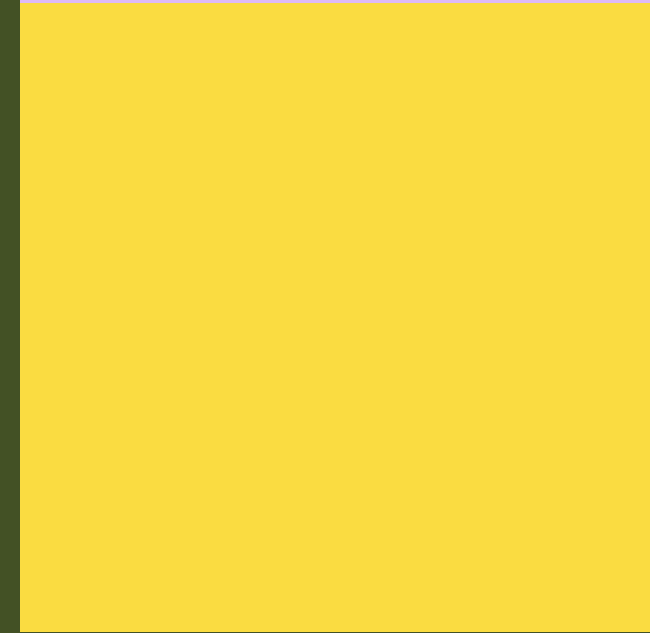
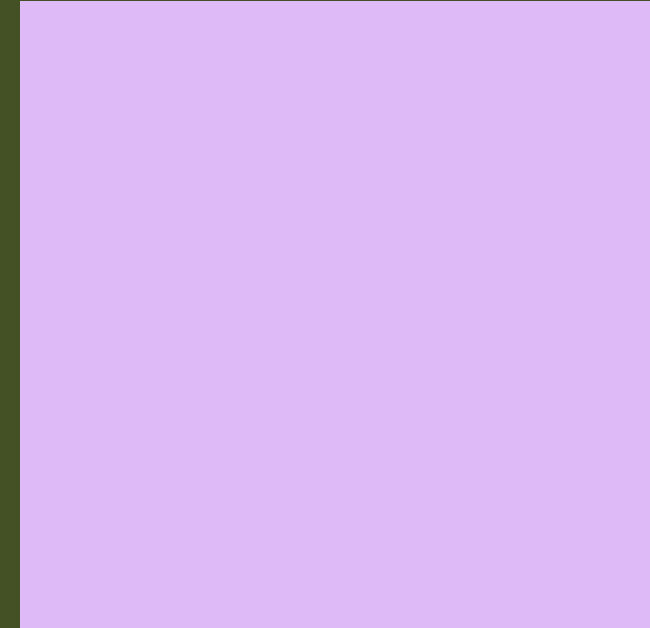
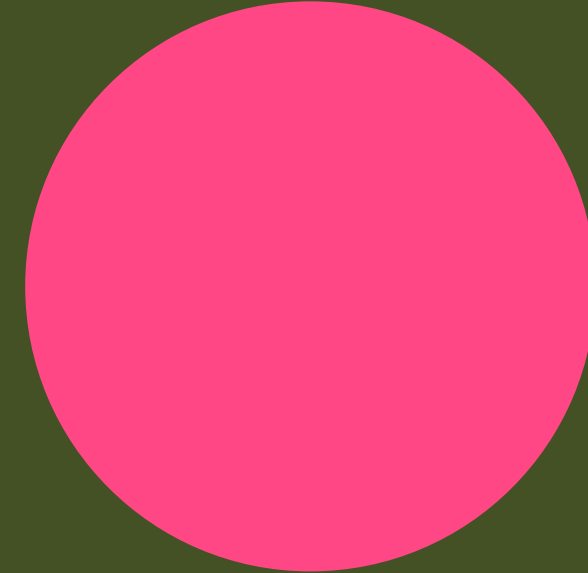
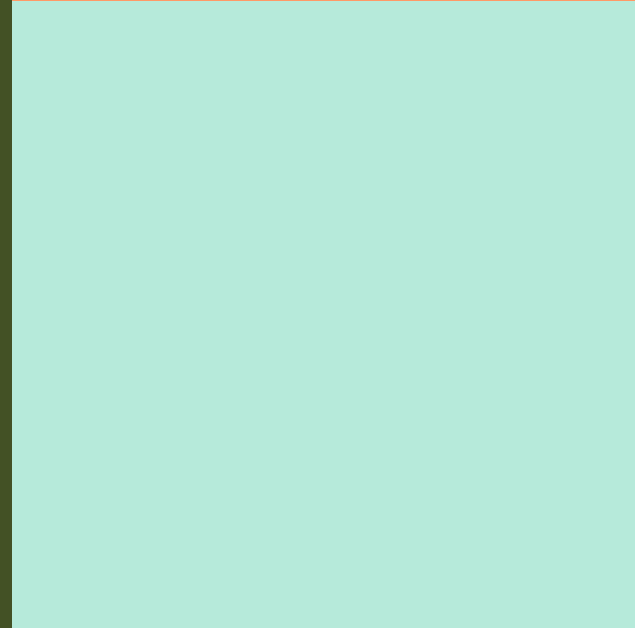
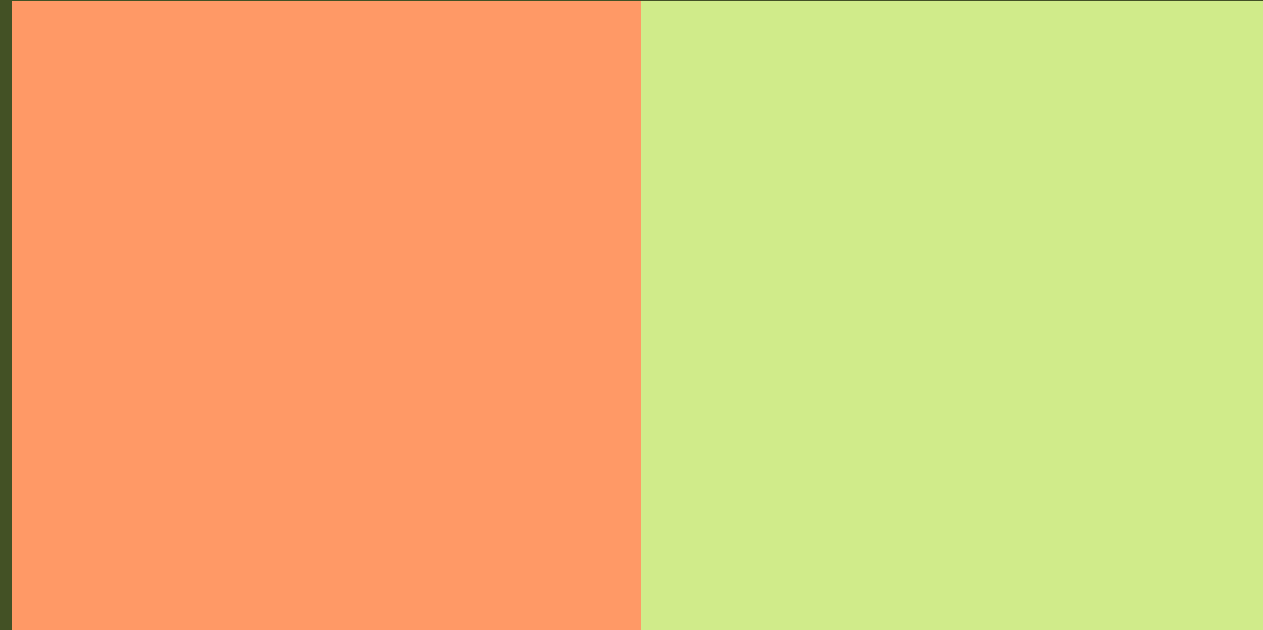
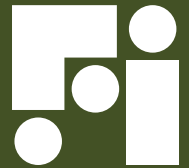


Annual Report 2023



2023 key figures

Programme reach

1,061,000

People reached with our programme and events

250+

Artists, speakers and experts participated in activities supported by us

200+

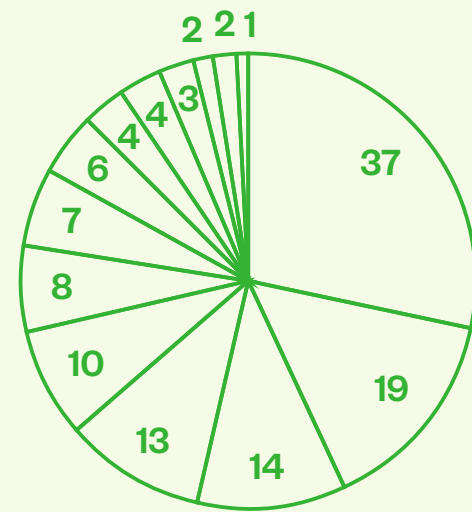
Arts and culture professionals in our networks whom we introduced to each other

15

Productions supported through the TelepART mobility programme

117

Finnish students



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

73

Events in 22 locations in the UK, Ireland, Finland and online



10

Supported professional visits from Finland to the UK and Ireland.

5

3

10

20

Supported professional visits from the UK and Ireland to Finland

54

Events in the UK

32 in London
5 in Shetland
1 each in Aberdeen, Alton, Belfast, Bowness-on-Windermere, Bristol, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Dover, Edinburgh, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Newport, Oxford, Shingley and York.

4

Events in Ireland
4 in Dublin

27

Events in Finland

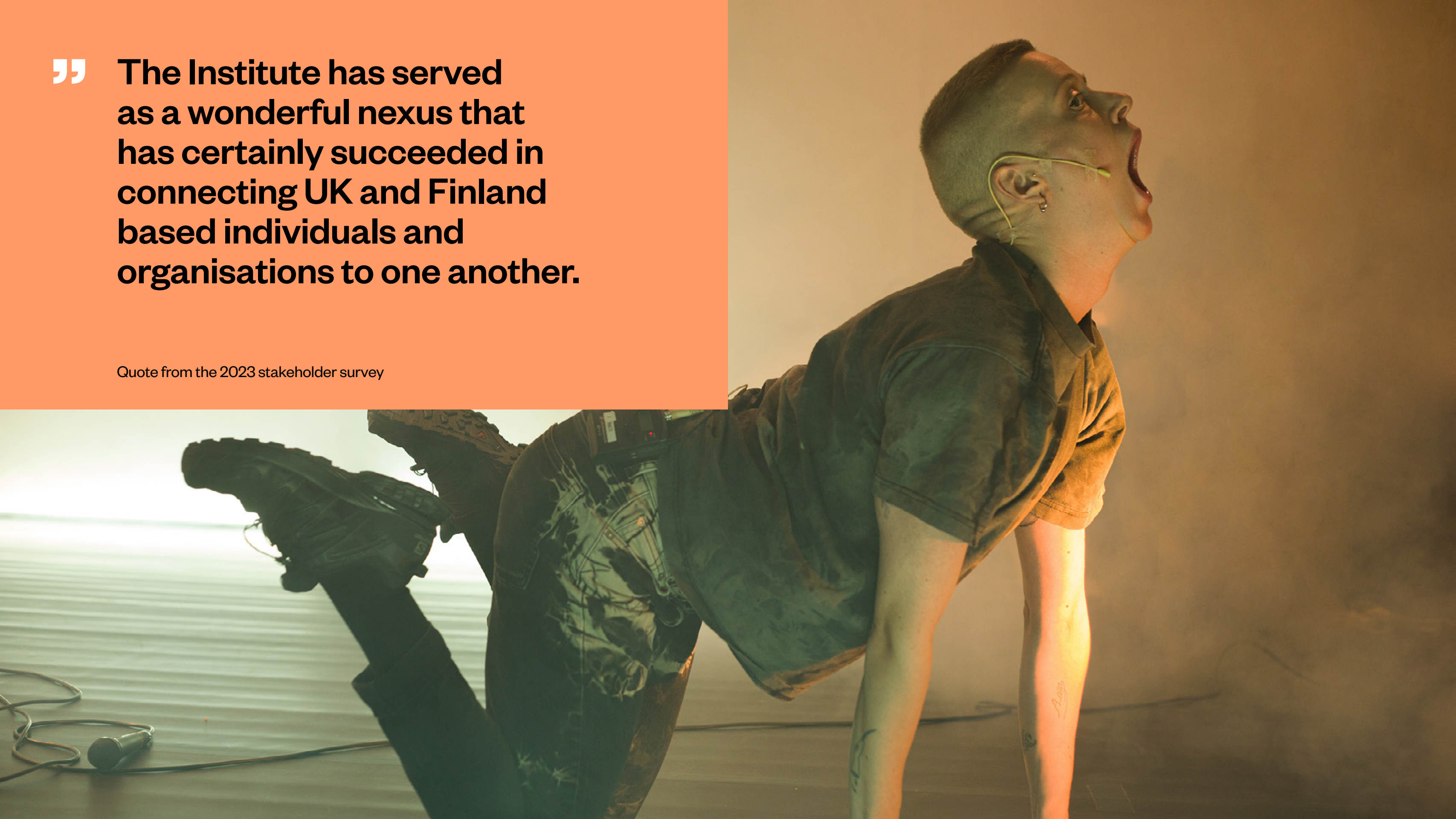
Espoo 1
Helsinki 10
Oulu 3

1

Event online

” The Institute has served as a wonderful nexus that has certainly succeeded in connecting UK and Finland based individuals and organisations to one another.

Quote from the 2023 stakeholder survey



1 Summary

Summary

In 2023, the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland focused successfully on its main tasks of supporting the internationalisation of Finnish and Finland based professional artists, creatives, and researchers, and promoting equality and diversity in the arts and on a societal level.

Approximately **1 061 000** people were reached by the Institute's programme activities.

The main projects of the year were:

1) Below Zero Finnish Art Prize. The winning video installation *salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears* by Nastja Säde Rönkkö by Nastja Säde Rönkkö was created in an artist residence in London and exhibited at the Beaconsfield Gallery from March to May.

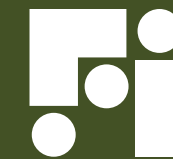
2) Visitor programme to Finland, enabling 20 British and Irish arts and culture professionals from the fields of contemporary art, audiovisual arts and performing arts to get acquainted with the activities of corresponding professional organisations in Finland.

3) The group exhibition *Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move*, which presented the work of seven young Finnish and Finnish-based artists working in installation, sculpture, sound and film in London.

4) *Together Again*, a multi-year and multidisciplinary project by a network of institutes, culminating in a contemporary art festival at the Oodi Central Library and online in Helsinki in September.

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 Finland, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The Institute carries out ambitious and multidisciplinary projects. In 2023 the Institute focused on contemporary art, audiovisual art, circus and sustainability in artistic practice, as well as diversity issues and bringing underrepresented artists into focus. The Institute also supports artists' and specialists' travel and research trips. In addition the Institute offers Finnish classes.



FINNISH
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In addition to our public and arts professionals facing programmes, the Institute caters Finnish language courses for adults. The hybrid format (online/ in person) continues to be popular, as it allows students to join classes from near and far.

During the year the Institute and its Board developed an impact measuring model and evaluation framework based on the Theory of change model. The Board also worked on crafting a new strategy for the years 2024–2026.

The Institute continues to get positive feedback from its stakeholders and is seen as a trusted partner. We have continued to build our partner network as well as our collaboration with the global network of the Finnish Institutes. Likewise, we have actively collaborated with the Nordic embassies and the Faroese representation in London, the Embassy of Finland in Dublin, Team Finland UK and EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture).

Our Society Programme Director Neicia Marsh continued for the second year in the presidency team of EUNIC London. Through EUNIC we are able to fortify a joint European cultural agenda and presence in the cultural landscape of the post-Brexit UK.

Jaakko Nousiainen
Director
London, 21.2.2024





The focus of the Finnish Institute should be inspirational to other national funders. Its focus on culture and society and how the symbiotic relationship between the two can create happier, healthier communities is hugely important.

Quote from the 2023 stakeholder survey

Together Again

Featured Project

This three-year long joint project with the wider Institute network was initiated as a reaction to the coronavirus pandemic, and it came to its end in September 2023.

The final phase of the project saw artists **Matti Aikio**, **Minna Henriksson**, **Uwa Iduozee** and **Kairos Collective** create four new commissioned works, while **Aapo Nikkanen & Léa Domingues**, **Post Theatre Collective** and **Pehme Collective** continued with previously initiated projects. What all the works had in common was their international collaboration with local communities.

The programme was curated by **Elina Suoyrjö**, Programme Manager at the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, **Karoliina Korpilahti**, Director of the Arts Programme at the Finnish Institute in Britain and Ireland and **Monica Gathuo**, Festival Producer.

The Together Again art festival's main event took over the Oodi Central Library on Friday 8 September 2023. The festival was open and free to the public and the programme could also be watched live online from around the world.



All in all Together Again reached a wide audience:



Commissioned by the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, curator **Lily Hall** and artist **Minna Henriksson** worked together on a project that started in December 2022 and ended in September 2023. The project had two phases, one in London and one in Helsinki.

The archive of the Kiila Feminists highlights the early years of the Kiila writers' organisation, which has been active for more than 80 years. The materials showcase feminist themes that were present at the time of Kiila's foundation, but have since been obscured, lost or edited out of its official historiography. Henriksson is an active member of Kiila and through her own work she seeks to trace, translate and reposition these feminist trends.

The project aimed to create and strengthen peer communities of artists, both international and local, and to work with local audiences at the London-based partner gallery. In London, the project was situated within The Showroom gallery's long-term work with local audiences. This was an important factor for the Institute in choosing a partner to ensure that participants or co-collaborators are not left empty-handed at the end of this single project. Henriksson's workshops reinforced the Showroom's collaborative working and reputation as an open, free and accessible art space.

As part of the Together Again festival programme, leaflets were brought to the shelves of the Helsinki City Libraries, Rikhardinkatu and Oodi, for the shelves of fiction and poetry. They contained a selection of text excerpts with English translations from four of the Kiila's female writers: **Tyyne Maija Salminen**, **Elvi Sinervo**, **Iris Uurto** and **Katri Vala**. These texts have been completely ignored for a long time. Henriksson has made illustrations for the leaflets using linocut printing techniques and the prints were on display in the Rikhardinkatu library.

A new reading circle was also organised in Helsinki, with current members of the Kiila. Part of the group performed text excerpts selected in the reading circle as part of the festival programme. The reading was carried out by **Yvonne Billimore**, Lily Hall, Minna Henriksson and Karoliina Korpilahti.



Lily Hall
Curator, The Showroom gallery

Lily Hall combines her work at The Showroom with an interdependent curatorial practice with a focus on collaborative, process-oriented modes of production. She was one of the co-curators of The Showroom's exhibition and public programme.

"Working with the Finnish Institute has meant that there is a longer term relationship, not just a funding agreement but also a working relationship, which is more rooted in common ground in relation to research and support moving forward. It has been really valuable to have this sort of long term process, being able to slow down."
– Lily Hall



Minna Henriksson
Visual artist

Minna Henriksson works with a disparate range of tools including text, drawing, painting and linocut. Her works are often based on extensive archival research and draw from real historical events aiming to bring forth marginalisation and oppression, and to highlight positions of power.

"For sure the recognition of my work has increased in the UK as a result of this project. I also really liked the possibility of exhibiting something that was not final and fixed, but something that can take different forms, continue to grow and stay in an open process."
– Minna Henriksson

Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move

Featured Project

The Institute in association with 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning in Brixton, London presented this group exhibition featuring the works of seven Finnish and Finland based marginalised artists who work across installation, sculpture, sound and film: Ama Essel, Sasha Huber, Ima Iduozee, Liisa-Irmelen Liwata, Mikki Noroila, Man Yau and Haliz Yosef. Their work traverses diasporic experiences, narratives, emotions, place-making, commonality, and belonging.



The exhibition took place from October to November at 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning gallery, an advocate for greater diversity in the visual arts since 1988 by providing a platform for Afro-Caribbean and Asian artists in South London.

All in all, the project had been two years in the making, and in addition to the public facing exhibition, the project nurtured and fostered artistic development of the participating artists as well as critical debate while building new relationships between the artists and the local creative communities. This way the project was also better integrated with local communities.

198 Contemporary Arts and Learning is one of London's first black art galleries, and they have a long history in engaging with local communities in South London. Their expertise and networks were valuable to all participants.

All the artists were present in the opening event in London, allowing them to make new professional connections for future collaborations.



Artwork on the left by Man Yau

Artwork on the far left by Sasha Huber

Photos from the opening night.



Liisa-Irmelen Liwata
Visual artist



Nimco Kulmiye Hussein
Curator, writer

Liisa-Irmelen Liwata comes from a Finnish-Congolese background and she is based in Helsinki. In her works she discusses the connections between body, land and language. As a person who has grown up at the intersection of several cultures, she is interested to explore that point where one's being is interlaced. She was one of the artists in the group exhibition *Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move* in London.

"The experience of working internationally, as well as the grant I received for this project, especially as an emerging artist, was an enriching and professionally developing process. Also, I feel that there are other, later and longer-lasting effects that have arisen from the project."

– Liisa-Irmelen Liwata

London-based, Finnish-born Nimco Kulmiye Hussein works at the intersection of research, culture and art. Their praxis draws from postcolonial and queer-feminist perspectives, focusing actively on participatory practices that bring people together through critical, timely and meaningful narratives. They co-curated the group exhibition *Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move*.

"Working on the project with Institute, the 198 and the artists was a great experience. Bridging different people and creating connections between younger artists and organisations is a key element in my curatorial practice. I always aim to facilitate their processes and collaborate with them meaningfully in new spaces. The support and resources provided by the Finnish Institute as well as the 198 were excellent and diverse."

– Nimco Kulmiye Hussein



2

Strategy 2021–2023

Strategy 2021–2023

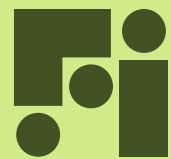
The Institute’s strategy is a tool for guiding programme planning and development of the partner network.

This strategy term reached its end at the end of the year. With this in mind, the Institute’s Board and Staff have worked on a new strategy that builds on the strengths of the old strategy, while also taking fresh new initiatives for the next three year term of 2024 –2026.

The new strategy will be rolled out in 2024. It consists of three main elements:

- 1) **Creating a sharper focus in programming, prioritising working with performing arts, contemporary arts and progressive societal matters within arts, culture and design.**
- 2) **Building mutually beneficial strategic partnerships in the three programme focus areas.**
- 3) **Deepening the dialogue with main stakeholder groups.**

**Diverse,
inclusive and
impactful**



**FINNISH
INSTITUTE
UK + IRELAND**

Mission

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

Vision

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

Values

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

How we do it

We recognise signals of change in the fields of art, culture, and society. We secure and allocate resources for arts and society to flourish. We seize opportunities and create possibilities for new collaborations and present relevant and engaging cultural events and projects. We support Finnish artists, researchers, social and cultural actors. We promote equality and the diversity of Finnish culture and strive to diversify research and science globally.

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

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

Mission and setting

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 professional artists, experts and decision makers. The Institute actively builds new audiences for Finnish arts, culture and research, plus, connects Finnish individuals and organisations in the fields of culture, society and the arts with relevant partners and funding opportunities in the UK and Ireland.

Ways of operating

Majority of the Institute's public facing work is carried out through co-commissions and co-productions with partners. We also offer mobility grants and residency support. This model and the connections we forge through it allow our British and Irish collaborators to get a diverse, timely and inclusive insight into Finnish creativity and innovation.

Networks

The Institute is part of a global network of 16 Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes.

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

The institute is a member of Team Finland, which coordinates Finnish initiatives in the UK. In Finland, the Institute works in close collaboration with Circus and Dance Info, Theatre Info and Frame Contemporary Art Finland.

Impact and self-assessment

The impact of the Institute's programming is measured through audience participation, media visibility, an annual stakeholder survey and our societal impact, e.g. ensuring that public events are accessible and that our programming is inclusive and equal. Individual targets are set for each project, and impact measurement is carried out in relation to those targets.

We are using an impact measuring model and evaluation framework based on the Theory of Change. This detailed model and evaluation framework has been customised for us, and it helps us clarify what specific information is needed in order to evidence the impact of the Institute's work. The tool allows us to follow a practical plan for data collection, including deciding how and when to go about gathering data and who should be responsible for collecting it. The plan has been brought into practice in 2023, and it will be further developed in 2024.

Media highlights

Throughout the year, the Institute's programme gathered 37 notable mentions in Finnish, Irish and UK media.

Selection of media hits:

1
Ima Iduozee's *After We're Gone* at at Aesthetica Short Film Festival in York

2
Screening of *Eatnameamet - Our Silent Struggle*

3
Nastja Säde Rönkkö's *Below Zero* prize

4
Tom of Finland VR work

Communications reach

Web page views

51 671

2022: 43 372

Newsletter subscribers

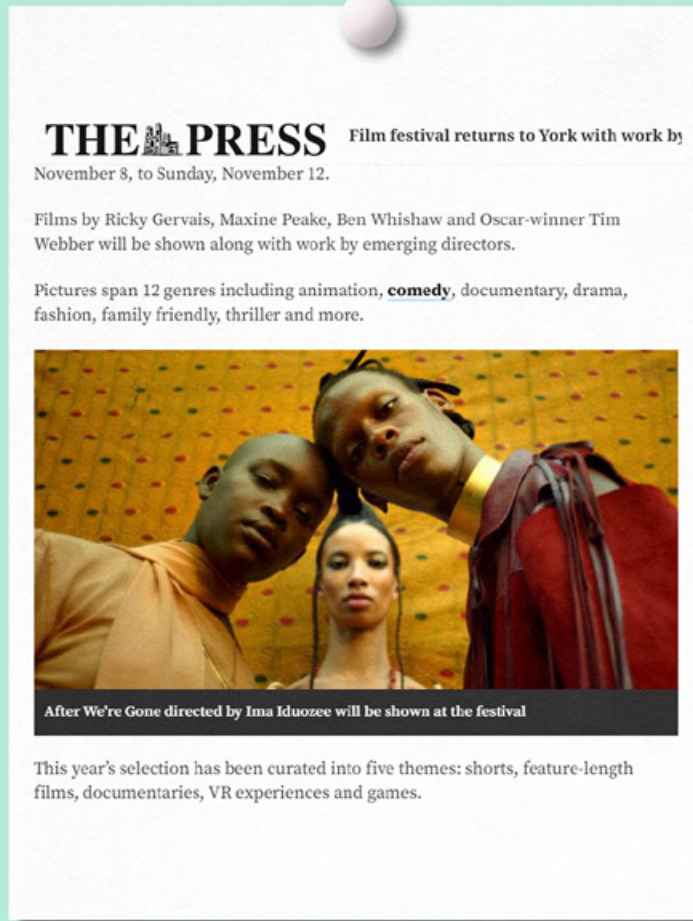
1 579

2022: 1 579

Instagram followers

3 716


2022: 3 225



THE PRESS Film festival returns to York with work by November 8, to Sunday, November 12.

Films by Ricky Gervais, Maxine Peake, Ben Whishaw and Oscar-winner Tim Webber will be shown along with work by emerging directors.

Pictures span 12 genres including animation, **comedy**, documentary, drama, fashion, family friendly, thriller and more.



After We're Gone directed by Ima Iduozee will be shown at the festival

This year's selection has been curated into five themes: shorts, feature-length films, documentaries, VR experiences and games.

1 The Press

Nastja Säde Rönkkö

Beaconsfield, London, to 6 May

The winner of the Below Zero prize for Finnish art explores the mythology of salt in a three-channel video promising poetry and melancholy. It's said human blood has the same salt level as sea water and she derives three stories from this legend. *Jonathan Jones*

3 The Guardian 18.3.2023



plight of the Sámi people

Monday, 25 September 2023
By Margherita Bassi



Activist Ida-Maria Helander (Left) and Director Suvi West (Right).

A collaboration of various Finnish institutes will bring Suvi West's political documentary 'Eatnameamet - Our Silent Struggle' to Cinema Galeries (Brussels) at 19:00 on Thursday 28 September.

2 The Brussels Times 25.9.2023



**Tom of Finland
Receives Largest
Ever Museum
Show**

By Sam Gaskin
Helsinki
21 April 2023

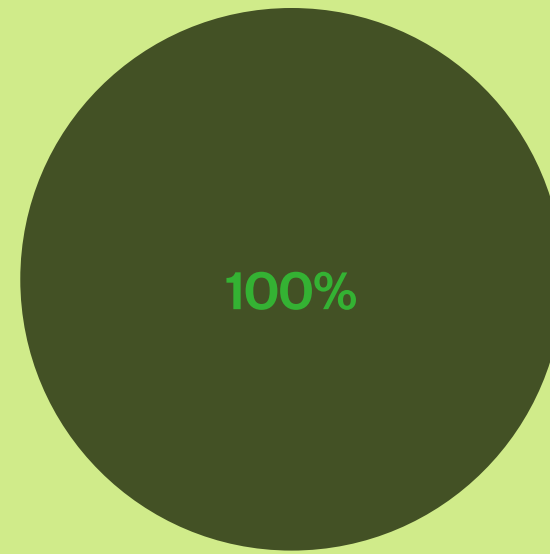
Leevi Haapala, the Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma in Helsinki, discusses the artist's icon status and the challenges of presenting his work at a public institution.



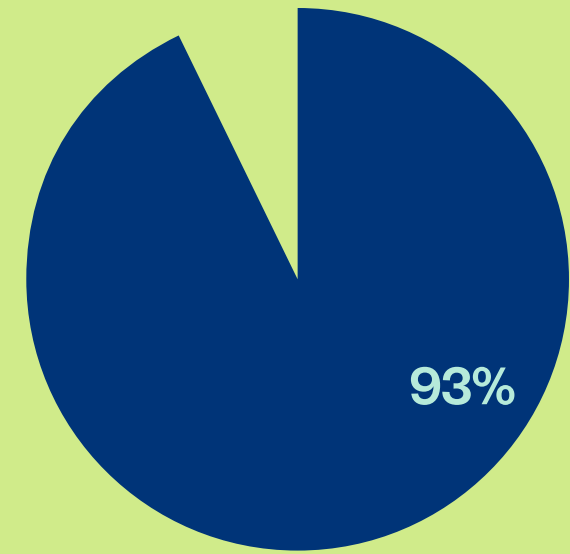
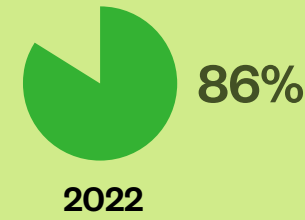
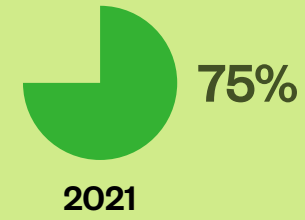
4 Ocula 21.4.2023

Stakeholder survey

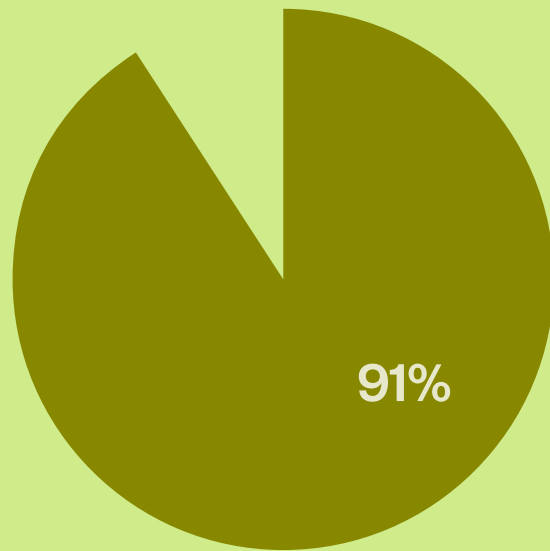
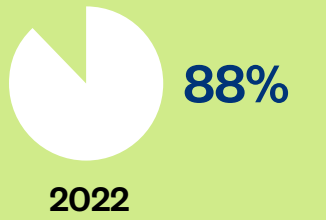
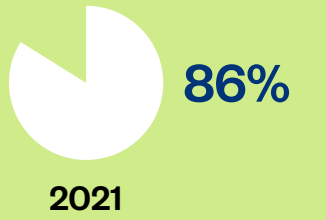
The institute carries out an annual stakeholder survey to gain feedback from its stakeholder network, including both individuals and organisations. The 2023 survey was sent to 119 representatives of our network, and we received 34 responses.



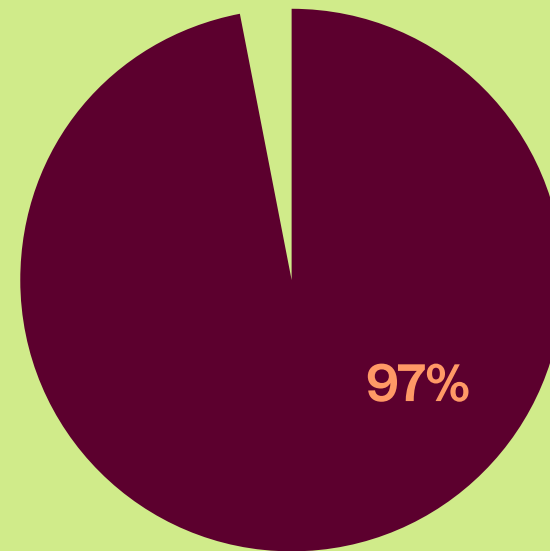
100% of the participants agree or strongly agree that the Institute has acted as a source of expertise on Finnish culture and society in the UK and Ireland.



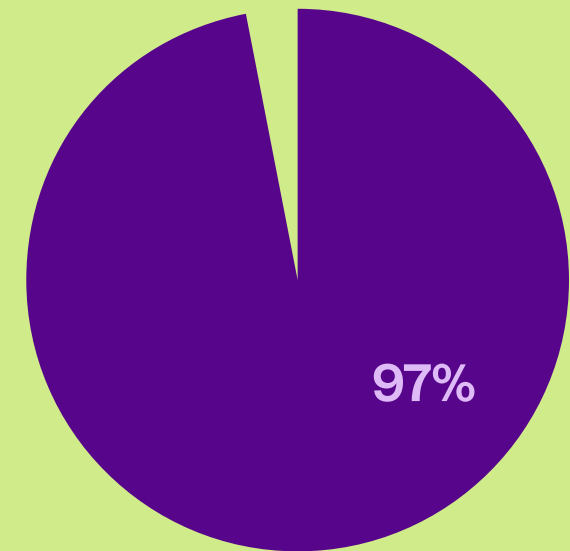
93% agree or strongly agree that the Institute operated according to its values of equality and transparency.



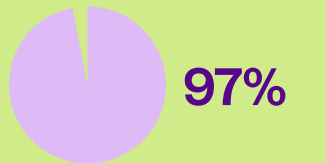
91% of the stakeholder survey participants agree or strongly agree that the Institute has created positive change by connecting people through culture and art.



97% of the participants find the Institute's work meaningful and relevant to the work they do.



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





” A contemporary and fair approach engaging with culture, meaningful projects, friendly and knowledgeable people, efficient, creative collaboration!

Quote from the 2023 stakeholder survey



3

Activities

Activities

The Institute organised or funded **102 individual events, exhibitions and functions during the year.**

Events, exhibitions and functions

102

Editorial Tables: Reciprocal Hospitalities

Co-production, co-commission

25.1.–2.3. Editorial Tables: Reciprocal Hospitalities exhibition at The Showroom

An exhibition and public programme that brought together the publishing practices of **Ruth Beale**, **Sezgin Boynik** (Rab-Rab Press), **Minna Haukka & Kristin Luke** (The Mobile Feminist Library), **Minna Henriksson**, **Rose Nordin**, and **Elham Rahmati & Vidha Saumya** (NO NIIN magazine). The exhibition was curated by **Lily Hall**, **Yvonne Billimore** and **Jussi Koitela**.

Editorial Tables celebrated the production and dissemination of knowledge through the act of independent, experimental

and artist led publishing, with a focus on intersecting feminist and decolonial perspectives. The project involved a range of publishing, archiving, print and distribution practices by artists, curators and art workers from the UK and Finland, bringing these into relation and dialogue in the lead-up to the realisation of the exhibition at The Showroom.

The space of the exhibition aimed to open up new connections through live processes of encounter and exchange around printed matter, where visitors were able to engage and think with the material in the space. There were opportunities to connect, correspond and collaborate during the public programme and over the eight-week duration of the show.



Below Zero art prize residency and exhibition

Co-commissioner & co-funder

23.1.-15.3.

Nastja Säde Rönkkö's residency

Below Zero Art Prize winner **Nastja Säde Rönkkö** was in residency at Beaconsfield Gallery from 23 January to 15 March.

'narrators' – a teardrop, a drop of 'golden' blood and a sweat droplet tell their own stories of love and loss in this moving work shot in HD video during February 2023 in London.

16.3.-6.5.

salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears exhibition at Beaconsfield Gallery

salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears is a poetic three-channel video installation by Nastja Säde Rönkkö. The work takes as its starting point the commonly held – yet incorrect – belief that blood contains the same amount of salt as seawater. Three

27.4.

Nastja Säde Rönkkö in conversation with Chloe Carroll

Nastja Säde Rönkkö had a conversation with writer **Chloe Carroll** about how *salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears* evolved, and about concepts such as care, slowness or affection can be silent yet radical ways to be and act in the world.



Together Again festival

Co-commissioner & co-funder

8.9.

Together Again festival

The Together Again project culminated in a festival held at Central Library Oodi in Helsinki and online. The festival consisted of panel discussions, presentations, screenings and readings by different artists and other cultural actors.

Together Again was an expansive art project fostering gatherings, workshops, intercultural dialogues and socially engaged art, organised by the Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes. Together Again presented six community-based works to audiences in Amsterdam, Helsinki, London, Madrid, New York, Oslo, Paris, Porto, and online.

8.-17.9.

Minna Henriksson's work at Rikhardinkadun kirjasto and Oodi Central Library

Artist Minna Henriksson's booklets and linocuts were displayed at Rikhardinkatu Library and Oodi Central Library in Helsinki during the Together Again festival.



Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move

Commissioner

13.10.–3.12.

Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move exhibition at 198

Contemporary Arts and Learning

Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move

was a group exhibition featuring the works of seven artists who work across installation, sculpture, sound and film. The works of Ama Essel, Sasha Huber, Ima Iduozee, Liisa-Irmelen Liwata, Mikki Noroila, Man Yau and Haliz Yosef traverses across diasporic experiences, narratives, emotions, place-making, commonality, and belonging. Employing various conceptual starting points and an array of materials and techniques, the group exhibition

makes tangible the manners in which visual artists analyse and embody their local, national, and global identities.

26.11.

Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move public programme: flat70 tour and screening of Ima Iduozee's 'After We're Gone'

flat 70 Culture Club presented a tour of *Perceive sea, dunes, mountains in move* exhibition, which was followed by a screening of *After We're Gone* by **Ima Iduozee** at 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning in London.



18.2.

Lacuna at ICA

Travel support

Lacuna is an auto fictional body horror performance by **Teo Ala-Ruona**. It composes ghostly experiences into a verbal and musical incantation. *Lacuna* means an opening or a gap. It can be a missing or omitted part. For Ala-Ruona, its meaning is twofold. It's both a ghost – a parasitic memory of his body before transition, on the other hand it's a blissful void free of trauma.

Lacuna was a part of a double-bill performance night at the ICA. In addition to *Lacuna*, **Maria Metsalu's** *The Well* was performed during the event. Together the performances look for ways to make sense of the self in a complex world of signifiers.

18.2.

Hyperspace at Iklektik Funder

Experimental, technology-focused project *Hyperspace*, curated by Irruptive Chora, was a year-long peer-led study into new hybrid ways of making and sharing art, with a special focus on accessibility. At Iklektik they created multi-

sensorial encounters of interactive hybrid art works and performances that formed together an accessible affective space. The institute supported Finnish artist and creative technologist **Erik Lintunen's** work for *Hyperspace*.

14.–20.2.

The Finnish Sauna in Dover

Commissioner

The Finnish Sauna was taken to Dover for a week for the public to use.

5.3.

Harvesting Young Creativity: Panel discussion 'Why do we need festivals?'

Commissioner

Harvesting Young Creativity was a EUNIC London project that is in partnership with Young at Art, Belfast Children's Festival. Over the duration of the festival, 3-12 March 2023, *Harvesting Young Creativity* brought visionary festival leaders and artists from across Europe, together with local Northern Ireland counterparts in order to participate in captivating panel discussions, workshops and performances.

The panel discussion 'Why do we need festivals?' featured **Laura Kauppinen** from Hippalot festival in Finland. The discussion addressed the need for children's festivals and highlights the key tools required to ensure the future success of the festivals. The talk focused on questions such as: How can children's festivals better serve their audiences? What is the future role of children's festivals across Europe?

7.–27.3.

Mind the Gap residency open call

Co-commissioner & funder

Mind the Gap residency was intended for a Finnish or Finland-based artist facing additional barriers to their artistic practice, and whose practice is aligned to – and would benefit from attendance and participation in the 2023 Res Artis conference, *Mind the Gap: Designing residencies for everyone*.

Hosted by Acme, in partnership with University College London (UCL), *Mind the Gap: Designing residencies for everyone* brought the international artist residency community

together in the UK for the very first time, celebrating the 30th anniversary of Res Artis and 50 years of Acme. The residency took place in July-September 2023.

21.–22.4.

& 12.–13.5.

EUNIC In Short film festival

Co-commissioner & co-funder

EUNIC London in collaboration with the EU Delegation to the UK, LEEDS 2023, Leeds International Film Festival and the Institut français du Royaume-Uni presented the fifth edition of In Short, Europe short film festival, which took place in Leeds on 21.–22.4.2023 and in London on 12.–13. 5.2023.

This edition, entitled *Awakening*, was organised into four strands: *Explore, Grow, Surround* and *Dream*. The festival invited participants to imagine new beginnings, reflect on their past experiences and dare to dream of a brighter future. The festival featured the film *To Teach a Bird to Fly* by **Minna Rainio** and **Mark Roberts**, who were present at the film's screening in Leeds.

28.4.–29.10.
Tom House VR experience at Kiasma Co-commissioner & co-funder

TOM House the VR Experience is a documentary virtual reality piece that immerses visitors into the legendary Los Angeles residence of Tom of Finland, where he lived over the last decade of his life. 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. The VR experience was produced by Donkey Hotel and directed by **Márton Jelinkó** and **Carlos Marroquin**.

The VR experience had its world premiere as part of the exhibition *Tom of Finland Bold Journey* on 28 April in the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma in Helsinki. The exhibition presents works from Tom of Finland Foundation in Los Angeles together with works from the collection of Finnish National Gallery and from Finnish

and international public and private collections. Alongside drawings, the exhibition featured archive material, Tom's personal clothing and memorabilia, letters, publications, magazines, films, and the new VR-piece.

15.–16.5.
EUNIC mobility scheme visitors at the Institute Co-commissioner

EUNIC colleagues from Lithuania, Czechia and Sweden came to visit the Institute as a part of the EUNIC mobility scheme.

20.–21.5.
European Writers' Festival Co-commissioner

The first European Writers' Festival at the British Library took place on 20-21 May 2023. It saw many of Europe's greatest storytellers gather together for one remarkable, unmissable weekend, to perform and debate the literature and big ideas defining their countries and Europe today. Writers from over 29 countries took part in the festival, writer **Emmi Itäranta** representing Finland.

Panels and performances each had different authors and different themes, from Writing about History to Freedom, Language and War. Each panel was followed by readings and performances from each participating writer.

20.5.
European Writers' Festival reception Co-commissioner & co-funder

As a part of the European Writers' Festival, an evening reception was held at the Institute on 20 May.

6.6.
The Snake House: Finland's most radical co-housing schemes Commissioner

The Snake House: Finland's most radical co-housing schemes discussion was held at Zaha Hadid Foundation as a part of London Festival of Architecture 2023. The award winning Finnish architect, **Mona Schalin**, and **Eleanor Fawcett** from Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation engage with the concept of "shared space". Drawing from one of Finland's most famous co-housing

schemes —The Snake House (Käärmetalo) designed by **Yrjö Lindegren** and fully renovated by Architects **Kati Salonen** and **Mona Schalin** in 2018—Eleanor and Mona interrogated what shared space actually is or should be, how it connects to private "unshared" space, and what types of activities it houses.

21.6.
Heikki Hiilamo presenting on sustainability and social security reforms at a conference organised by Social Justice Ireland

Travel support
Independent think tank and justice advocacy organisation Social Justice Ireland hosted a seminar in Dublin to commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of **Adam Smith**. The institute supported research professor and professor **Heikki Hiilamo** (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, University of Helsinki) to travel to the seminar to give a presentation titled 'Reforming social security to promote social, economic and ecological sustainability'.

1.7.–30.9.
Mind the Gap residency: Niko Hallikainen Co-commissioner & funder

Artist **Niko Hallikainen** was chosen as the recipient of the Mind the Gap residency 2023 taking place at ACME's Fire Station Building in Poplar, London. Niko Hallikainen is a performance poet and novelist born and based in Helsinki. He writes prose in Finnish and performance poetry in English. In his intense and transgressive solo shows, Niko observes the ambivalent intersections of class, sexuality and spirituality, while reading his lyrical writing against ambient soundscapes.

Hosted by Acme as part of our 50th anniversary year, the Mind the Gap residency was intended for a Finnish or Finland-based artist facing additional barriers to their artistic practice, and whose practice is aligned to – and would benefit from attendance at and participation in – the 2023 Res Artis conference, Mind the Gap: Designing residencies for everyone.

1.7.–31.8.
Jaana Laakkonen in residency at Temple Bar Gallery+Studios Co-funder

TBG+S/HIAP International Residency Exchange was awarded to the Helsinki based artist **Jaana Laakkonen**, whose artistic practice has reflected and tested how it matters and what it means to work with paint and writing in the light (or mud!) of feminist-posthumanist critical thinking and feminist philosophy of science.

10.6.–17.9.
Sepideh Rahaa's work at the Liverpool Biennial Co-funder

Liverpool Biennial 2023 featured **Sepideh Rahaa's** work 'Songs to Earth, Songs to Seeds' (2022). Sepideh Rahaa is a Helsinki-based multidisciplinary artist, researcher and educator. Her work explores and questions power structures, social norms and conventions, focusing on womanhood, storytelling and everyday resistances.

'Songs to Earth, Songs to Seeds' portrays the often invisible and inaccessible process of

rice cultivation in the paddy lands of Mazandaran, Northern Iran. The almost year-long process is an intergenerational tradition, with knowledge passed down for nearly a century through the artist's family. The work invites us to consider the complexity and invisibility of rice cultivation in a contemporary, global context. The crop is both a container for indigenous forms of knowledge and, as a global food staple, is enmeshed within cycles of consumption, neo-colonial food politics and environmental injustice.

4.9.
First meeting of the mentoring programme in Helsinki Co-commissioner & co-funder

The Institute partnered up with Circus and Dance Info Finland for a mentoring programme pilot. We selected two artists from the curated list of performers at the Performing HEL showcase event in Helsinki last year. **Henri Kangas** is being mentored by **Adrian Berry** from Jacksons Lane and **Maija Nurmio's** mentor is **Reece McMahon** from Chisenhale Dance Space.

The mentoring programme will culminate in a study trip to London in early 2024.

7.9.
ResArtis conference: Taru Elfving Travel support

Curator and writer **Taru Elfving** facilitated peer-to-peer sessions with the theme of embedding ecological sustainability.

26.9.
Screening of Eatnameamet – Our Silent Struggle by Suvi West Co-commissioner

Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, The Embassy of Finland London, The Finnish Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council 2021-2023, and Sámediggi – the Sámi Parliament organised a screening of **Suvi West's** 'Eatnameamet – Our Silent Struggle' followed by Q&A with Vice President of the Sámi Parliament **Koivu-Jusse Áne (Anni Koivisto)** and activist **Ella Biehtár Arvvu liddá (Ida-Maria Helander)**.

29.9.–1.10.

Mari Ahokoivu at Lakes International Comic Art Festival
Co-commissioner & co-funder

The Institute supported **Mari Ahokoivu's** travel to Lakes International Comic Art Festival in Bowness-on-Windermere.

4.–15.10.

Screening of *Fallen Leaves* at the BFI London Film Festival
Travel support

The Institute supported the travel of the actors **Alma Pöysti** and **Jussi Vatanen** to the BFI London Film Festival.

17.10.

Dance Umbrella discursive dinner
Co-funder

A dinner conversation between artists and curators **Sonya Lindfors** and **SERAFINE1369**. Over dinner, Sonya and SERAFINE1369 talked about their curatorial approach and how they see their artistic practice intertwined with the curatorial.

19.–20.10.

One Drop by Sonya Lindfors and working group at Battersea Arts Centre, followed by post-show discussions
Co-funder

One Drop, a new performance by Sonya Lindfors & working group, is a speculative summoning, a decolonial dream, an autopsy of the Western stage and an operetta. Defying definition and belonging to multiple categories, the work dives into the poetics and politics of relations, creating a performance that reignites connections lost or forgotten.

The title of the work refers to two separate concepts – the one drop rhythm which is a reggae style drum beat as well as to the one drop rule of the Race Separation Act, created in the United States in the early 1900s, according to which a single drop of “Black blood” made a person “Black” despite their appearance. Through its multiple starting points, the work interrogates the ghosts of the Western stage and its entanglements and relationships to capitalism, coloniality and modernity.

29.10.

Screening of *Palimpsest* by Hanna Västinsalo
Communications support

Raindance Film Festival premiered **Hanna Västinsalo's *Palimpsest*** in the UK. The film is a compelling and emotionally charged film that tells the story of an elderly woman and man who are chosen for a gene therapy trial that reverses the ageing process. The film, which was nominated for Raindance 2023 Best International Feature, blends science-fiction elements with a deeply human and relatable story. The screening was followed by Q&A with the director.

6.–13.11.

Maja Mannila at Musicians' Union residence & gig at The Finnish Church
Travel support

The Institute supported **Maja Mannila's** travel to London for Musicians' Union's residency and her programme of meetings with industry professionals at London Jazz Festival.

8.–12.11.

Ima Iduozee at Aesthetica Short

Film Festival in York
Travel support

Ima Iduozee's *After We're Gone* was screened at Aesthetica Film Festival in York. The Institute supported Ima's travel to the festival.

16.11.

Book launch: 'The Religious Architecture of Alvar, Aino and Elissa Aalto' by Sofia Singler
Co-commissioner
Sofia Singler launched her new book *The Religious Architecture of Alvar, Aino and Elissa Aalto* at the Institute.

20.11.

EUNIC mobility scheme visitors at the Institute
Co-commissioner
EUNIC colleagues from the British Council, Instituto Cervantes, the Czech Centre and the Ukrainian Institute came to visit the Institute as a part of the EUNIC mobility scheme.

1.12.

Institute's Christmas Party
Commissioner
The Institute threw its annual Christmas party for its stakeholders.

TelepART

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

21.1.

Imbolc at Kannusali in Espoo

24.–25.2.

Laboratorio multimedia dance performance at the City Theatre in Oulu

3.–4.3.

Akeen Adams performance at Helsinki International Drag Festival 2023

11.3.

Liudmila concert at Cell Project Space in London

14.–18.3.

The first pancake. Circus show at HIT Helsinki

10.–18.4.

Joose Keskitalo & Kadonnut Manner band UK tour

14.4.

Alakulo Ensemble at the LSO Friday Lunchtime Concert Series

21.–22.4.

Finnish academics at The Classical Association Conference

27.–30.4.

Johanna Juhola trio at the Shetland Folk Festival

5.–6.5.

Lumo Company's Fineline circus performance in Bristol and London

15.5.

Rahma Hersi's research visit to Aga Khan University

13.6.

Ambrin Babu's research visit to the 13th International Gut Microbiology Symposium 2023

13.6.

Mukhammad Yusuf Shaymardanov's research visit to EURAM

13.7.

Riikka Suhonen's research visit to JNET Conference 2023

4.–8.10.

Irish Music Festival in Oulu

Travel support

The Institute supported the following 20 arts and culture professionals' travel to Finland:

Jen Skinner, Director of Sea Change Festival, visit to Midnight Sun Film Festival, 14.–18.6.2023

Anusha Mistry, curator from Hayward Gallery, visit to Helsinki Biennial, 26.–28.6.2023

Beth Bates, Director of Dundee Contemporary Art, visit to Helsinki Biennial, 10.–11.6.2023

Olivia Aherne, Curator at Chisenhale Gallery, Nuoret 2023 seminar and studio visits in Helsinki, 10.–12.5.2023

Aiofe and Mark Carry, Kath Gorman from Twisted Lane, Ireland, to Oulu and Helsinki 25.–30.3.2023

Kathryn Rattay, Director of Federation Gallery, Dundee, visit to Helsinki, 14.–18.8.2023

Imani Robinson (Languid Hands) and Jamila Johnson-Small, visit to Baltic Circle in Helsinki, 18.–20.11.2023

Curatorial Program for Research, curator Caimin Walsh from Ormston House, Limerick to Helsinki 2.–3.9.2023

Light Up the North -light festival network (10 curators and programmers from North of England) visited LUX Helsinki 3.–7.1.2024

4

Language courses

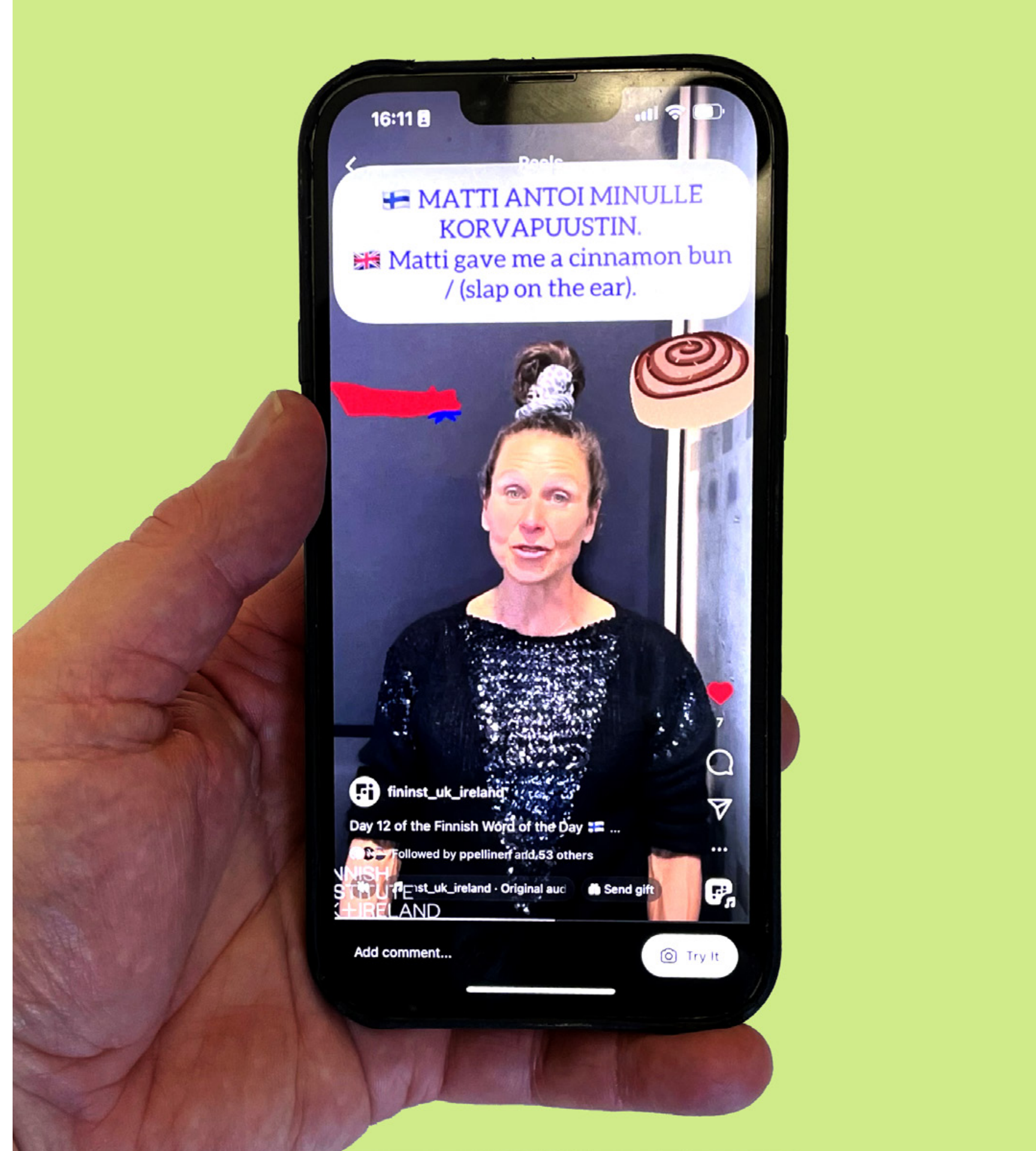
Language courses

The Institute arranges Finnish language courses for adult learners. Language courses were held weekly over three terms in 2023. Course levels ran from absolute beginners to advanced. The classes took place online and at the Institute.

A total of 117 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

117



” **Helpful, warm, caring and empathic staff, with an aligned vision of the benefit of connecting artists and audiences across cultures.**

Quote from the 2023 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 13.07.1989. The institute was registered in the Trust register 03.04.1990. The business ID of the Trust is 0878534-0. The Trust changed its name on 30.12.2020 to Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland Trust.

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

The institute supports Finnish-British and Finnish-Irish research, education and cultural activity related to its mission and supports researchers, experts, academics and artists in their work in the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland. The majority of the funding is granted by the Finnish Ministry of Culture and education (810,000€ in 2023). Government support is essential in order to achieve relevant partnerships and develop a high-quality programme.

In 2023, additional funding was received from the Finnish Cultural Foundation, Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation and from the EU. The Institute also secured funding for the year 2024 from Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Culture.

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

Tommi Laitio, Chair (until 30.4.2023)
Malin Groop, Chair (from 1.5.2023)
Marianne Saarikko Janson, Vice Chair
Jeremiah Tesolin
Rebecca Walton
Leif Jakobsson
Mari K Niemi

In 2023 the board convened 7 times. Two meetings were held in person (London & Helsinki), three online and two were held as email meetings.

Staff and interns at the Institute

Director
Jaakko Nousiainen

Director of Arts Programme
Karoliina Korpilahti

Director of Society Programme
Neicia Marsh

Project assistant
Annika Pellonpää

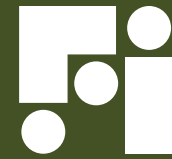
Work placement: Melody Tsang,
Goldsmiths' College, Art Administration
and Cultural Policy MA programme,
1.3.2023 – 27.4.2023

Work placement: Emma Ikävalko,
Goldsmiths' College, Art Administration
and Cultural Policy BA programme,
2.2.2023 – 17.3.2023

Photo credits

3	<i>event</i> Saara Vuola Mika Kailes
Venla Helenius <i>Teo Ala-Ruona: Lacuna</i>	
6	17
Minna Pöllänen <i>Institute staff 2023, from left</i> <i>Neicia Marsh, Jaakko Nousiainen, Annika Pellonpää, Karoliina Korpilahti</i>	Tani Simberg <i>Niko Hallikainen: Black Mercedes</i>
7	19
Studio Emmi x Heka <i>The Finnish Sauna in Dover</i>	Dan Weill <i>Minna Henriksson: Kiila Feminist Archive, part of the group exhibition Editorial Tables: Reciprocal Hospitalities</i>
8	20
Petri Summanen <i>Together Again Festival</i>	Melody Tsang <i>Nastja Säde Rönkkö: salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears</i>
9	Petri Summanen <i>Together Again Festival</i>
Dan Weill <i>Roza Boynik</i>	
10	21
Dominique Croshaw <i>Perceive sea, mountains, dunes in motion</i> <i>Haliz Yosef: Walking on eggshells, with you</i>	Jamal Springer-Lynch <i>Perceive sea, mountains, dunes in motion opening event</i>
11	25
Dominique Croshaw <i>Perceive sea, mountains, dunes in motion art works</i> <i>Jamal Springer-Lynch</i> <i>Perceive sea, mountains, dunes in motion opening</i>	Melody Tsang <i>Finnish Word of the Day, Instagram stories</i>
	26
	Stuart Whipps <i>Sepideh Rahaa: Songs to Earth, Songs to Seeds</i>

Design: Studio Emmi



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