvetti's virtual gallery and musical performances by other Pertti's Choice artists.

15.-17.10.

An Equal Future at Lakes International Comic Art Festival

400 copies of the Institute's 30th anniversary publication highlighting social innovations that promote equality were distributed to visitors at Lakes International Comic Art Festival.

13.-14.11.

Helsinki Comics Festival

Helsinki Comics Festival's diverse programme featured the Institute's 30th anniversary publication An Equal Future alongside panel discussions, performances, workshops and a comics market for both larger publishers and small press authors.

31.3. **Beyond Populism: Arttu Rajantie: What I learnt when I tried to stop Brexit?**

The Finnish Academic Institutes' network runs a series of online talks and discussions on the role of research and researchers in the time of populist movements. The opening chapter of the series was organised by Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. Professor of theoretical physics Arttu Rajantie from Imperial College who has been actively opposing Brexit gave a talk on this experience.

12.4. **Jaakko Nousiainen at MTV3**

The director was interviewed on a live TV broadcast on the easing of lockdown measures in the UK.

13.4.–11.5. **Together Alone 2.0 Open Call**

Following the success of the first Together Alone

open call for international online art projects, The Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes' network responded to the continued challenges of the coronavirus pandemic by announcing a new one. This time the open call focused on community based and participatory projects. 120 project proposals were received. The decision on project support was made in June, and eight new commissions were made.

14.4.–15.5. **Northern Photographic Centre and Street Level Photoworks Residency Open Call**

Northern Photographic Centre in Oulu and Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow launched a residency open call for Finnish photographers and artists.

6.–7.5. **Institute days**

Virtual workshops on current themes for the staff and interns of the Finnish Institutes' network.

7.–16.5. **EUNIC Short Film Festival featuring Hahaha by Samuli Valkama**

The third EUNIC short films festival took place online and was themed Happy Days. The festival featured a Finnish short film *Hahaha* by Samuli Valkama. He also attended the directors' roundtable.

12.5. **Dash Arts: Disco and Atomic War**

Dash Arts organised a discussion event around the Estonian cult documentary film *Disco and Atomic War* about the effects of Finnish TV in Estonia during the Cold War. The theme was discussed by Estonian TV journalist and Disco and Atomic War co-producer and co-screenwriter Kiur Aarma, Soviet-born British journalist and author Peter Pomerantsev, former ambassador of Finland to Estonia Kirsti Narinen, and political analyst and Counterpoint director Catherine Fieschi. The event was supported by the Institute and Estonian Embassy in London.

1.–7.6. **Aalto documentary at London Festival of Architecture**

AALTO documentary was available online in the UK during the London Festival of Architecture. The documentary is a journey into the life and work of one of the greatest modern architects, Alvar Aalto. The film shares the love story of Alvar and his architect wife Aino Aalto. It takes the viewer on a cinematic tour to their creative processes and iconic buildings all over the world.

4.6. **Aalto Q&A with director Virpi Suutari and professor Harry Charrington**

As a part of the programmes of London Festival of Architecture and Architecture Film Festival London, the director Virpi Suutari and Harry Charrington joined for a conversation on Alvar Aalto's life and work. The discussion was moderated by Charlotte Skene Catling.

8.6. **Want to perform in the UK? Webinar for performing arts professionals**

This webinar on post-Brexit mobility and performing in the UK was targeted to Finnish performing arts professionals and organisations. The webinar was led by Ian Smith, CEO of two key international music agencies based in the UK and Austria.

8.6. **EUNIC AI Science Café: AI & Smart Mobility**

The talk invited the audience to learn more about the future of smart mobility and its implications with Laura Ruotsalainen from University of Helsinki, Michal Čáp from MIT spin-off iSee AI and Zsolt Szalay from Budapest University of Technology. The virtual event will be chaired by Michael Keith, Director of COMPAS at the University of Oxford.

15.6. **Online launch: Henna Asikainen's participatory art project Between two shores**

Between two shores examined the intertwined issues of climate change and its impact on migration and human rights. The project was located in the environment of Holy Island – Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. Between two shores was made with people seeking sanctuary in the North East of England and residents of Lindisfarne. The project aimed at giving a voice to those affected by climate change to address our shared social responsibilities in relation to the global climate emergency and particularly climate change as a driver of migration. Between two shores culminated in a walk across the ancient tidal causeway to the island – a path that is under threat from sea level rise – and the recording of 'climigration' testimonies from those who have lost their home as a result of climate change.

The online launch event featured a screening and introductory presentation followed by a discussion with senior specialist Sarah Taylor from Natural England, producer Tom Green from Refugee Week (Counterpoints Arts), lead producer Andrea Carter from D6, and director Vikas Kumar from GemArts.

13.10. **In conversation with the Finnish Institutes: Decolonisation in the arts and cultural fields**

Dr Carol Ann Dixon, Ali Akbar Mehta and Neicia Marsh engaged in a discussion on the new perspectives of building cultural meaning and creating contemporary narratives in Western arts and cultural institutions. The discussion was moderated by Monica Gathuo. This seminar was the first instalment of a 7-part discussion series called "In Conversation with the Finnish Institutes" hosted by the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes (Benelux, Berlin, Middle East, New York, Oslo, Paris, and the UK + Ireland). Each of the 7 discussions (from October 2021 until April 2022) have a focus on different subject matters from decolonisation to Sámi arts and culture.

9.12. **We Should All Be Dreaming publication**

We Should All Be Dreaming: Words Make Worlds was a part of A I S T I T / coming to our senses contemporary art programme. We Should All Be Dreaming is an ongoing project which was kicked off 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.

The online launch event of the publication *We Should All Be Dreaming: Words Make Worlds* on 9th December included a panel discussion and an afrofuturistic sound meditation session.



13.5.–22.6.

A I S T I T / coming to our Senses London Chapter: Weaving, yearning

Weaving, yearning, a public sound installation by Kalle Nio and Hans Rosenström, was installed along a route through the busy King's Cross area. The artwork is a song consisting of four voices that softly drifts through a cityscape creating an invisible thread that weaves the listener, the passer-by and the environment together for a fleeting moment.

The song, composed by Aino Venna in dialogue with the artists, played once a day for a duration of 20 minutes around the hour of sunset. It found its inspiration from the evening sky and the air we all breathe.

Weaving, yearning was the second chapter of A I S T I T / coming to our senses, a large-scale contemporary art programme which took place in six European cities. It was commissioned by Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, Finnish Institute Benelux, Institut Finlandais and Finland Institut in Deutschland. Weaving, yearning was made possible with the generous support of The Saastamoinen Foundation and Niilo Helander Foundation. In addition, the A I S T I T / coming to our senses joint project is generously supported by the Alfred Kordelin Foundation, the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, the Ministry of Education and Culture (Finland), The Niilo Helander Foundation, Saastamoinen Foundation and The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland.

Weaving, yearning opening party on Thursday 13 May was the first event of the year that could take place physically. The outdoor event was attended by a few close stakeholders and representatives of the media.



2.–16.6.

The *Weaving, yearning* guided walking tours

In June, the Institute hosted three guided walking tours of the *Weaving, yearning* sound installation. Director Jaakko Nousiainen introduced the work and led the walking tours along the route through King's Cross, followed by Q&A sessions.

9.8.–5.9.

A I S T I T / coming to our senses art exhibition in Helsinki: *Weaving, yearning*

Weaving, yearning sound installation was brought from London to Helsinki for the Helsinki Festival. The sound installation took place in Töölö, starting from Taidehalli and ending at the Temppeliaukio rocks. It was part of the A I S T I T / coming to our senses art exhibition programme that was prominently featured in the Helsinki Festival 2021 Programme. The work gained a lot of positive attention.

Other artists included in the Taidehalli exhibition were: Axel Antas, Dafna Maimon, Etel Adnan, Simone Fattal, Terike Haapoja, Anna Maria Häkkinen, Kapwani Kiwanga, Maija Mustonen, Laure Prouvost, Dominique Knowles, Kati Roover, Kid Kokko, Minna Långström and Monira Al Qadiri. To support the exhibition, two discussion events were held and a three part podcast series on the exhibition was produced with Radio helsinki.



A I S T I T / coming to our senses catalogue

The A I S T I T / *coming to our senses* catalogue, published in August to coincide with the Taidehalli exhibition, provides a comprehensive overview of the international project, including documentation of exhibitions, artist

presentations and articles, which were commissioned from the following authors: Elisa Aaltola, Chris Fite-Wassilak, Terike Haapoja, Ariane Koek, Astrida Neimanis and Minna Salami. The catalogue was designed by Tuomas Kortteinen and Samuli Saarinen and published by Garrett Publications.

Physical events:

4.12.20–28.2.21 Teemu Määttänen’s Noste light installation at Southbank Centre

Media artist Teemu Määttänen’s work *Noste* took part in the Southbank Centre’s end of the year outdoor exhibition. Working remotely from Finland, Määttänen was able to guide and instruct the Southbank Centre’s construction team to build this large-scale outdoor light installation. Noste was one of the main attractions of the Winter Light festival.

22.2. Jaakko Nousiainen was appointed as the Institute’s new director

Nousiainen acted as the interim director from the beginning of the year, and his term started officially on 1.4.

20.3.–27.6. Jenna Sutela at Liverpool Biennial

Jenna Sutela presented two works at the Liverpool Biennial: Audio work *nnother* (2021)

dealt with the topic of gestation and presents a conversation between imaginary organisms with both organic and synthetic attributes, one of whom lives inside the other. *Indigo, Orange and Plum Matter* (I Magma cycle) (2021) presented a neuroplastic sculptural portrait. The work explored the psychedelic history of technology as well as the topic of wetware, a computer-related idea applying to biological life forms.

1.7.–31.8. Inga Meldere’s residency at Temple Bar Gallery+Studios

27.8. Inga Meldere’s open studio at Temple Bar Gallery+Studios

9.–10.7. Head, Heart, Balance: The Art of Funambulism Conference

Galway Social Circus held a two-day online conference on the art of funambulism/

highwire walking. The event was a success and the Institute’s support allowed them to have a performance by the Finnish circus artist Hanna Moisala.

19.–22.8. Outsider Art Festival in Helsinki

Helsinki Outsider Art Festival, a celebration of diversity and inclusivity within the arts, was held across the city of Helsinki. This multidisciplinary arts festival included a wide range of events from VR exhibitions and virtual galleries to workshops and film screenings, with mentoring curator Tanya Raabe-Webber contributing online from the UK.

16.8. New Programme Directors

Karoliina Korpilahti (Arts) and Neicia Marsh (Society) started their three-year contracts at the Institute.

15.10. Mika Myllyaho's Garage at New Nordics Festival

Cut the Cord’s New Nordics Festival brought together new plays from the Nordic countries. This year’s festival featured Mika Myllyaho’s play *Garage*. *Garage* is a dark comedy full of heart, exploring how two very different people can sustain a friendship.

23.–25.10. Sounds from the Middle East and North Africa with Marouf Majidi

Iranian-born, Helsinki-based composer Marouf Majidi had two concerts in London and Oxford, performing music from the Middle East and North Africa. In addition to the concerts, Marouf Majidi led a World Music Workshop with local musicians. The performances form part of Dash Arts’ project Dido’s Bar, exploring migration, identity and Europe, which culminates in a music theatre production at Royal Docks in autumn 2022.

30.10.21–27.2.22 Nordic Photo Exhibition: Forever Changes

Forever Changes was an exhibition of contemporary photography from the Nordic nations addressing climate change and protection of the planet. The exhibition was organised in partnership with the Nordic Embassies with representation in the UK (Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Faroe Islands) and the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. The exhibition brought together Nordic artists whose work is associated with the themes of climate change, protection of the environment and the conflict between man and the natural world.

30.10. Spirit Away: Halloween Circus, Drag and Burlesque Extravaganza

The Institute supported British performance artist Marnie Scarlet’s performance at Spirit Away: Halloween Circus, Drag and Burlesque Extravaganza at Savoy Theatre in Helsinki. The performance received TelepART funding.

18.–21.11. Emma Salokoski Voices UK Tour

Emma Salokoski Voices teamed up with A Fistful of Spookies for a short UK tour. Emma Salokoski Voices is a vocal ensemble, female choir and collective that makes music with curiosity and passion. The group consists of professional singers as well as devoted amateurs. On their UK tour they presented a selection of soul and pop songs in Finnish, Swedish and English. The tour received funding from TelepART-taide mobility support.

26.11. Institute’s Birthday Party

Institute’s stakeholders were invited to celebrate the Institute’s 30th birthday.

30.11. APFI at the Institute Audiovisual Producers Finland organised a networking event at the Institute.

4.11.21–9.1.22 Winter Light 2021/22: Teemu Määttänen & Anne Roininen

Southbank Centre’s outdoor Winter Light exhibition returned after its successful debut year. This open-air exhibition illuminated the site’s iconic buildings and the Riverside Walk with dynamic and playful artworks during the darkest months of the year. The exhibition included 10 installations, topics varying from nature and technology to modern cities and spirituality.

Multimedia artist Teemu Määttänen’s *Noste*, which was seen at the Southbank the previous winter, made a return to the same site. Noste uses projection mapping to layer pulsing, gradienting colours onto minimalist columns. This deceptively simple combination of form and colour involves precise digital programming and technical accuracy. The work effectively brings a digital space into a physical space. Working with an impressive scale and architecture, Noste creates a reality that appears to be an illusion.

Anne Roininen’s light sculpture *Car Show* (2017–2021) is made from real cars. Cars have gone from symbols of luxury to objects which divide opinion and are now as linked to air pollution as they are to the freedom of the open road. At the Southbank Centre Roininen’s work, which she calls ‘a graveyard for cars’, included five cars that were displayed throughout the site. By turning the cars into light sculptures, Roininen seems to be summoning mechanical ghosts. These cars appear abandoned, lost and from another age.

The Institute also supported the following individuals’ travel to Finland:

Minna Haukka, Feminist Library, for the opening of Companions exhibition at Forum Box 20.8.

Adrian Berry, Artistic Director of Jacksons Lane, for participating in the Performing HEL showcase 3.-5.9.

Katrin Böhm, artist, for a work visit to PUBLIOS Helsinki 24.-27.9.



1.-27.6.

Empathy Echo Chamber at the London Design Biennale

This year's London Design Biennale featured Finnish artist Enni-Kukka Tuomala's inflatable installation *Empathy Echo Chamber*. The work challenged contemporary ideas of echo chambers as emblematic of polarisation and isolation in the information age. In this inflatable installation, visitors were encouraged to reflect on their experiences and perspectives together and respond to each other through empathy. Empathy Echo Chamber was commissioned by the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, and supported by the Finnish Embassy in London and Light Cognitive. The work attracted high media visibility.

17.6.

Empathy Echo Chamber discussion event

The artist Enni-Kukka Tuomala was interviewed by the Institute's director Jaakko Nousiainen at a discussion event arranged in collaboration with the Finnish Embassy in London at the Finnish Ambassador's residence.

18 June - 23 Sept 2021

MOOMINTRAIL

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18.6.–26.9.

Tove Jansson exhibition, online launch and outdoor trail

The year-long celebration of the Finnish artist Tove Jansson began with an online launch event and the opening of an outdoor trail and an exhibition at Walthamstow Wetlands. The programme drew on the parallels between the island of Klovharun in the Finnish archipelago, where Tove Jansson spent her summers immersed in nature, and the scenery at Walthamstow Wetlands which is Europe's largest urban wetlands and has eight islands of its own. The Finnish Institute supported the programme with additional funding from Svenska Kulturfonden.

24.11.21–7.1.22

The 47 Most Wanted Foremothers exhibition

Artist Outi Pieski's exhibition *The 47 Most Wanted Foremothers* explored the complex history of the ládjogahpir, the Sámi women's headgear. The exhibition formed part of an interdisciplinary project Máttaráhku ládjogahpir—The Foremother's Hat of Pride by Pieski and archaeologist Eeva-Kristiina Harlin. The collaborative project examined the colonisation of the mind and body in Indigenous Sámi women's history through the lens of an object, the ládjogahpir hat. Through the project Pieski and Harlin studied links between ládjogahpir and the indigenous concept of rematriation.





” Excellent work towards a more sustainable future, also Together Alone was one of the most well considered and high impact projects.



4

Events calendar and statistics 2021

Online events

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
1.1.–28.2.2021	Teemu Määttänen: Noste light installation at Southbank Centre social media (Southbank Centre & Hayward Gallery)	Audiovisual arts	London	Online	2,439
5.1.2021	Finland Cineclub: Dogs Don't Wear Pants	Film	Online	Online	46
26.1.2021	Reinventing Education & Ensuring Future Skills: EdTech solutions from Finland	Society	Online	Online	650
3.2.2021	An Equal Future book launch	Society	Online	Online	47
19.2.2021	‘Bringing Light Art to London: Artists Leo Villareal and Teemu Määttänen in Conversation’	Audiovisual arts	Online	Online	329
24.2.2021	Physically distanced, socially connected – Youth mental health and accessible free-time activities	Society	Online	Online	50
10.3.2021	The Finnish Baby Box goes Global	Society	Online	Online	38
2.–5.3.2021	Glasgow Film Festival Minna Dufton: Big vs Small	Film	Online	Online	144

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
2.–5.3.	Last Ones at Glasgow Film Festival	Film	Online	Online	62
18.3.	UK Nordic Mobility Seminar	Society	Online	Online	28
19.3.	Curatorial Ethics Symposium	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	60
20.3.–6.6.	Liverpool Biennial: The Stomach and the Port; Jenna Sutela & Elvia Wilk: nnother	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	80,500
31.3.	Beyond Populism: Arttu Rajantie	Society	Online	Online	80
8.4.	An Equal Future: Universal Basic Income	Society	Online	Online	55
13.4.–	Together Alone 2.0 Open Call	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	140
29.4.	An Equal Future: Empathy workshop	Society	Online	Online	47
1.–7.6.	AALTO documentary film screening	Film	Online	Online	135

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
4.6.	AALTO Q&A	Film	Online	Online	45
8.6.	EUNIC AI science café	Society	Online	Online	30
8.6.	Webinar for performing arts professionals	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	30
15.6.	Online launch: Henna Asikainen's Between two shores	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	50
	Tove Jansson website visits	Contemporary arts	Online	Online	44,000
13.10.	In conversation with the Finnish Institutes: Decolonisation in the arts and cultural fields	Society	Online	Online	53
9.12.	We Should All Be Dreaming launch	Society	Online	Online	44
	We Should All Be Dreaming publication	Society	Online	Online	50
Participants in online events, total					129,152

Physical events:

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
11.2021– 28.2.2021	Teemu Määttänen: Noste light installation at Southbank Centre	Audiovisual arts	London	Southbank Centre	500,000
12.4.	Jaakko Nousiainen at MTV3	Other			50,000
13.5.	Weaving, yearning opening event	Audiovisual arts	London	King’s Cross	16
2.6.	Weaving, yearning guided tour	Audiovisual arts	London	King’s Cross	6
9.6.	Weaving, yearning guided tour	Audiovisual arts	London	King’s Cross	16
16.6.	Weaving, yearning guided tour	Audiovisual arts	London	King’s Cross	23
13.5.–22.6.	Weaving, yearning audio installation	Audiovisual arts	London	King’s Cross	10,000
1.–27.6.	London Design Biennale: Empathy Echo Chamber	Design	London	Somerset House	30,000

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
17.6.	London Design Biennale: Empathy Echo Chamber -discussion	Design	London	Ambassador's residence	30
18.6.–26.9.	Tove Jansson exhibition	Contemporary arts	London	William Morris Gallery	4,200
18.6.–26.9.	Tove Jansson outdoor trail	Contemporary arts	London	Walthamstow Wetlands	120,000
	Tove Jansson events	Contemporary arts	London		1,200
9.–10.7.	Head, Heart, Balance: The Art of Funambulism Conference	Society	Galway		143
1.7.–31.8.	Inga Meldere's residency at Temple Bar Gallery+Studios	Contemporary arts	Dublin		1
27.8.	Inga Meldere's open studio at Temple Bar Gallery+Studios	Contemporary arts	Dublin		15
20.8.–12.9.	Mobile Feminist Library	Contemporary arts	Helsinki	Forum Box	808
19.–22.8.	Outsider Art Festival	Contemporary arts	Helsinki		7,000

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
19.8.–5.9.	Weaving, yearning Helsinki	Audiovisual arts	Helsinki	Töölö	1,200
11.9.	Henna Asikainen walk	Contemporary arts	Lindisfarne		70
15.10.	Mika Myllyaho's Garage at New Nordics Festival	Theatre	London	Jacksons Lane	170
15.–17.10.	An Equal Future at Lakes International Comic Arts Festival	Comics	Kendal		400
23.–25.10.	Sounds from the Middle East and North Africa with Marouf Majidi	Music	London, Oxford		20
30.10.21–30.1.22	Nordic Photo Exhibition: Forever Changes	Photography	Glasgow		2,019
30.10.	Spirit Away: Halloween Circus, Drag and Burlesque Extravaganza	Performing arts	Helsinki	Savoy Theatre	400
13.–14.11.	Helsinki Comics Festival	Comics	Helsinki		5,000
18.11.–21.11.	Emma Salokoski Voices UK Tour	Music	London, Clevedon, Bradford-on-Avon, Oxford		751

Time	Project	Field	Location	Place	Participants
23.11.	Outi Pieski exhibition opening	Photography	London	12 Star Gallery	60
24.11.21– 7.1.22	Outi Pieski exhibition: The 47 Most Wanted Foremothers	Photography	London	12 Star Gallery	1,100
26.11.	Institute's birthday party	Other	London	Instituutti	120
30.11.	APFI at the Institute	Audiovisual arts	London	Instituutti	60
4.11.– 9.1.2022	Winter Light 2021/22: Teemu Määttänen & Anne Roininen	Audiovisual arts	London	Southbank Centre	45,000
Participants in physical events, total					779,828

All participants

Participants in online events, total	129,152
Participants in physical events, total	779,828
All participants	908,980



” Professional, innovative –
and friendly!



5

Language courses

Language courses

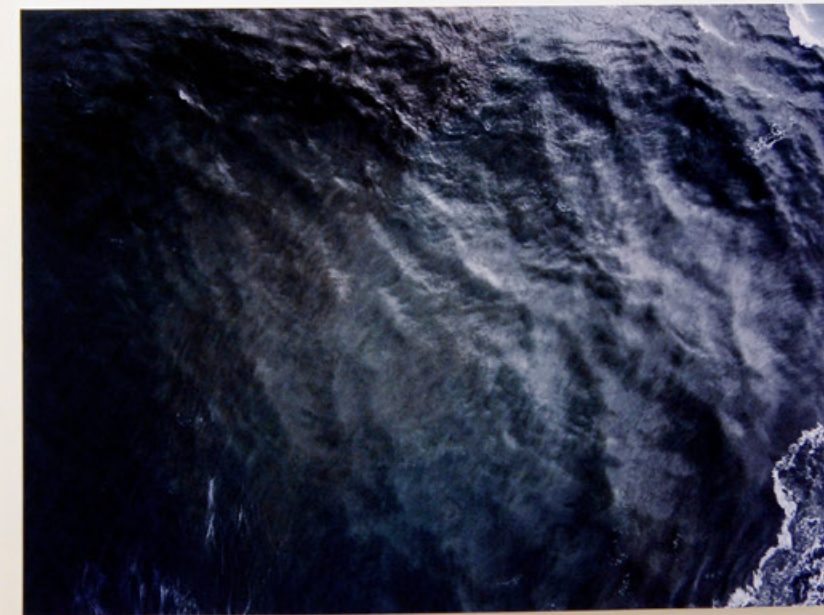
The Institute arranges Finnish language courses for adult learners. Language courses were held weekly over three terms in 2021. Course levels ran from absolute beginners to advanced. The classes took place online and at the Institute.

A total of 88 students studied at the Institute during the year with the teacher Teija Perttilä. The income from the courses supports the Institute’s programme budget.





” It has been a challenge for the Institute to work in the UK during the past two years (covid + brexit), but it seems that you have managed to adapt very well.



6

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 the 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 Education and Culture (780,000€ in 2021 plus a coronavirus related carry-over of 35,000€ from 2020). Government support is essential in order to achieve relevant partnerships and develop a high-quality programme.

In 2021, additional funding was received from the Nordic Culture Fund, the Saastamoinen foundation, the Wihuri foundation and the Swedish Cultural Foundation. The Institute also secured funding for the year 2022 from the Finnish Cultural Foundation (shared with other institutes).

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 2021 the board convened six times. One meeting was held in London and five online.

Staff and interns at the Institute

Director Jaakko Nousiainen, from 1.4.2021 (interim director 1.1.-31.3.2021)

Assistant to the Director
Annika Pellonpää 1.1.-31.12.2021

Project manager Karoliina Korpilahti 9.4.-30.6.2021

Director of Programme, Arts
Karoliina Korpilahti, from 16.8.2021
Arts programme interns:
Iina Holopainen 25.1.2021-24.7.2021

Director of Programme, Society and Communications
Ninni Lehtniemi, until 11.6.2021

Director of Programme, Society
Neicia Marsh, from 16.8.2021

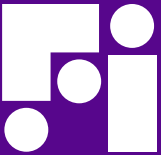
Communications Assistant
Volter Rechardt 9.4.-31.8.2021

Society and communication interns:
Matilda Lindblom 6.9.-31.12.2021

The interns were supported by the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) and The Swedish Cultural Foundation.

Photo credits

2	19	Design: Studio Emmi
47 Most Wanted Foremothers exhibition Photo: Jamie Smith	Weaving, yearning London, photo: Tomas Rydin	
5	20	
1 An Equal Future cover	1 Weaving, yearning London photo: Tomas Rydin	
2 Empathy Echo Chamber, photo: Laura Vuoma	2 A I S T I T / coming to our senses -catalogue	
3 Weaving, yearning Helsinki, photo: Petri Summanen	22 Empathy Echo Chamber, photo: Laura Vuoma	
4 Tove Jansson and Tuulikki Pietilä on the island of Klovharun. Photo: Per Olov Jansson	23 Moomin Characters ™	
5 47 Most Wanted Foremothers	24 47 Most Wanted Foremothers exhibition, photo: Jamie Smith	
7 Weaving, yearning Helsinki, photo: Petri Summanen	25 “The Veerkracht Kollektive” Copyright: Petri Summanen	
13 Installation view of Teemu Määttänen, Noste, 2008/2020, photo: Morley von Sternberg	35 Copyright: Street Level Photoworks	
16 An Equal Future, image: Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland	37 Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland.	
17 An Equal Future comic book, PJ Holden	38 Forever Changes Nordic Photo Exhibition	



Finnish Institute
in the UK and Ireland
Unit 1
3 York Way
London N1C 4AE
UK

+44 7711 0087 92

General enquiries:
info@fininst.uk

Administrative enquiries:
admin@fininst.uk

FINNISH
INSTITUTE
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