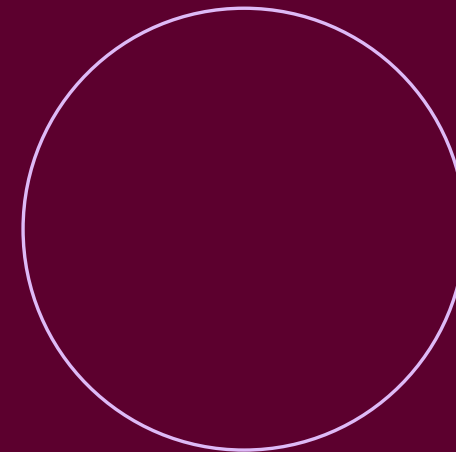
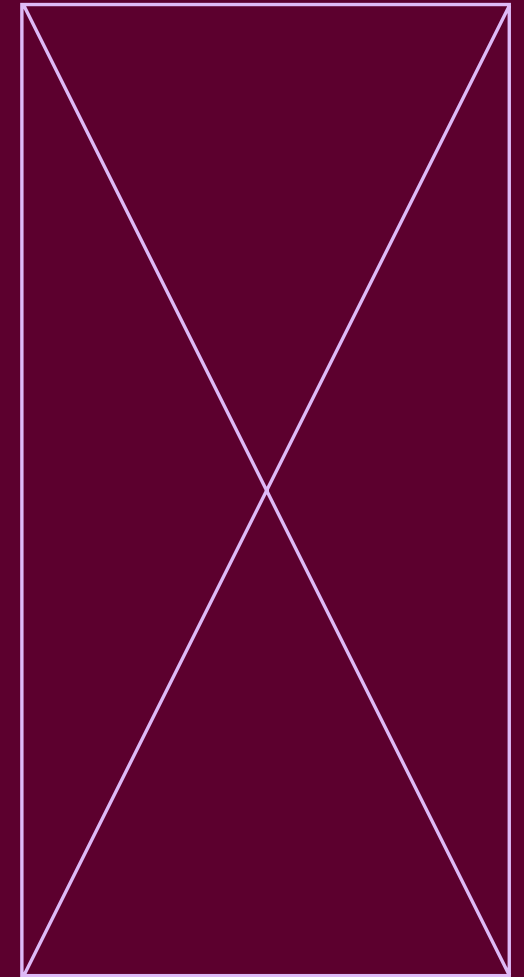
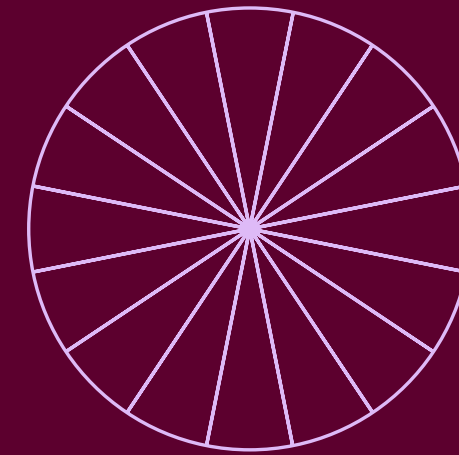
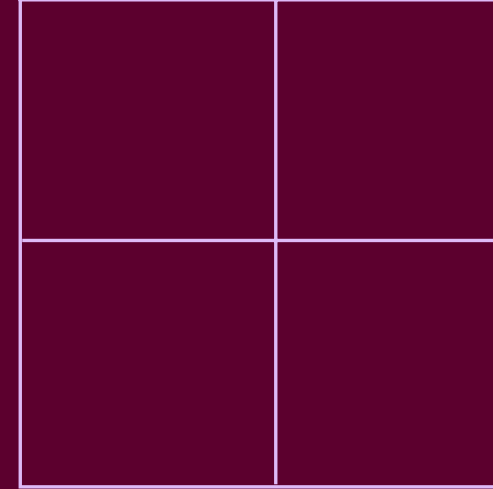
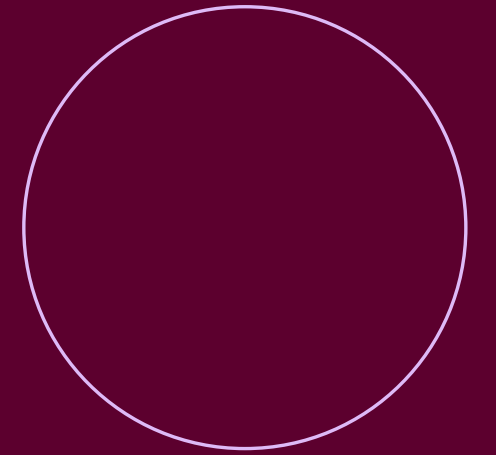
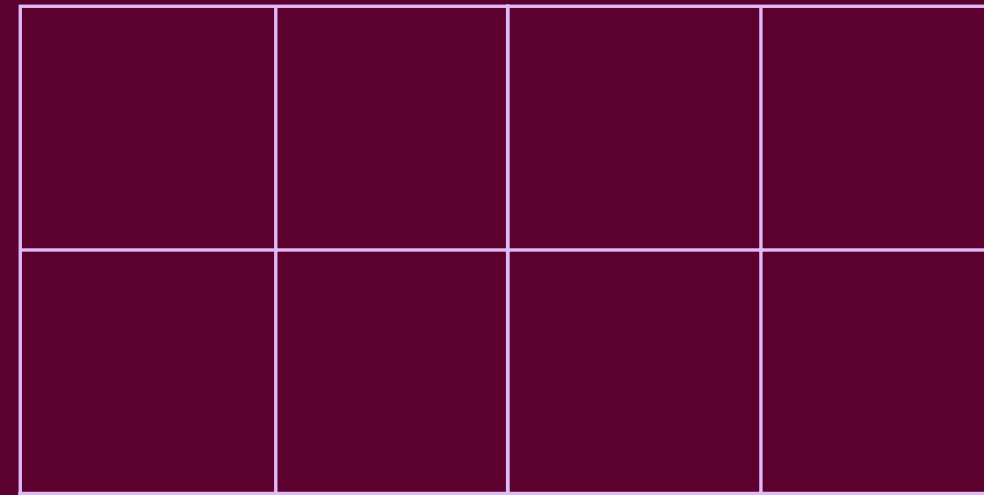
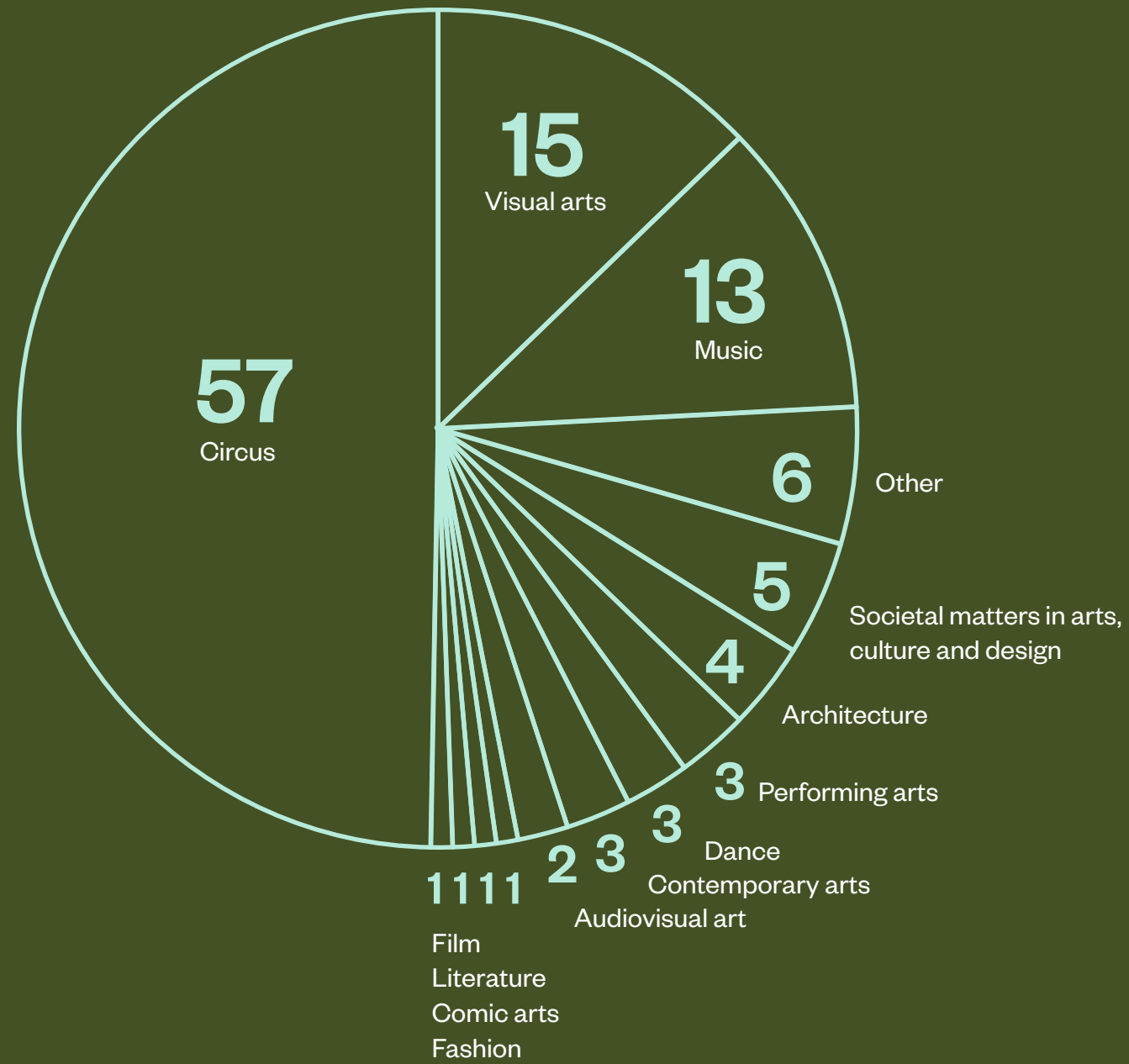


Annual Report 2024

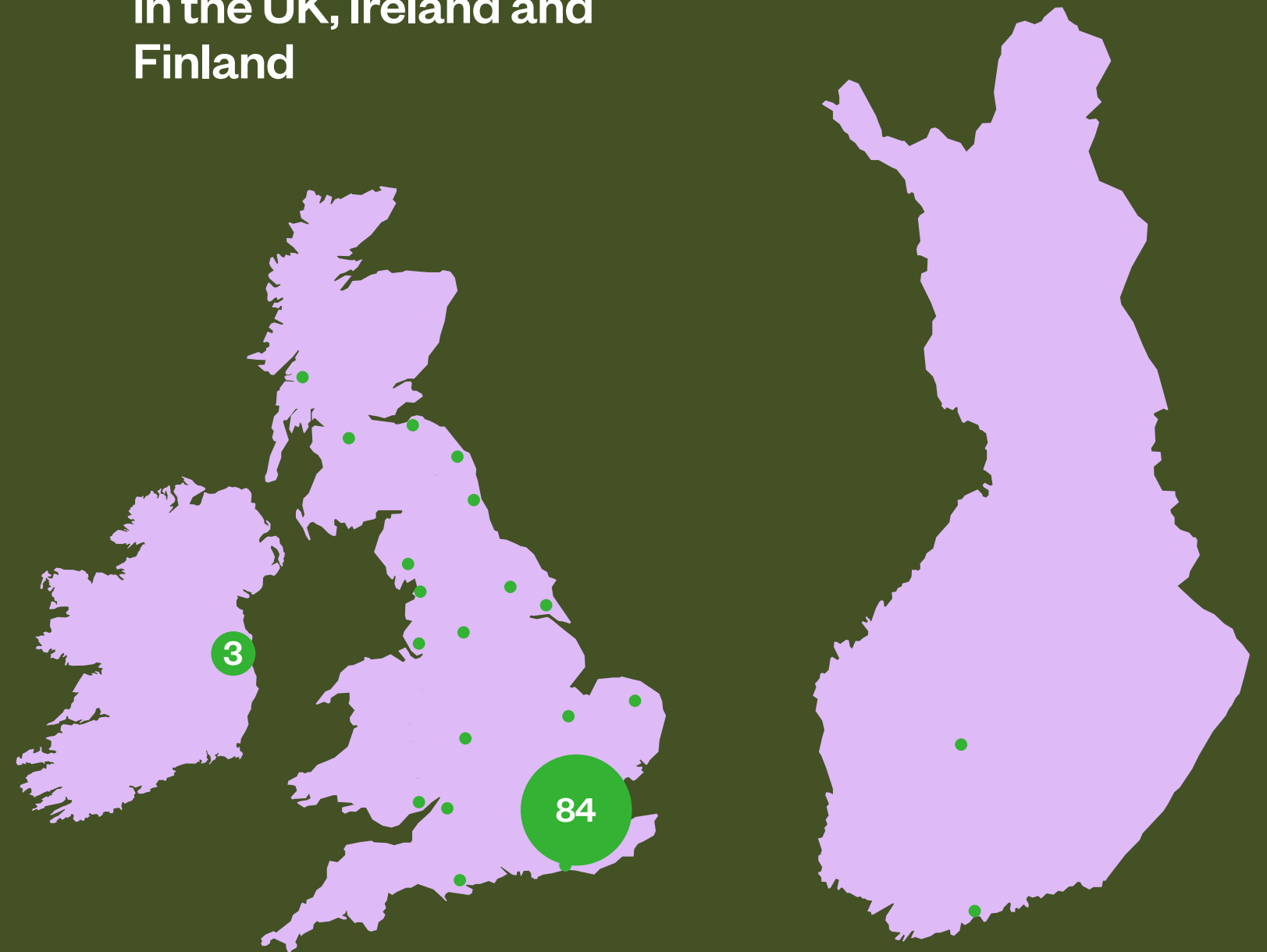


2024 key figures



115

115 events in 23 locations in the UK, Ireland and Finland



Programme reach

212 500+

People reached with our programme and events

3

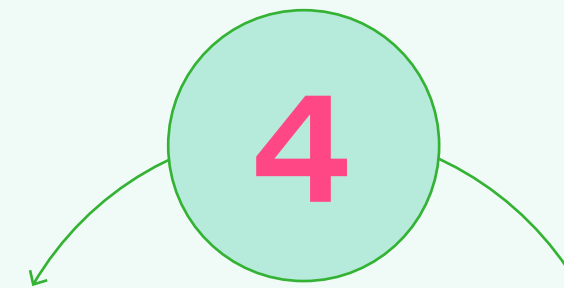
Events in Ireland
3 in Dublin

2

Events in Finland
1 in Helsinki
1 in Mänttä

9

Supported professional visits between Finland,
the UK and Ireland



Supported professional
visits from Finland to
the UK and Ireland

280

Artists, speakers and experts participated
in activities supported by us

3

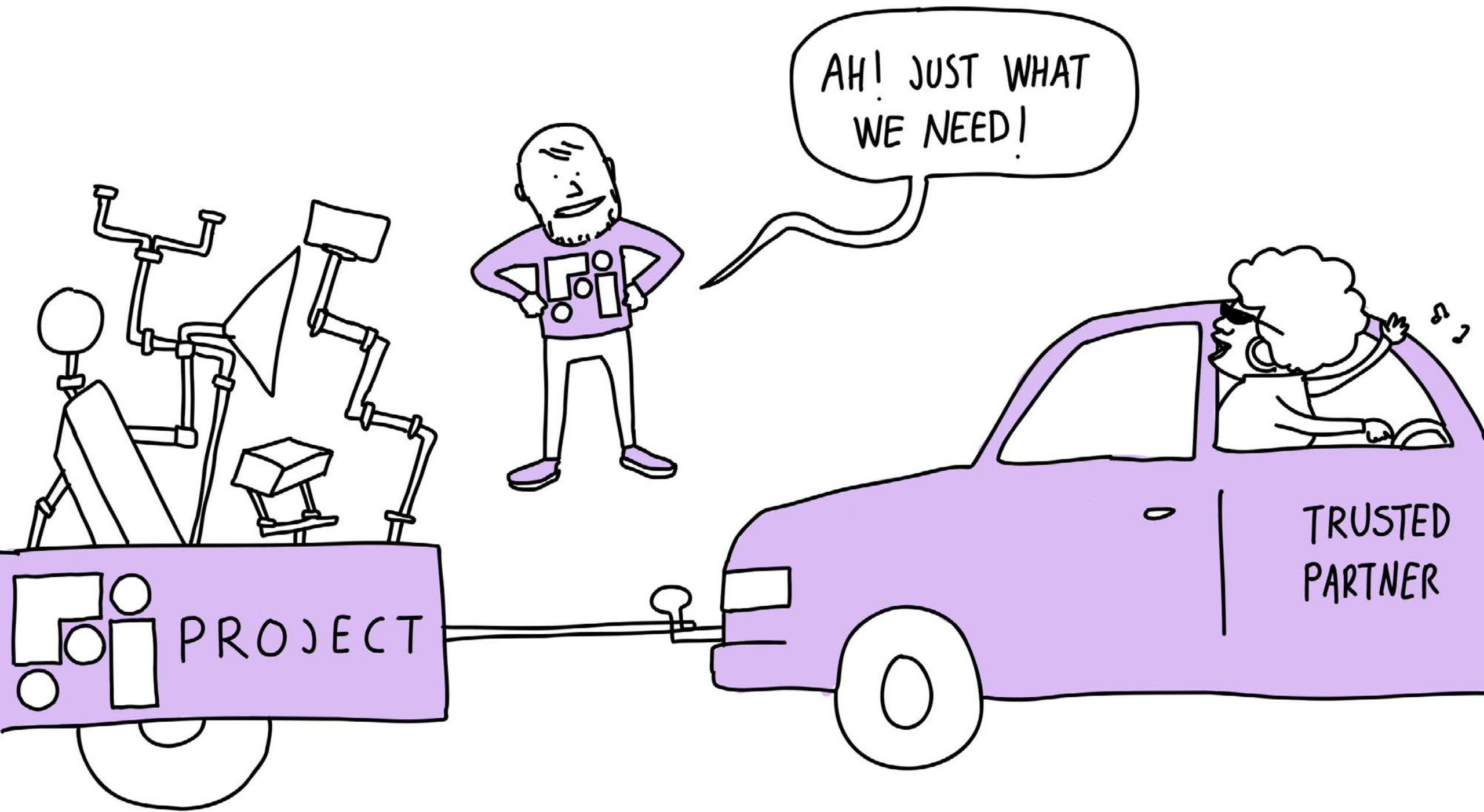
Supported residencies

118

Finnish students



Supported professional
visits from the UK and
Ireland to Finland



”
The Institute
is welcoming,
supportive, highly
knowledgeable,
and attuned
to current
developments
and trends.

1 Summary

Summary

2024 was a year of exciting new openings for the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. Artist exchanges, intercultural dialogue and networking remained at the core of our activities. Our main goal for the year was to create sharper focus areas in our programming to make better use of our resources (e.g expert networks), and to create more strategically targeted impact.

For example, our *Open Call: Compositions for Actions* focused on projects that addressed topics of equality, diversity and inclusion. As part of this, we worked with an expert curator who assessed all of the open call applications. Resultantly, we have prioritised working with performing arts, contemporary arts and progressive societal matters within arts, culture and design, while making sure that our programme reflects the diversity of Finnish art, culture and society as much as possible.

Our programme activities and events reached approximately 212 500 people throughout the year.

We helped 39 Finnish and Finland based professionals in the fields of art and design to support their international capacities networks by enabling mobility, professional visits, artists residencies and mentoring relationships with British and Irish culture professionals.

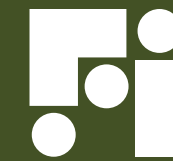
We have taken care to ensure that the geographical coverage of our operations creates meaningful regional impact. Our wide partner network gives us visibility across our entire remit area. Our stakeholders in Finland benefit from these extensive networks across the four nations of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. In return, our British and Irish partners will be able to strengthen their contacts in Finland also regionally.

We are seen as a trusted partner. Our stakeholder survey continues to provide us with positive and constructive feedback from our stakeholders. As stated in our stakeholder survey by one of our collaborators: “All members of staff have been very supportive of our project and have helped to make introductions and facilitate networks.”

In order to ensure that our goals and values are upheld, we have proactively developed our stakeholder communication, supporting cross-disciplinary collaboration, championing diverse perspectives and fostering dialogue in our rapidly evolving cultural landscape.

The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland has been advocating for cultural and progressive societal exchange between Finland, the UK and Ireland for over 30 years. As experts on Finnish culture and society in the UK and Ireland, the Institute enriches and diversifies connections and collaborations between cultural professionals in its area of operation.

The Institute carries out ambitious and multidisciplinary projects. In 2024 the Institute focused on performing arts, contemporary arts and progressive societal matters within arts, culture and design. The Institute supports artist residencies, as well as travel and research trips for professionals working in the arts. In addition the Institute offers Finnish language classes.



FINNISH
INSTITUTE
UK + IRELAND

This year we have entered into long-term development partnerships with three British arts organisations: The Institute of Contemporary Arts, Jacksons Lane and SICK! Festival. The partnerships are based on learnings from previous collaborations and joint projects with these organisations, our mutually shared values and discussions on taking our partnerships further while also developing shared impact goals. The chosen partners operate in our three programme focus areas and their ethos resonates with our goals and values, in turn extending our service offering. In the coming years we aim to expand this model into Ireland and Finland to further widen our reach and impact.

We continue to develop our collaboration with the global network of the Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes. We have taken an active role in "*pARTir – Creating a cultural roadmap towards responsible international mobility*", which is a large joint project between ten Finnish Institutes. Funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU, the project supports the development of ecologically and socially sustainable working methods and practices for international mobility and cultural exchange.

We have moved our office to new premises in Somerset House in early 2024. Somerset House is a major hub for cultural, artistic and creative industries in central London. Its creative community has already proven to be fruitful for creating new collaborations. The relocation of our office to Somerset House has also been appreciated, due to its central location, by our Finnish language courses students. These popular courses are held in a hybrid format, allowing students to also join in remotely.

Our cooperation with the Finnish and other Nordic Embassies, as well as the Faroese representation in London, the Embassy of Finland in Dublin, Team Finland UK and EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture) continues to yield new opportunities for expanding networks within the cultural Field.

Jaakko Nousiainen
Director
31.12.2024



2

Strategy 2024–2026

Strategy 2024–2026

Diverse, Inclusive and Impactful – Fostering cultural connection for over 30 years.

The strategy is a concrete tool to help us build a clear identity in our own environment. It helps us to ensure that our actions are understandable and attractive to our key stakeholders, and that we express our objectives in a clear and accessible way.

For more than three decades, the Finnish Institute has served as a vital link between Finland, the UK, and Ireland. As the leading expert on Finnish culture and society, we are dedicated to fostering meaningful connections through:

- **Artist exchange** – Residencies, co-productions, creative collaboration and showcasing emerging Finnish cultural professionals.
- **Cultural dialogue** – Creating meaningful encounters and connections, facilitating conversations on social issues, shared values, and contemporary challenges.
- **Networking** – Bringing together artists, creative practitioners, cultural organisations and policymakers.

Mission

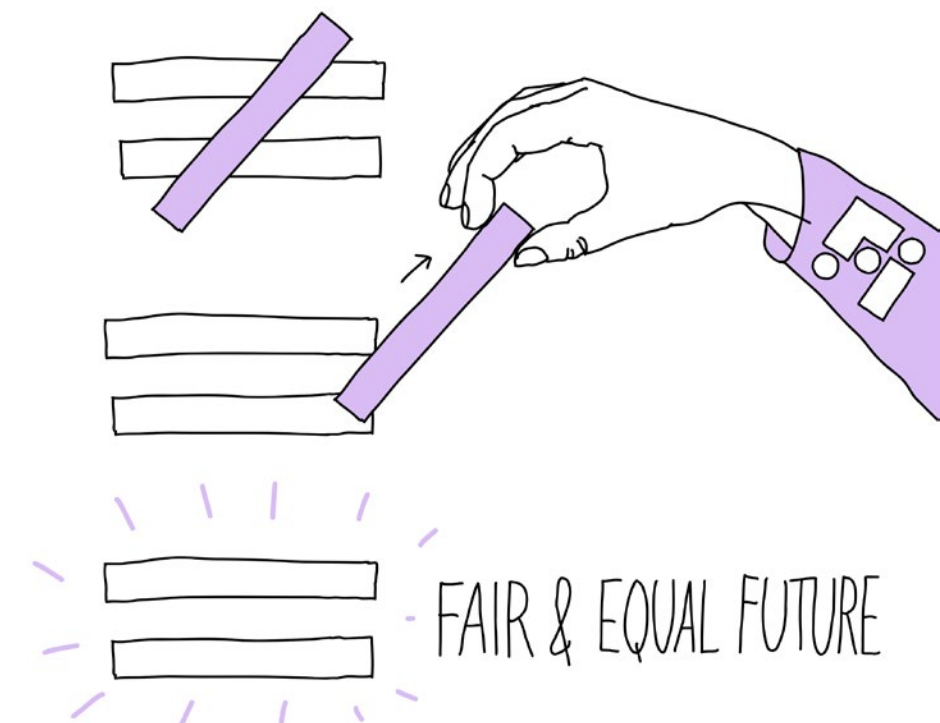
The Institute’s mission is to:

- Enable progressive personal and societal change through art and culture.
- Enrich and diversify connections and spark dialogue between cultural professionals in Finland, the UK and Ireland, with a focus on performing arts, contemporary arts and societal matters.
- Create opportunities and foster collaborations between cultural professionals, organisations, and universities across our regions.
- Strengthen the ties between Finland, the UK and Ireland while enriching the cultural landscape of each region.

Goals

The Institute aims to make culture a catalyst for positive social change, bridging gaps and promoting a fairer and more equitable future. The Institute will do this by:

- **Building Bridges** – We connect artists, organisations, and thought leaders across Finland, the UK, and Ireland to share knowledge and best practices to tackle joint challenges.
- **Igniting Innovation** – Through dialogue, residencies, and collaborative projects, we nurture creative solutions and raise awareness to tackle urgent social issues.
- **Empowering Voices** – We champion diverse perspectives, personal and lived experiences, fostering a more inclusive cultural landscape for all.



Operative focus

Our concrete focus areas for the strategy period 2024–2026 are:

Strategic programme development

- Working with performing arts, contemporary art and societal matters within arts, culture and design.
- Identifying cultural professionals on the cusp of international recognition, and offering support through –

Mentoring: Connecting emerging creatives with relevant local professionals for career development

Networking: Fostering connections with relevant actors in arts, culture and society.

Knowledge sharing on international collaboration, funding opportunities, promotion and touring.

Relevant programme planning that resonates with topical social issues and creates meaningful long-term impact.

Long-term development partnerships

Long-term collaborations: We work with partners that share our values, vision and impact goals.

Stakeholder dialogue

Active network building, goal-setting and impact evaluation with:

- Artists and creative practitioners
- Thought-leaders, experts and academics
- Decision and policy makers
- Funders and potential sponsors
- Media

Values

Our work is based on:

Equity

We adhere to the principles of fair work – fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management and fair representation – and in addition we make sure that less abled persons can acquire the same information and engage in the same interactions as everybody else.

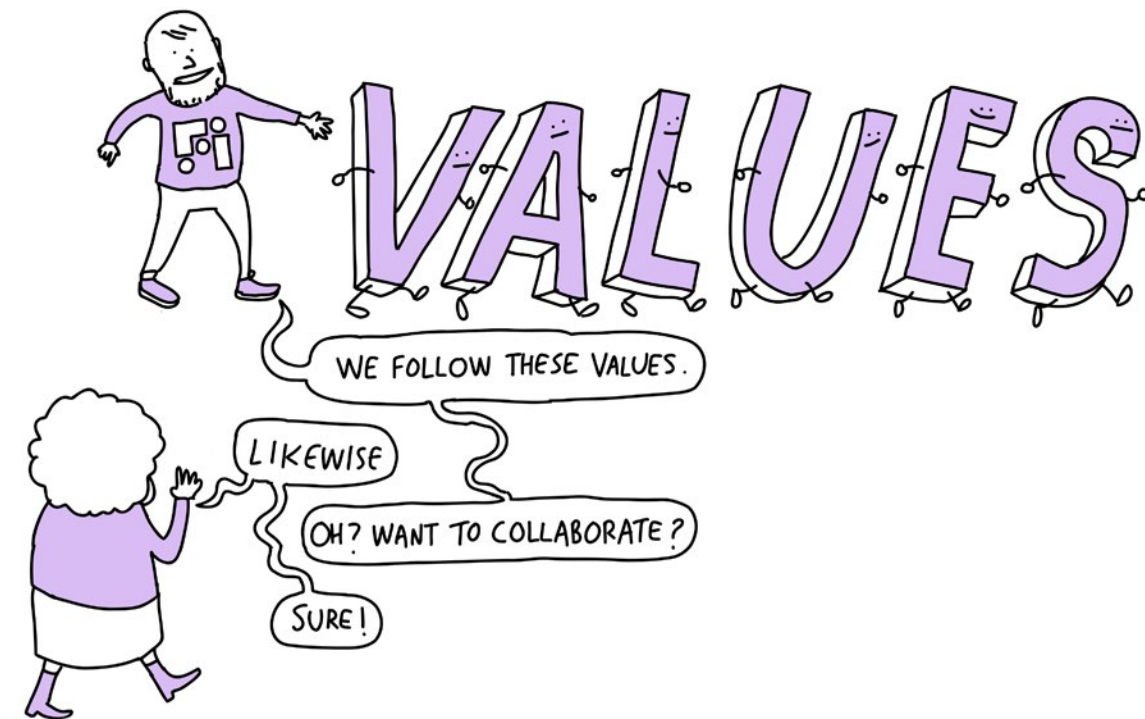
Sustainability

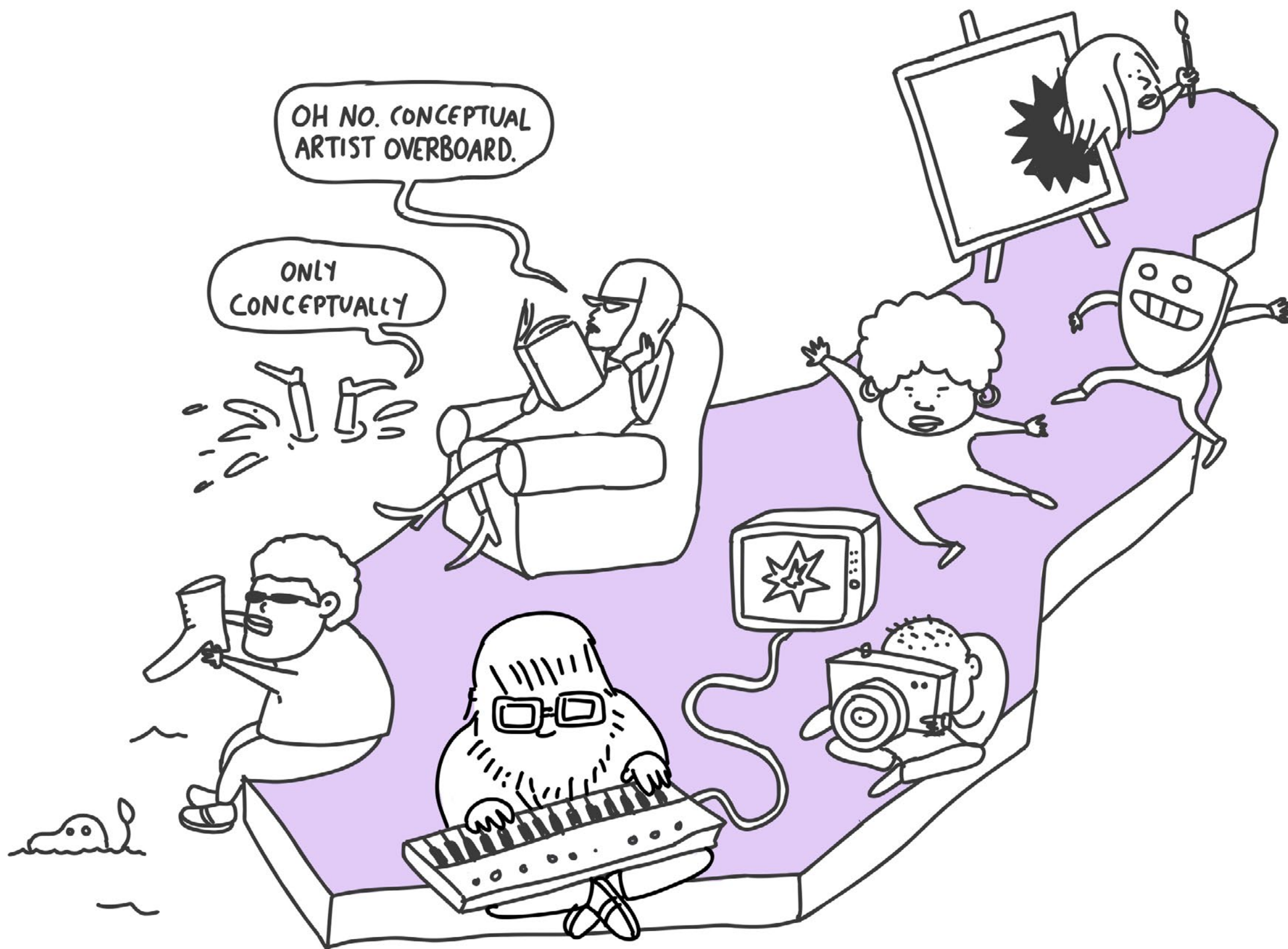
We value and include people of diverse backgrounds, gender, ethnicity, ability, sexual identity and orientation in our

work. We strive towards energy efficiency, waste reduction, and we support models based on the circular economy. We pledge to preserve and protect the natural environment by actively looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and compensating for our travel emissions.

Transparency

We promise full accounting of facts, information, and context essential to ensuring an informed and equitable decision-making process in easily accessible and easy to understand form, in clear and plain language.





”

Active, interested and engaged. Friendly and open to supporting artists exchanges and understands the power of culture as a dynamic force that happens in invisible and visible ways.

Quote from the 2024 stakeholder survey

3

Featured projects

Open call

A project proposal open call with a special focus on equality, diversity & inclusion.

A selection of projects was made with expert curator, Lily Hall, and Nimco Hussein, Director of Society Programme (maternity cover). Two projects were chosen, the first was *Dormancy, Reseeding, Resistance* which centres on communal gardening and seed-saving practices that emerge in the intersection and inflamed contexts of anti-ableist politics and food insecurity—especially as lived by economically precarious, migrant and disabled people.

The second selected project was *lipsync serenades for softer occasions* which is an interdisciplinary performance piece based on two original love songs created for the project. The piece combines lipsync, as well as embroidered garments tied to the theme of queer love, with influences borrowed from Arabic mythology, a reimagined continental European renaissance and contemporary Finnish fashion. Both projects will premiere in the UK in 2025.



Tze Yeung Ho
Project lead

"The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland has given me the support and opportunity to create 'lipsync serenades for softer occasions', a multidisciplinary work which holds significance in my artistic development as a composer. The collaborative nature of the work meant that I was working closely with other artists in other disciplines beyond my comfort zone of contemporary classical music, namely with practitioners in textile and performance arts. The project has left a lasting impact on my methods in creating music in performance contexts."

Anastasia (A) Alevtin
Project lead

"*Dormancy, Reseeding, Resistance* has been unfolding as a research and artistic production project that centres on anti-ableist and queercrip dailiness, communal gardening and seed-saving practices emerging in the inflamed context of the disabling world. The Open Call has enabled a series of cyclical workshops, performance readings, and independent publishing, to come to fruition. Allowing an intimate connection between the northern latitudes of Finland and Scotland, the project, disperses beyond them to discuss, in the words of Dr Emily May Armstrong, how phytocrip resistance has been and might yet flash out."

Professional visitor programme

Nine professional visits were facilitated between the UK, Ireland, and Finland, fostering stronger networks within the culture sector and paving the way for new collaborations. The programme placed a particular emphasis on equality, diversity, and inclusion, with a focus on connections to the themes and objectives of the selected open call projects.

Supported professionals in 2024:

Bindi Vora, Senior Curator at Autograph Gallery, visit to Helsinki, 16.-20.2.2024

Chris Wiegand, journalist at The Guardian, visit to Helsinki to see Tero Saarinen Company's Macbeth, 14.-16.3.2024

Orlan Ohtonen and Päiviö Omwami, research visit to London, 25.-29.4.2024

Olivia Ahmad, Artistic Director of Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration, visit to Tove Jansson exhibition in Tampere, June 2024

Christel Kayibi, Director of Repertoire strategy, Africa at Sony Music Entertainment visit to Afro Nordic Summit in Helsinki, 27.9.2024

Athanasía Aarniosuo, Suomen Sarjakuvaseura, visit to Lakes International Comic Art Festival, 27.-29.9.2024

Marouf Majidi, musician, visit to Oxford for Dash Arts' performance *Songs for Solidarity* 9.-13.12.2024

Curatorial Programme for Research (CPR) visit to Finland. Selected curator from the UK: Isra Al Kassi, a London based curator, writer and co-founder of T A P E collective. 1.10-20.10.2024

Tracy Gentles, Artistic Director & CEO, and Helen Medland, International Development Consultant and Founder at SICK! Festival 11.-14.11.2024

The Finnish Museum of Photography



Orlan Ohtonen
Curator

"Our research trip to London made possible by the Finnish Institute's visitor programme was highly beneficial in several ways. Firstly, we were able to connect with artists and organisations whom we will collaborate with us in our upcoming 2025 fall exhibition. Secondly, besides deepening ties with organisations that were familiar to us, we were able to form new connections with the likes of The Black Cultural Archives and International Curators Forum who will collaborate in the future. Thirdly, we saw multiple shows that provided inspiration and ideas on how to approach our own programming and exhibitions. Lastly, the trip gave us an opportunity to promote Finland based artists and organizations that we have worked with to our colleagues and contacts in London."

– Orlan Ohtonen and Päiviö Maurice Omwami



Päiviö Maurice Omwami
Curator

Creating impact through residencies

Residencies form an important part of our activities. In 2024, we supported three residencies in the following locations: Cove Park (Scotland), London (England), and Dublin (Ireland) nurturing creative networks and providing new opportunities for Finland-based and Finnish artists. We developed the networks with our residency partners, with a particular emphasis on ecologically and socially sustainable practices.

In 2024 the Institute supported the following artists in residence: Nayab Noor Ikram at ACME residency in London, Hanna Ijäs at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios residency in Dublin and Ossi Raippalinna at Making Tracks residency and tour in Cove Park.



Nayab Noor Ikram
Visual artist and photographer

Nayab Noor Ikram, a Turku-based visual artist and photographer of the Pakistani diaspora born on the Åland Island, was selected for a three-month long residency at Acme Studios in London in the summer of 2024.

"During my residency at Acme, I saw a strong presence of Black representation in London's museum exhibitions, which felt empowering. The teams at Acme and the Finnish Institute were incredibly supportive throughout my residency. It was special to share a building with other artists, be part of the community and visit different studios. I'm now working on an idea that I had in London—a photography series for an upcoming group exhibition at the Finnish Museum of Photography exploring the norm of whiteness in relation to race and photography. The residency made me feel like I'm part of something bigger – I'm no longer limiting myself."

– Nayab Noor Ikram

pARTir – Creating a cultural roadmap towards responsible international mobility

A joint project between ten Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes, supporting the development of ecologically and socially sustainable working methods and practices for international mobility and cultural exchange. In 2024 the Institute supported two initiatives within the pARTir project:

Architectural Acts of Care at the London Festival of Architecture

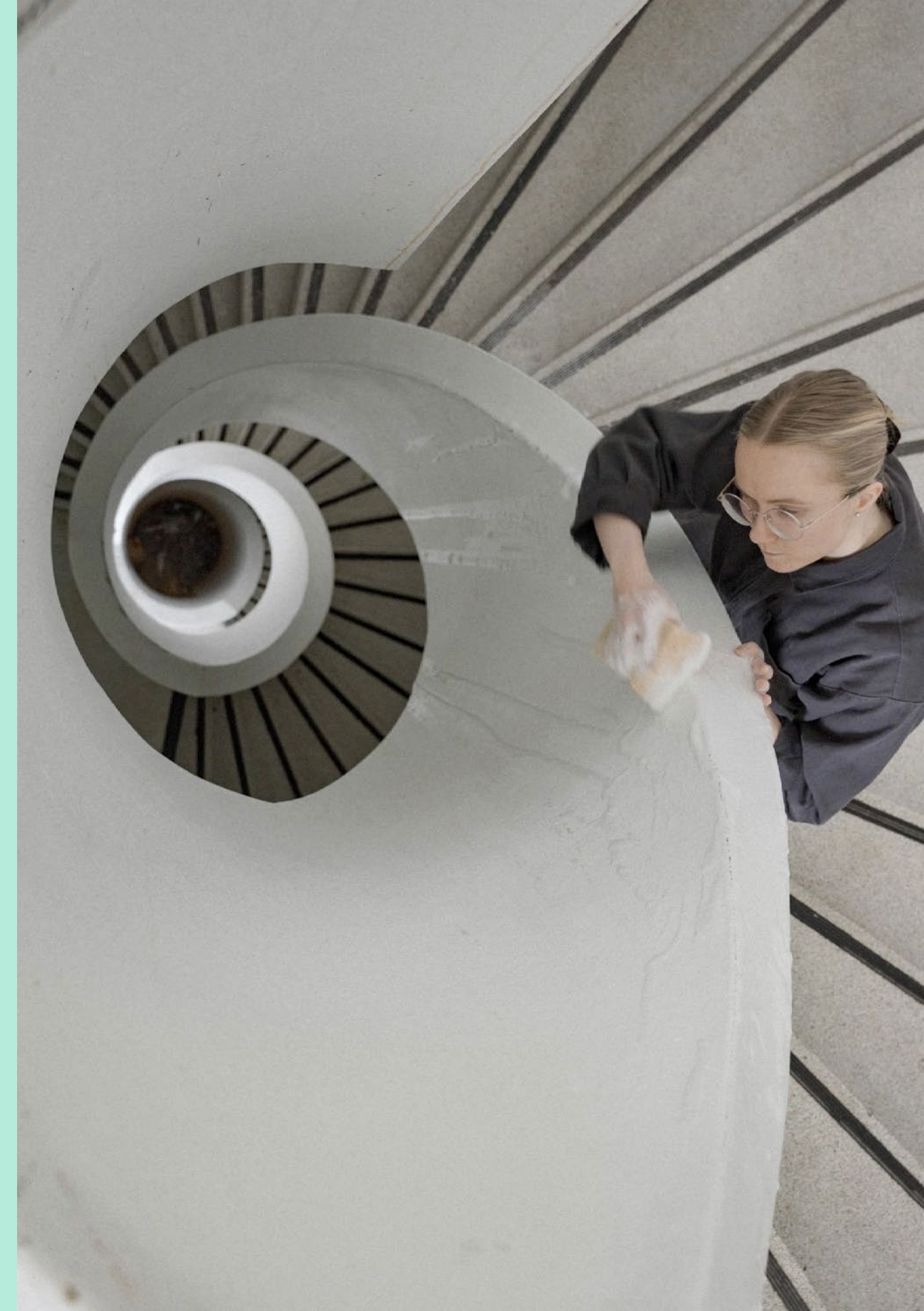
Vapaa Collective (lines Karkulahti, Charlotte Nyholm and Meri Wiikinkoski) produced and facilitated a project that examined acts of care for the **London Festival of Architecture** in June. The project had three elements. First, Vapaa Collective performed physical actions by nurturing and caring for a building - London's iconic Barbican centre - leaving enduring traces of care in the everyday living environments and minds of the participants. This was followed by context research in collaboration with Garry Hunter and Suzanne Harb of Fitzrovia Noir. Finally, a symposium that included presentations from Vapaa Collective, Fitzrovia Noir and Glenkerry House resident Katie John was held to bring the elements together. The symposium culminated in a panel discussion, moderated by Samir Pandya.

Following the London Festival of Architecture project phase, Vapaa Collective then presented a continuation of the project in New York City as part of Archtober in October 2024. The Archtober programme was created in collaboration with The Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, the Consulate General of Finland in New York and the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. Both projects were a part of institutes' joint pARTir initiative, funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.



Vapaa Collective – lines Karkulahti, Charlotte Nyholm and Meri Wiikinkoski
Co-founders and Architects

"Coming to the UK as part of our project with the Finnish Institute was important because architecture, as a field within the arts and creative industries, has immense potential to drive the systemic change needed in our society amidst today's multifaceted crises. Architecture is inherently global, and the dialogue surrounding the environmental crisis is a pivotal part of the international architectural discourse. While some solutions to these challenges are local, others are global, making it essential to both share and gain knowledge from diverse environments. As artists, collaborating with like-minded individuals across cultural boundaries is invaluable for fostering new perspectives and innovative approaches."



Remedies – Lullaby Nest by Sasha Huber and Petri Saarikko at The Showroom

Together with The Showroom gallery in London, the Institute presented Remedies – Lullaby Nest by artist duo Sasha Huber and Petri Saarikko. The project marked a new chapter in the artists' ongoing Remedies series, begun in 2010, exploring diverse approaches to healing in different geographical and cultural contexts. With Lullaby Nest the artists considered the age-old tradition of the lullaby within the context of their Remedies project as a way of upholding time and space for rest and sleep. This intimate gesture of caretaking and soothing a child to sleep is an ancient, inherited knowledge deeply embedded in human experience.

The artists' designed environment included an immersive soundscape inspired by lullabies from different cultures, composed by London-based music artist Matshidiso. Conceived to nurture reconnection with our child-like ability to let our mind wander and find serenity, *Remedies – Lullaby Nest* encouraged a state of balance and self-regulation, and by reclaiming time and space for ourselves, it manifested itself as an act of resistance and self-determination. The project was a part of institutes' joint pARTir initiative, funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.



Gabriela Salgado
Director

"In an age driven by ever-increasing 'attention economies', the opportunity to realise Remedies: Lullaby Nest – a calming, minimalist, experiential exhibition conceived by Finland-based artists Sasha Huber and Petri Saarikko – would not have been possible without the brave and generous support of the Finnish Institute. It was a leap of faith for everyone involved – the artists, the community collaborators, The Showroom, and the Institute.

Based on audience and collegial feedback, our pared down presentation and inclusive community approach exceeded all expectations of reconsidering rest as a human right—repositioning it as one possible 'remedy' for an overworked and media-saturated society. It also exceeded our attendance expectations as word-of-mouth recommendations of this unique experience spread locally and abroad bringing in new and grateful audiences to the work we do here at The Showroom, and the type of bold, paradigm-shifting work The Finnish Institute supports."



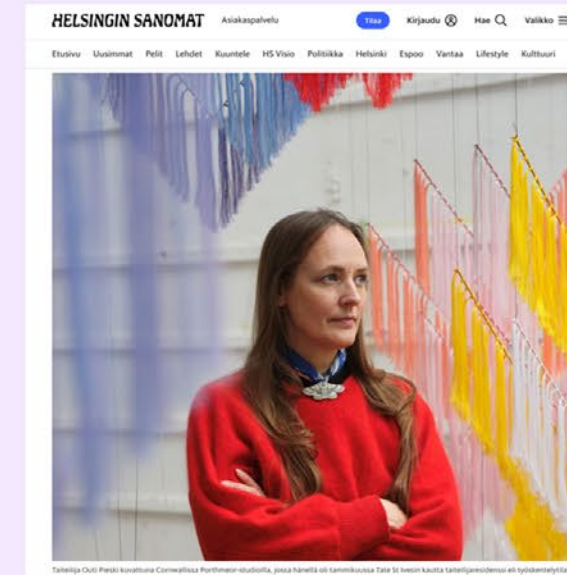
Media highlights

+468

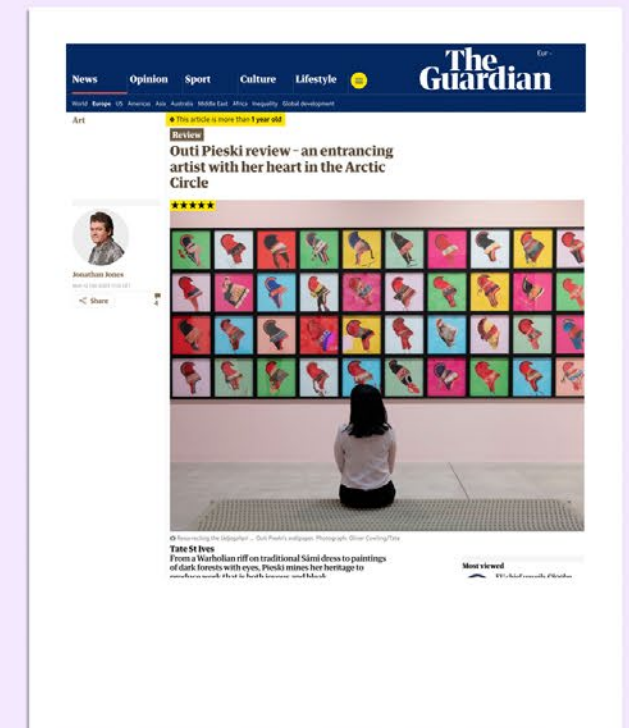
Instagram, total new followers in 2024



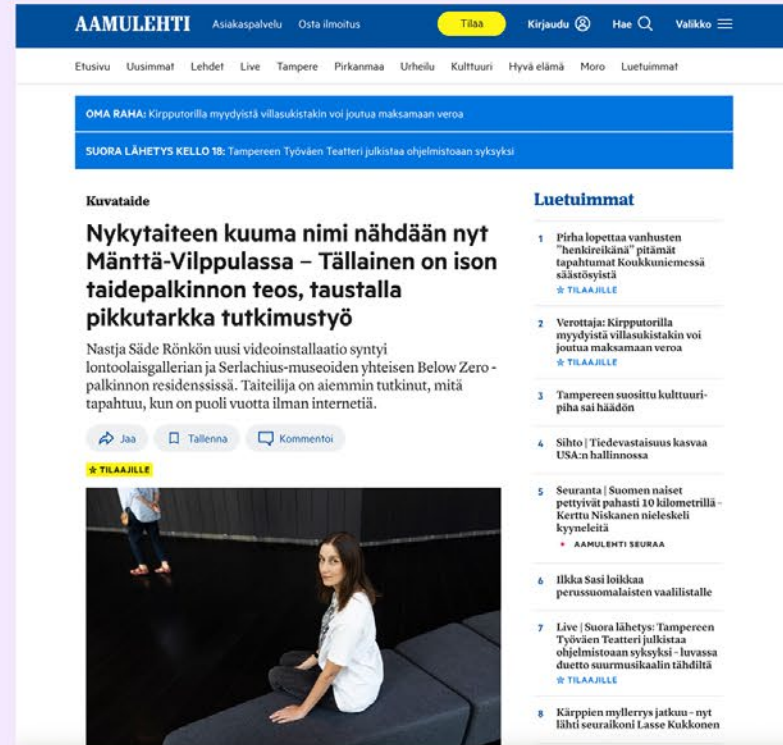
The Finnish Sauna, BBC



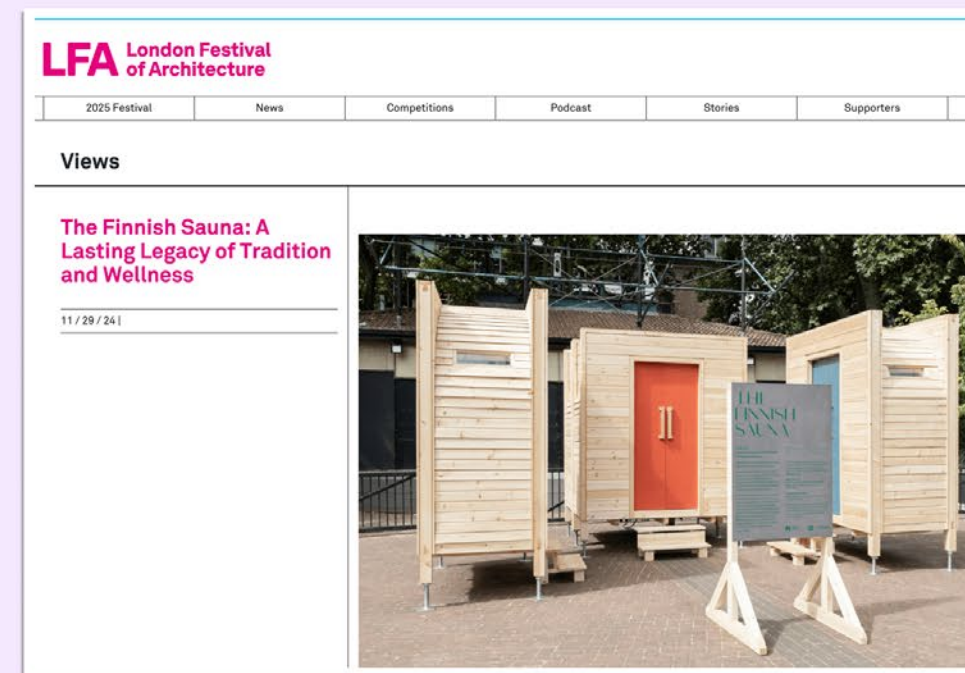
Outi Pieski, HS



Outi Pieski (5 stars review), The Guardian



Nastja Säde Rönkkö, Aamulehti



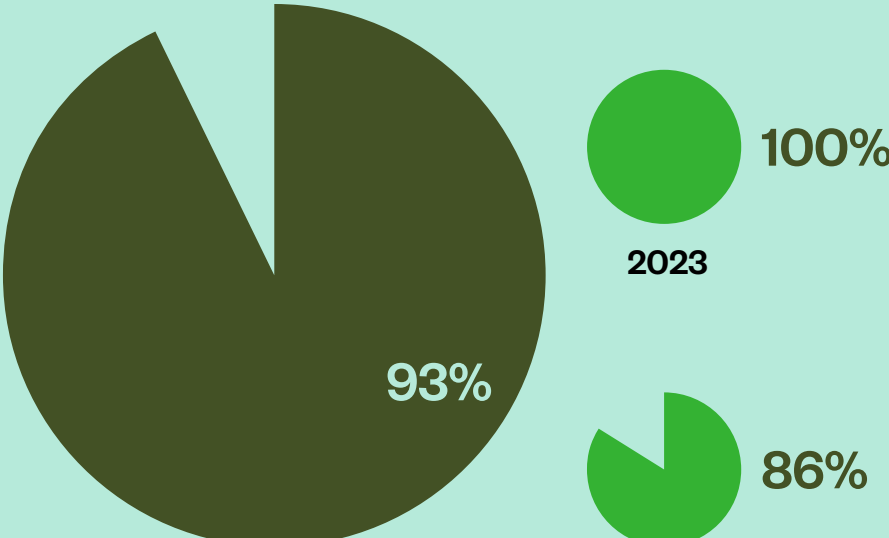
The Finnish Sauna, London Festival of Architecture



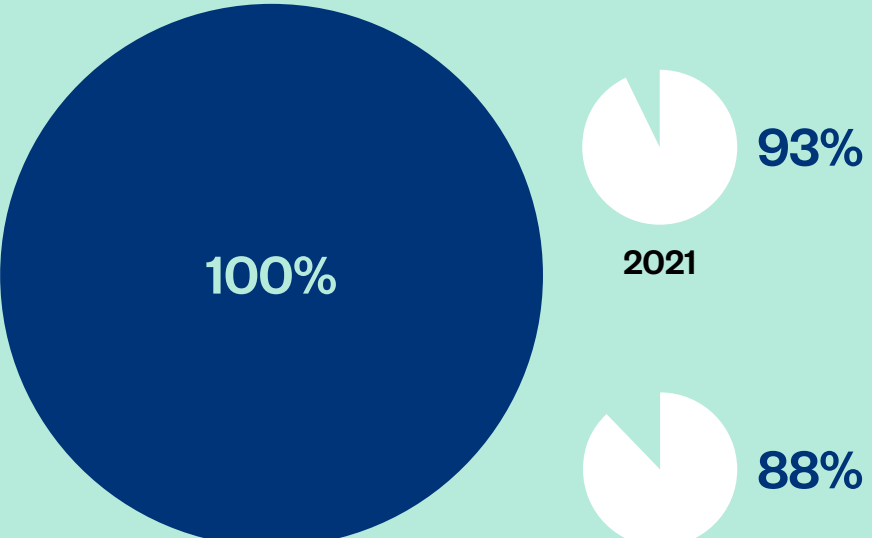
Moomin's Christmas Show at Jacksons Lane, HamHigh

Stakeholder survey

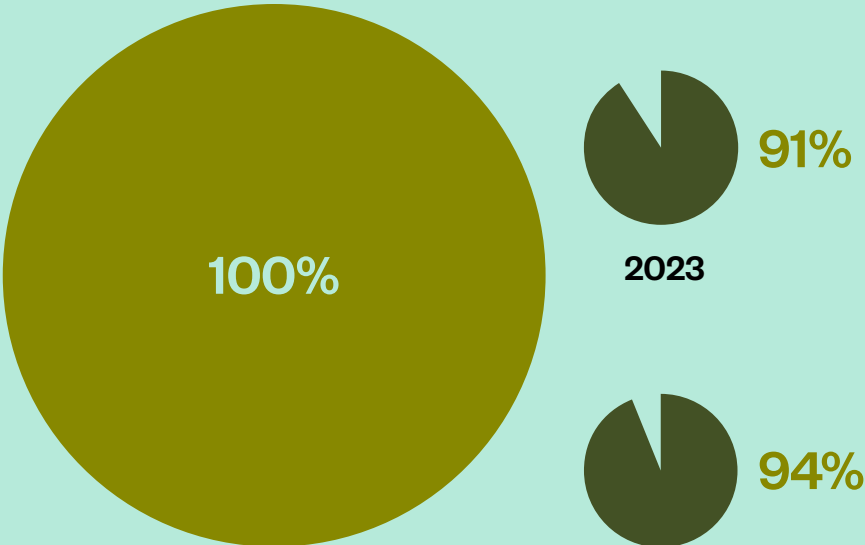
The institute carries out an annual stakeholder survey to gain feedback from its stakeholder network, including both individuals and organisations. The 2024 survey was sent to 88 representatives of our network, and we received 20 responses.



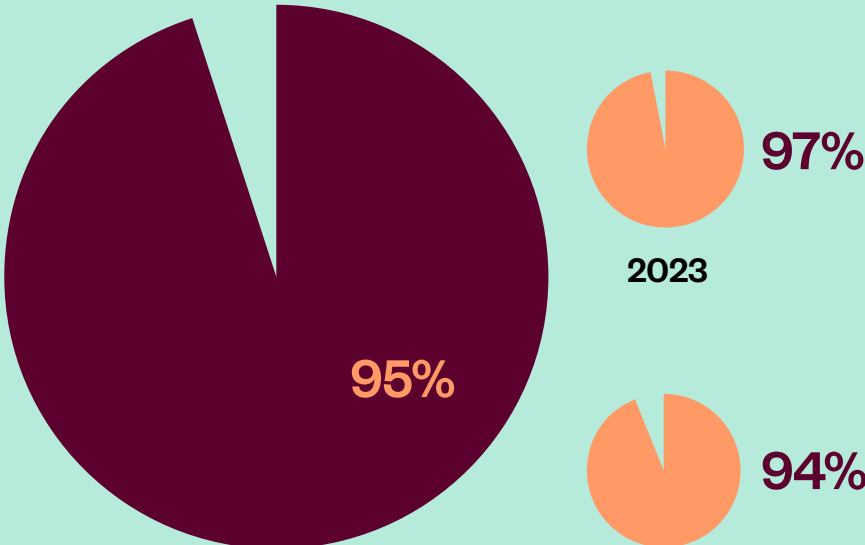
93% of the respondents agree or strongly agree that the Institute has acted as a source of expertise on Finnish culture and society in the UK and Ireland. (100% in 2023, 86% in 2022)



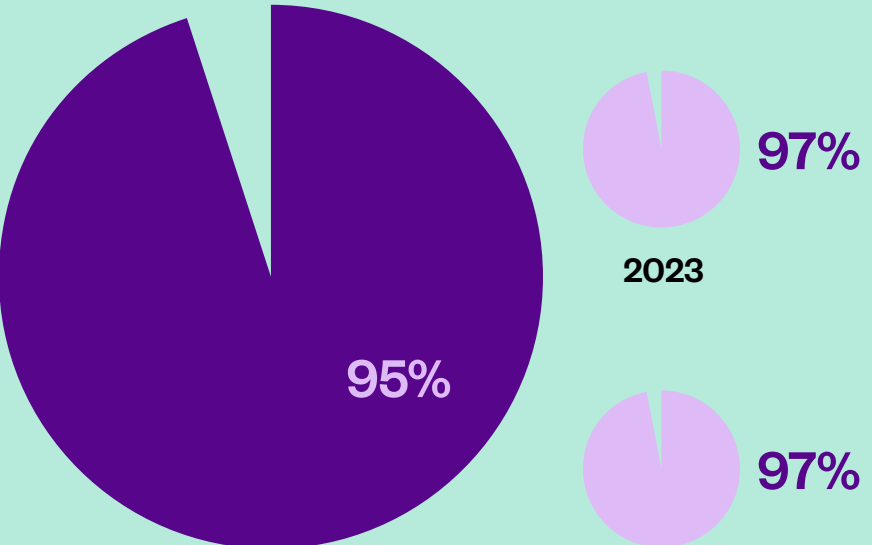
100% agree or strongly agree that the Institute operated according to its values of equality and transparency



100% of the stakeholder survey respondents agree or strongly agree that the Institute has created positive change by connecting people through culture and art.



95% of the participants find the Institute's work meaningful and relevant to the work they do.



95% would recommend the Institute to the others as a prospective partner.

4

Activities

Activities

The Institute organised or funded 112 individual events, exhibitions and functions during the year.

Events, exhibitions and functions

112

**18.11.2023-
25.2.2024**

Hanna Tuulikki's work at Deep Rooted group exhibition

Co-funder

Hanna Tuulikki's work *Under Forest Cover/ Metsänpeiton Alla* was featured at *Deep Rooted* group exhibition at **City Art Centre in Edinburgh**. The work was an audiovisual installation that reimagines the Finnish folkloric concept of being caught in an enchanted landscape as a contemporary metaphor for ecological anxiety.

**28.10.2023-
21.4.2024**

Minna Henriksson's work at Self Determination: A Global Perspective group exhibition

Co-funder

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) presented a major museum wide exhibition, *Self-Determination: A Global Perspective*. The culmination of a three-year research project, this exhibition focused on the new nation-states that emerged in the wake of the First World War, exploring the role of art

and artists in relation to the expression of national identities, nation-building, and statecraft.

17.1.-3.2. Presidential elections at the Institute

Co-commissioner

The Institute was one of the polling stations for the Finnish presidential election. The first round took place from 17 to 20 January, and the second round took place from 31 January to 3 February.

3.2.

Hanna Tuulikki talk

Co-funder

In this artist's talk, **Hanna Tuulikki** shared her process of making *Under Forest Cover/ Metsänpeiton Alla*, an audiovisual installation that reimagines the Finnish folkloric concept of being caught in an enchanted landscape as a contemporary metaphor for ecological anxiety. She discussed her research into climate psychology, Finnish forest folklore, forest culture and industry, as well as her own Finnish heritage, to reflect on entanglements of identity, nationhood, ecology and the difficult emotions that come with ecological awareness.

5.-26.2.

ACME Open Call

Co-funder,

co-commissioner

In partnership with **Acme**, the Institute launched an open call for a three-month residency for a Finnish or Finland-based artist in the summer 2024. The residency is a part of Acme's ongoing international residency programme, and it is intended for a Finnish or Finland-based artist whose practice would benefit from time in London to explore and research new ideas, and who feels that they face additional barriers in pursuing their artistic practice.

In total the open call received 56 applications.

The residency was awarded to Turku-based visual artist and photographer **Nayab Noor Ikram**.

1.3.-30.4.

Hanna Ijäs in residency at Temple Bar Gallery+Studios + performance

Co-funder, co-commissioner

Hanna Ijäs was chosen as the recipient of **Temple Bar Gallery+Studios** residency in Dublin. She is a multidisciplinary artist. In times where technology moulds and forms interactions, Ijäs aims to grasp this through performance, ways of communication and methods of understanding. Writing and performing are the tools to reveal, discover and frame the value systems, power structures and conditions of humans. At the very core Ijäs re/de/constructs identity and the question of what it is to be a human within expanding and contracting borders and boundaries in a vast fluid changing world. The core of research is the mapping of the modern human at large in digital and physical realities.

Hanna Ijäs performed her work *Lie Down Where You Want to Be Stepped On* on 26 April. The performance was an ode to a decaying body. An apology to the mother. And a letter to the lover that offered shelter when the body had no apprehensible responses left.



6.2.-3.3.

Compositions for Actions Open Call Funder, commissioner

The Institute announced an Open Call for Finnish and Finland-based professional artists and artist groups and their international collaborators to submit project proposals in performing arts and/or contemporary arts that address the topics of equality, diversity and inclusion. The theme for the 2024 Compositions for Actions Open Call was artistic and socially focused projects that addressed the democratisation and participatory aspects of performing arts and/or contemporary arts. The open call received 39 applications.

7.2.-8.4.

Below Zero Open Call Co-commissioner, co-funder

The open call for Below Zero, the unique UK-based contemporary art award for Finnish artists emerging on the international scene, took place from February to early April. 86 applications were received, 6 of which were

shortlisted. The shortlisted artists were **Saara Ekström, Anssi Kasitonni, Jaakko Pietiläinen, Vappu Rossi, Shubhangi Singh and Maija Tammi.**

13.-16.2.

Assemblage III: Community and Care Travel support

Assemblage III: Community and Care was a part of a series of gatherings on contemporary art organised by the Fine Art team at **Northumbria University.** The Institute supported artist **Sepideh Rahaa's** and professor of Media Studies, **Susanna Paasonen's** travel and event participation. Susanna Paasonen gave a lecture and held a discussion that focused on sociality. The artist Sepideh Rahaa participated in a panel discussion that focused on decolonization within feminism.

26.2.

Jam Shenanigans at Jacksons Lane Co-funder, co-commissioner

Jam Shenanigans brought their joyful circus performance, which

10.2.-6.5.

Outi Pieski exhibition at Tate St. Ives Co-funder

Tate St Ives presented the UK's first large-scale exhibition of work by **Outi Pieski** (Čiske-Jovsset Biret Hånsa Outi). Pieski is a Sámi visual artist whose practice is deeply connected to land. Working primarily with painting and installation, Pieski has gained recognition for her work which explores the spiritual relationship between humans and their environment and raises vital questions around traditional knowledge and Indigenous people's rights. The exhibition at Tate St Ives presented Pieski's figurative landscapes, photographs and prints alongside sculptural works, including a new installation which was made especially for the show during her Tate St Ives residency at Porthmeor Studios in January 2024.



28.4.

Panel discussion: We Are Eagles - Outi Pieski and Maree Clarke at Tate Modern

Co-funder

Artists **Outi Pieski** and **Maree Clarke** (Boon Wurrung, Mutti Mutti, Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta First Nations peoples, Australia) shared their work and discussed regenerative knowledge and the restoration of land and culture at Tate Modern.

explored the importance of playfulness, creativity and imagination, to Jacksons Lane in late February. Their performance **Shenanigans** is an ode to the inner child: it is filled with airplanes, juggling, an inflatable swimming pool and a wild train ride. **Jam Shenanigans** is a fresh, young, and playful duo consisting of **Batist Van Baekel** and **Henri Kangas.** **Jam Shenanigans** produces and performs playful contemporary circus shows for family audiences.

28.3.

Global environmental challenges: Lessons from Ukraine discussion event

Co-funder, co-commissioner

What can other parts of the world learn from Ukraine, as it pioneers bringing acts of ecocide into the discussion of justice in the context of war? **The Royal Society of Arts**, in collaboration with the **Ukrainian Institute London**, the **Delegation of Flanders** (Embassy of Belgium) in the UK and Ireland, Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, the

Cyprus High Commission and **EUNIC London** (European Union National Institutes for Culture), hosted a discussion on the theme at Royal Society of Arts in London. The institute supported **Marjukka Porvari**, who works as an environmental expert at the European Commission's Ukraine Service under the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, to take part in the discussion. Porvari has over 20 years of experience of working for the third sector, central government and research institutions, focusing especially on environmental issues in Eastern Europe.

13.4.

Lotta and Stina: '20 Years Later Still Here!' at Jacksons Lane

Co-funder, co-commissioner

Lotta and Stina's performance **20 Years Later Still Here!** was an autobiographical show about two women's wild joyride working in circus. Told with warmth, humour, and dizzying acrobatics, this show invites the audience to share the

highs and lows of a life in showbusiness. From the glitz and glamour to the countless hours of practice, the blood, the sweat and the tears.

20.-28.4.

In Short, Europe short film festival Co-funder

The 6th edition of *In Short, Europe* took place in Scotland for the very first time at the Glasgow Film Theatre on 20 and 21 April and in London at the Ciné Lumière. The Festival was a diverse and exciting celebration of European short filmmaking. The festival featured Finnish filmmaker **Heta Jäälinoja's** short film *Nun or Never!* (2023), which is a lush and exuberant animation that combines faith and temptation.

26.4.

Institute's Spring Party Commissioner

The institute organised a drinks reception to celebrate moving to new premises.

2.-5.5

UK+Benelux circus collaboration:

Circusstad

Co-funder, co-commissioner

Circus artists and professionals from Finland, the UK and Belgium travelled to the Circusstad festival in Rotterdam. The participants included circus artist Henri Kangas and his mentor **Adrian Berry**, the Artistic Director and Joint CEO of Jacksons Lane.

18.-19.5.

European Writers' Festival

Co-funder

The second edition of the European Writers' Festival brought together many of Europe's greatest storytellers at the British Library. With the theme of transformation, the programme featured performances and discussions on literature from the writers' home countries and today's Europe.

30.5.-3.6.

Performing HEL mentoring programme: Maija Nurmio

Co-commissioner

Dancer-choreographer **Maija Nurmio** took part in the mentoring programme which was a part of the Performing HEL showcase in Helsinki. Maija spent a few days in London to gain more experience on the dance scene in the UK, together with her mentor **Reece McMahon** from Chisenhale Dance Space.

3.6.-30.8.

ACME x Finnish Institute residency: Nayab Noor Ikram

Co-commissioner

As part of an ongoing international residency partnership with ACME, **Nayab Noor Ikram**, a Turku-based artist, was chosen as the recipient of the ACME x Finnish Institute residency. She started her residency at ACME Studios in Poplar, London, in the beginning of June.

4.-9.6.

London Festival of Architecture: Vapaa Collective - Architectural Acts of Care

Commissioner

Vapaa Collective (lines Karkulahti, Charlotte Nyholm and Meri Wiikinkoski) hosted architectural performances and a symposium in London inviting visitors to reflect on the architectural processes of care. Through performing these everyday acts, Vapaa Collective's work presented them as a part of architecture equal to physical pieces and designs. The acts of care were brought out from behind the scenes, and presented as elemental to understanding architecture and design.

The work carried out by Vapaa Collective at the **London Festival of Architecture** consisted of research in collaboration with **Garry Hunter** and **Suzanne Harb** of **Fitzrovia Noir**.

8.6.

Symposium: On Architectural Acts of Care

Commissioner

What is our relationship with care in relation to the spaces we inhabit? What role does collective action play in shaping these environments? *Architectural Acts of Care* delved into these questions, offering a unique perspective on the dynamic interaction between individuals and their built surroundings during the London Festival of Architecture 2024. The symposium included presentations from Vapaa Collective, Fitzrovia Noir and Glenkerry House resident **Katie John**. The event culminated in a panel discussion, moderated by **Samir Pandya**.

8.6.

Hope in the Dark: A lab with Sonya Lindfors

Travel support

Through a partnership with **Fest en Fest, H2DANCE** and the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, **Independent Dance** welcomed **Sonya Lindfors** back to London to lead a one-day lab, *Hope in the Dark: working with speculative practices*. This follows on from the *We Should All Be Dreaming* lab that Sonya led with ID in 2022 during LIFT Festival (UK).

9.6.

Fest en Fest 2024: Discussion with Sonya Lindfors

Travel support

As part of Fest en Fest 2024, Sonya Lindfors had a conversation about her activist work and running of the festival **Urban Apa**, an interdisciplinary and counter-hegemonic arts community that offers a platform for new discourses and feminist art practices, in Finland. UrbanApa facilitates workshops, festivals, labs, mentoring and publications, among other things. The

discussion was held at **APT Gallery** in Deptford.

25.6.

Nordic Music Days reception at Scotland House

Co-funder

In collaboration with the **Nordic Embassies** and Scotland House, the Institute hosted a reception at **Scotland House** to launch the Nordic Music Days 2024 programme. The London launch of the festival programme explored and celebrated the creativeness and curiosity of the music scene in the North, and delved into contemporary society and cultural connections by building long-lasting and sustainable partnerships for the future.

4.-5.7.

down below things shudder performance at the Institute of Contemporary Arts

Co-commissioner

The Institute of

Contemporary Arts

presented the UK premier

of **Kaisa Nieminen** and

Marika Peura's live

work *down below things*

shudder. The work

explored surrendering to

the intimacy of dancing and

derives its choreographic

material from the context of club and rave culture. With grinding as its movement landscape, five dancers engage in a search of pleasures of the dancing body; sensual and sexual energies, frantic expressions, the thrill of the social play grounded in intimate explorations.

19.7.2024-16.2.2025

Jenni-Juulia Wallinheimo-Heimonen's work at Towards New Worlds group exhibition

Travel support

Jenni-Juulia Wallinheimo-Heimonen's work was shown as a part of *Towards New Worlds* a large scale group exhibition at **MIMA** in Middlesbrough. The group exhibition explored the connections between an artist's inner worlds and their external experiences. The Institute supported Jenni-Juulia's travel to MIMA.

30.8.-1.9.

On Our Doorsteps at Freedom Festival

Co-funder

On Our Doorsteps was an international programme of community engagement, creative learning and public

realm commissioning. Artists **Tiitu Takalo** and **Henna Asikainen** were invited to take part in the programme by curator **Tim Harrison**. Delivered in partnership with communities in Norwich, Lancaster and Hull, *On Our Doorsteps* explored the relationships that individuals and communities have with nature, landscape, local places and wider environmental issues, connecting local and global contexts.

7.9.2024-23.3.2025

Nastja Säde Rönkkö's 'salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears' exhibition at Serlachius

Co-commissioner

Below Zero winner **Nastja Säde Rönkkö**'s work salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears was shown in **Serlachius** (Mänttä, Finland) until March 2025. Rönkkö's poetic 15-minute three-channel work, takes as its starting point, the commonly held belief that blood contains the same amount of salt as seawater. Three 'narrators' – a teardrop, a drop of 'golden' blood and a sweat droplet tell their own stories of love and loss.

9.9.-4.10

Ossi Raippalinna at Making Tracks 2024 residency and tour
Travel support

Percussionist **Ossi Raippalinna** was selected for the *Making Tracks 2024* residency and tour. Inspired by diverse music from around the world, and the natural world itself, *Making Tracks* brought together eight extraordinary musicians to create brand new, original collaborations. During a two-week rural residency at **Cove Park** in Scotland, eight talented musicians incubated new collaborations – including several pieces inspired by this year’s theme of Oceans – before heading off on a two-week concert tour. *Making Tracks* is based around the idea that intercultural and interspecies approaches to music-making have the power to bring people together and foster a greater appreciation of both cultural diversity and biodiversity.

11.9.-10.11.

TOM House: At Home with Tom of Finland exhibition at Queer Britain

Commissioner

TOM House the VR Experience was shown at **Queer Britain** in the autumn 2024. *TOM House the VR Experience* is a documentary virtual reality piece showcasing **Tom of Finland’s** (Touko Laaksonen) work, his home and the foundation that continues to advocate for him. The VR-piece features three thematic tours around the house guided by **Mr. Durk Dehner**, the co-founder and president of **Tom of Finland Foundation**, and a virtual art gallery, which presents Tom’s work like never experienced before.

13.9.

Linda Kokkonen’s OENANTHE collection launch during London Fashion Week

Co-funder

Fashion designer **Linda Kokkonen** launched her new collection, *OENANTHE*, at The Old Church in London. The new collection is characterised by the brand’s signature romantic and mystical aesthetic. Inspired by nature and spiritual themes, her designs offer a unique blend of ethereal beauty and sustainable practices.

19.9.

Networking brunch for young design and fashion professionals

Commissioner

The Institute organised a networking brunch for young professionals, aiming to connect professionals and present the Institute’s work.

19.-22.9.

Tom of Finland Art & Culture Festival

Co-funder

Tom of Finland Foundation celebrated its 40th Anniversary with an annual festival in London. The programme consisted of a human rights symposium at Westminster University, different talks, performances and a group exhibition at SHOWstudio.

26.9.-7.12.

Remedies – Lullaby Nest exhibition by Sasha Huber and Petri Saarikko at The Showroom

Co-funder

The Showroom presented *Remedies – Lullaby Nest* by artist duo **Sasha Huber** and **Petri Saarikko**. The project marked a new chapter in the artists’ ongoing Remedies series, begun in 2010, exploring diverse approaches to healing in different geographical and cultural contexts. With *Lullaby Nest* the artists considered the age-old tradition of the lullaby within the context of their *Remedies* project as a way of upholding time and space for rest

and sleep. This intimate gesture of caretaking and soothing a child to sleep is an ancient, inherited knowledge deeply embedded in human experience.

The artists’ designed environment includes an immersive soundscape inspired by lullabies composed by London-based music artist **Matshidiso**. Conceived to nurture reconnection with our child-like ability to let our mind wander and find serenity, *Remedies – Lullaby Nest* aims to encourage a state of balance and self-regulation, and by reclaiming time and space for ourselves, becomes an act of resistance and self-determination.

Remedies – Lullaby Nest is a part of Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes’ joint pARTir initiative, funded by the EU.

27.-29.9.

Reetta Niemensivu at Lakes International Comic Art Festival

Travel support

Reetta Niemensivu, a Finnish illustrator, comic artist, and graphic designer, participated in the Lakes International Comic Art Festival, which took place from September 27th to 29th, 2024, in Bowness-on-Windermere, situated in the Lake District National Park.

23.10.

Screening of Tove at Jacksons Lane

Co-funder

As part of the celebrations for the Moomins’ 80th anniversary Jacksons Lane presented a screening of *Tove*, the biographical film about Moomins’ creator Tove Jansson.

15.-23.11.

Camille Auer and Emil Santtu Uuttu at Outburst Festival

Travel support

Finnish artists **Camille Auer** and dramaturg **Emil Santtu Uuttu** visited the Outburst Festival in Belfast, as part of a research and development trip. During the festival Camille Auer performed a small snippet of her performance piece *Ruff Knowledge*.

6.12.-5.1.2025

Christmas Comes to Moominvalley at Jacksons Lane

Co-funder,

co-commissioner

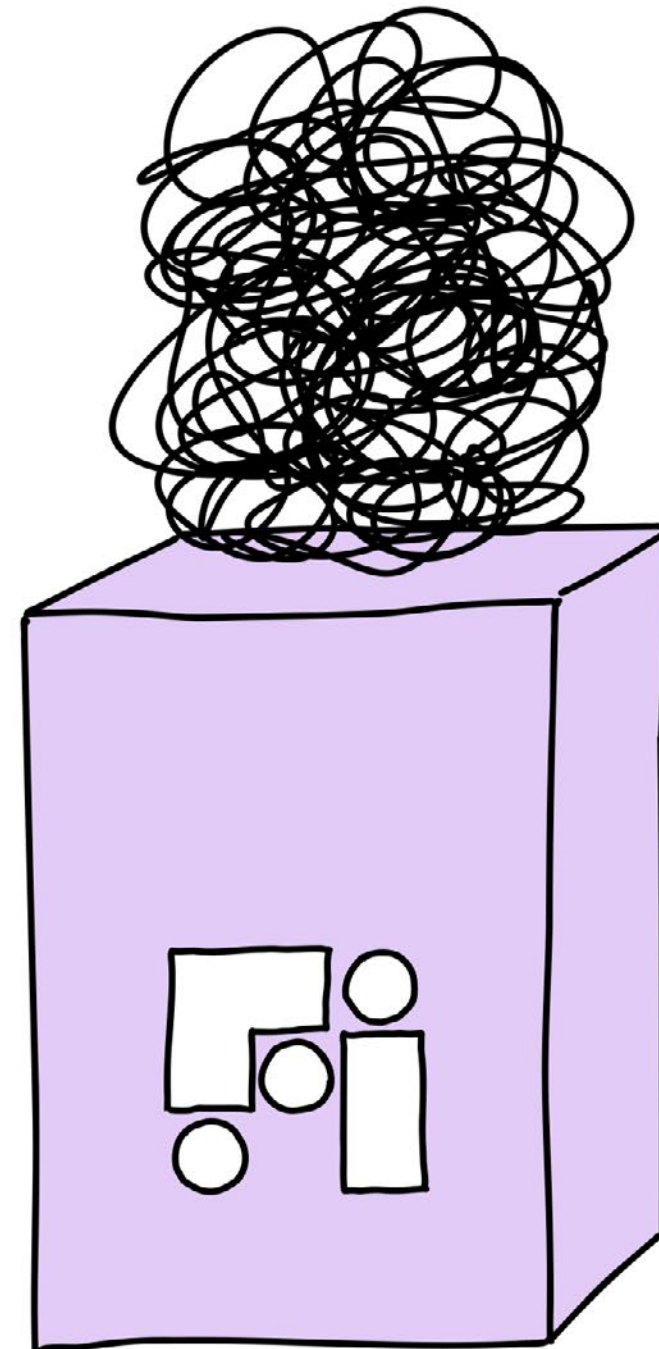
Jacksons Lane celebrated the 80th anniversary of global phenomenon The Moomins with *Christmas Comes to Moominvalley*, a new adaptation of Tove Jansson’s classic tale, *The Fir Tree*. The performance consists of breathtaking circus, stunning imagery, enchanting storytelling, and magical music. The Moomin family demonstrate their special values of tolerance, kindness and integrity, as they prepare for their first Christmas – helping us understand what the festive season is really all about.

11.12.

Institute’s Festive Drinks Reception

Commissioner

The Institute hosted its annual Festive Drinks Reception for its stakeholders.



”

Highly professional, meaningful, open and innovative.

Quote from the 2024 stakeholder survey

Language courses

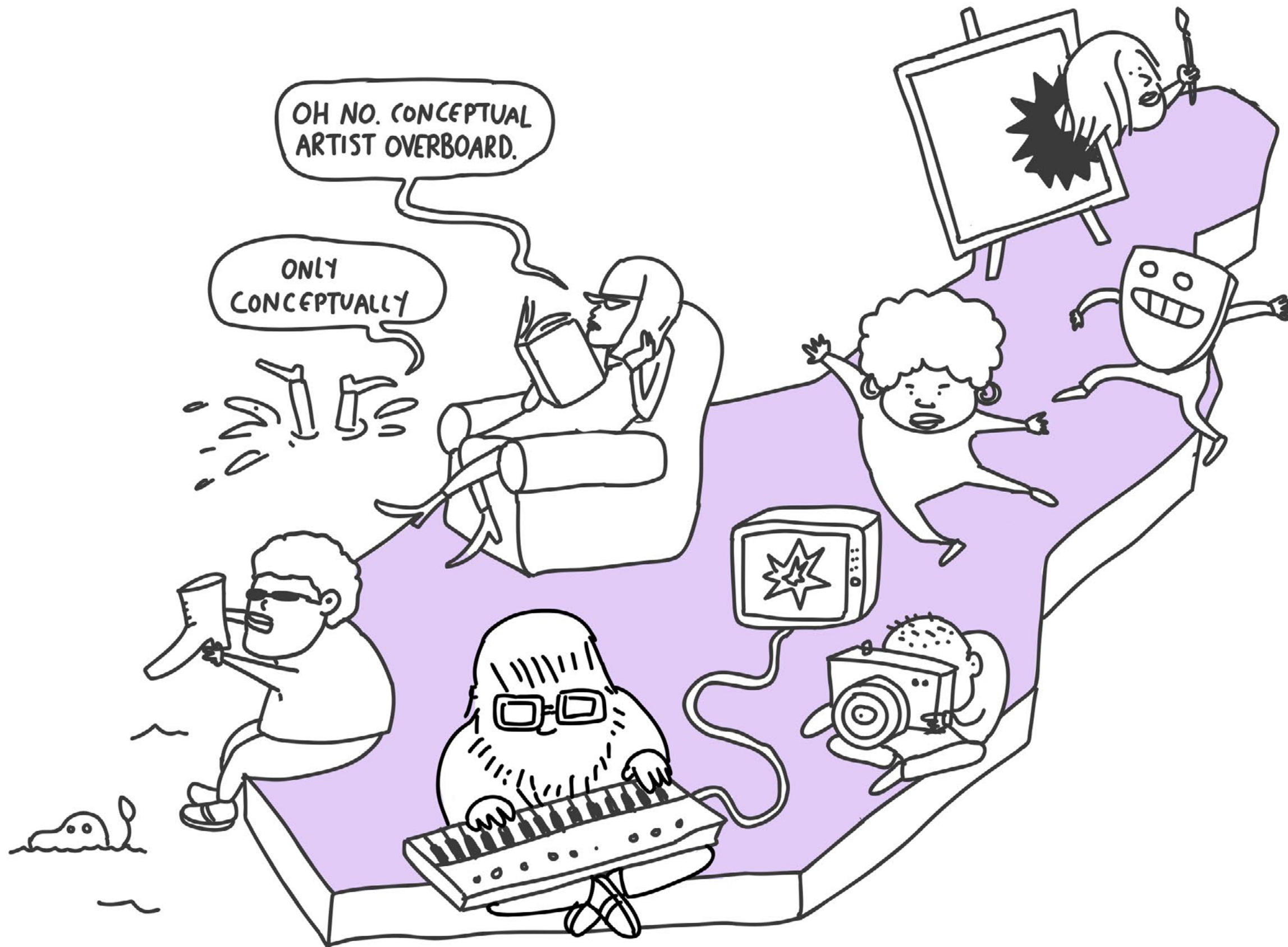
The Institute organised Finnish language courses for adult learners. Language courses were held weekly over three terms in 2024, both online and at the Institute. Course levels ran from absolute beginners to advanced.

A total of 118 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

118





”

Open,
experimental,
ambitious,
relevant, vital.

Quote from the 2024 stakeholder survey

5

Economy and administration

Economy and administration

The Finnish Patent and Registration Office granted the foundation of the Finnish Institute in London Trust 13.7.1989. The institute was registered in the Trust register 3.4.1990. 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 2024). Government support is essential in order to achieve relevant partnerships and develop a high-quality programme.

In 2024, additional funding was received from the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation and from the EU. The Institute has secured funding for 2025 from the EU for Institutes' joint pARTir initiative.

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

Malin Groop, Chair
Marianne Saarikko Janson, Vice Chair (until 25.4.2024)
Jeremiah Tesolin
Rebecca Walton
Leif Jakobsson (until 25.4.2024)
Mari K Niemi
John Webster (from 11.10.2024)
Heli Suominen (from 11.10.2024)

In 2024 the board convened 6 times. Two meetings were held in person (London & Helsinki), two online and two were held as email meetings.

Staff and interns at the Institute

Director
Jaakko Nousiainen

Director of Arts Programme
Karoliina Korpilahti (until 16.8.2024)
Sara Kärpänen (from 31.7.2024)

Director of Society Programme
Neicia Marsh (on maternity leave 15.1.-9.9.2024)

Director of Society Programme, maternity cover: Nimco Hussein 2.1.-18.10.2024

Project Manager:
Annika Pellonpää

Work placement: Chelim Gong, Goldsmiths' College, Art Administration and Cultural Policy MA programme, 28.3.-28.6.2024

Partners

Long term development partners

To strengthen the long-term impact of our activities, we have agreed development partnerships with three different UK actors. In our selection criteria, we have emphasised that the organisations' own objectives are in line with our own objectives and values.

The partners selected will broaden the visibility and depth of our activities. The development of these partnerships is assessed annually in joint evaluations, which review progress towards our objectives.

The Institute offers these partners:

- Three-year commitment and financial support (2024-2026)
- Expertise and networks
- Communication support
- Professional research trips and expert visits to Finland

In return we get:

- Developing the international capacity of partners
- Active support for new productions and touring opportunities for Finnish and Finland-based artists and experts
- Professional mentoring for Finnish and Finnish-based artists and experts
- Access to partners' networks
- Support in communication
- Possibility to benefit from the expertise of partners in Finland through various expert visits

The long-term development partners selected for the period 2024-2026 are:



ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts

– partner in contemporary arts

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is a leading centre for contemporary culture in central London. The ICA commissions, produces and exhibits new work in film, music, performance and visual arts by some of today's most progressive artists.

In 2024, the ICA hosted Kaisa Nieminen and Marika Peura's live work *down below things shudder*. The work was shown for the first time in the UK and the tickets sold out. The performance featured five dancers, **Selma Kauppinen, Lau Lukkarila, Kaisa Nieminen, Caroline Suinner, and Marika Peura.**



SICK!

– partner in societal matters within arts, culture and design

SICK! works with artists and marginalised communities. The festival's programme addresses mental, physical and social challenges through art. SICK! is based in Manchester and its international programme brings together the expertise of artists, researchers, public health professionals, charities and experiential practitioners. The biennial festival explores themes through different art forms such as dance, theatre, film, spoken word and debate.

In 2024 began their research and development phase of a 3 year new commissioning project in partnership with Oulu 2026 and ANTI contemporary art festival. As part of this Tracy Gentles, Artistic Director & CEO, and Helen Medland, SICK! Founder and International Development Consultant visited Oulu at the end of 2024.



SARA SASSANELLI,
INDEPENDENT
CURATOR

JACKSONS LANE

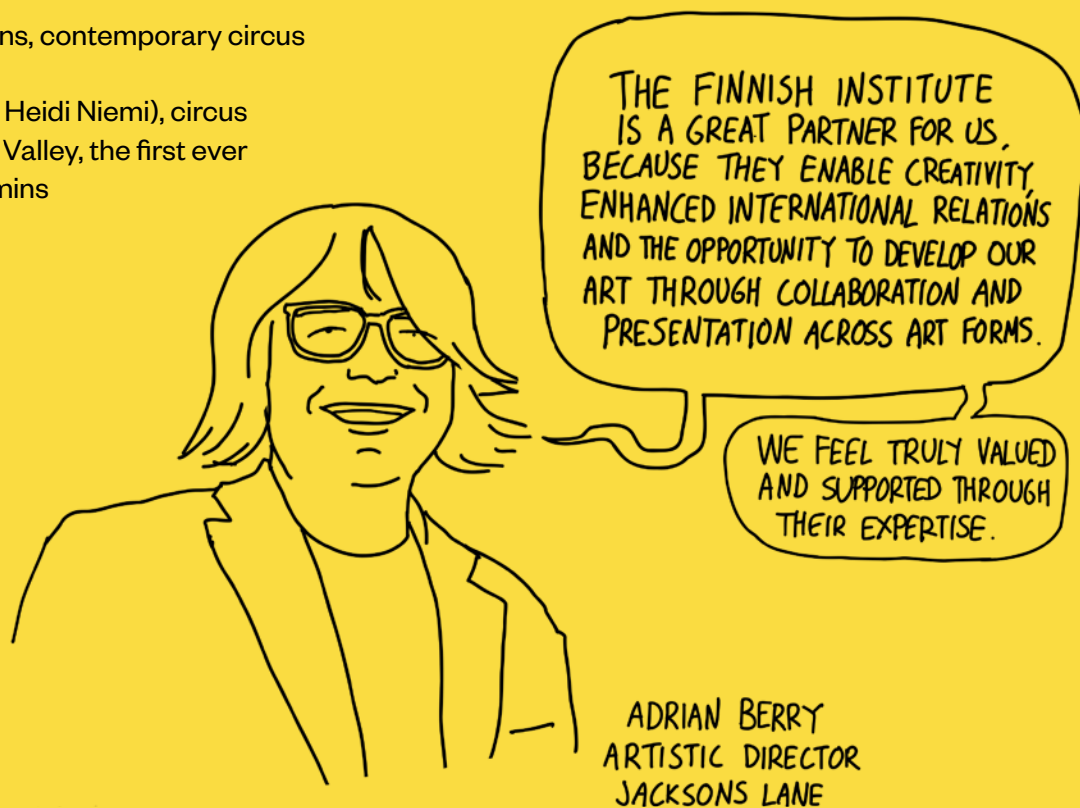
Jacksons Lane

– partner in performing arts

Jacksons Lane in Highgate, north London, is a pioneer in contemporary circus and new performance art. Their programme of performances, audience engagement activities and cultural education seeks to empower theatre audiences and local communities.

In 2024, Jackson's Lane hosted the following Finnish productions:

- Jam Shenanigans: Shenanigans, contemporary circus for family audiences
- Lotta and Stina: Still Here (dir. Heidi Niemi), circus
- Christmas Comes to Moomin Valley, the first ever circus adaptation of the Moomins



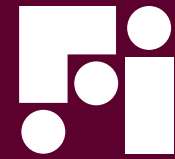
Jam Shenanigans
at Jackson Lane



Lotta and Stina
20 Years Later Still Here
at Jackson Lane

Photo and illustration credits

All illustrations businessillustrator.com	16 <i>Gabriela Salgado</i> Emma Blau
13 <i>Lipsync costume</i> Kholod Hawash	<i>Remedies - Lullaby Nest</i> Cesare De Giglio
<i>Open call, Tze Yeung Ho</i> Robert Schittko	20 <i>Hanna Ijäs, Lie Down</i> <i>Where You Want to</i> <i>be Stepped On, 2024.</i> Performance at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios. Louis Haugh
14 <i>Orlan Ohtonen</i> Jussi Ulkuniemi	21 <i>Outi Pieski</i> Heikki Tuuli
<i>Päiviö Maurice Omwami</i> Kerttu Malinen	30 <i>Jam Shenanigans</i> Wieba Photography <i>Lotta and Stina</i> <i>20 Years Later Still Here</i> Cosmin Cirstea



Finnish Institute
in the UK and Ireland
Somerset House
New Wing, Strand
London WC2R 1LA
UK

Office telephone
+44 (0)20 3701 7660

General enquiries
info@fininst.uk

Administrative enquiries
admin@fininst.uk

Design: Studio Emmi

FINNISH
INSTITUTE
UK + IRELAND