



The Symposium offered artists curatorial, mentoring and logistical support to create new work. We invited artists to submit proposals for new projects working in collaboration with a local artists and a community. Possibilities for socially engaged art work was with groups of teens, elementary, secondary, nursery schools, people with disabilities, people suffering mental health illness, and seniors.

As a documentary team shared the household with the artists. This team filmed and took photographs through out the project.

**ISEAS International Socially
Engaged Art Symposium
27.8 – 3.9.2017 Raasepori,
Finland**

Art director and curator: Katja
Juhola (Finland)

Mentor: Mari Krappala (Finland)

Artists:

Evrin Özeskici (Turkey)

Vittorio Tonon (Italy)

Lasse Lampenius (Finland)

Linda Lemaire (France)

Peta von Karis (Finland)

Sanya Torkmorad-Jozavi
(Iran/London)

Patrik Lemberg (Finland)

Maximilian Fliessbach (Germany)

Jan Jämsén (Finland)

Joan-Marie Kelly (USA/Singapore)

Satu Halonen (Finland)

Mahmoud Saleh Mohammadi
(Iran/Milan)

Matti Nordling (Finland)

Delphine Manet (France)

Pipa Nikula (Finland)

Clarice Zdanski (USA/Milan)

Päivi Pätsi (Finland)

Julia Pooch (Germany)

Photography: Fabio Cito (Italy)

Filming and editing:

Franco Umbertini (Italy) Denis
Gorenc (France)

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO PLAY WITH THE FOOD

Linda Lemaire and Lasse Lampenius arranged a food workshop together with Mannerheim League for Child Welfare Family Café in Karis. Both artists were inspired by the Italian painter Giuseppe Archimboldo's paintings where he uses vegetables and builds portraits of people with them.

You probably recognize "don't play with food". Well, now you were allowed. The workshop participants were 1-4 years old together with their parents. The works are creative, colourful, beautiful and filled with all kinds of structures. All materials were edible. They consisted of coffee, sugar, spaghetti, ketchup, food colouring, beet root juice, blueberry soup, carrots, lentils, beans, peas and much more.



CONCLUSIONS - FINLAND & SWEDEN MURALS

SATU HALONEN, FINLAND, PETA VON KARIS,
FINLAND, SANYA TORKMORAD-JOZAVI, IRAN –
LONDON, MAHMOUD SALEH MOHAMMADI, IRAN
MILAN

This unique project brought Finnish and Swedish speaking children together with four perfect strangers to make a new family of artists. The whole experience, from meeting to visiting schools and constructing a social activity has impacted all of us. The function of this project was to introduce new people to each other and to create a memory that we can all share, the murals capturing this special event. The universal language of art was able to bring different people together in unity. We hope to continue spreading humanity, art and peace for everyone.



IMPRESSIONS

Julia Poock and Päivi Pätsi, ISEAS Symposium

When Katja told us that we were going to work with disabled people for two days, Julia was sceptical; What can they do, how does she deal with them and can they understand her? She comes from Germany and she can't speak Finnish.

These concerns were instantly scattered. We did not need words or a language. The atmosphere was warm and natural. We cleared everything with our hands, even our proposal to tinker instruments and mobile.

Päivi has worked in different institutions with art. She wondered if the project would be any different from what she does every day. That concern was also scattered. Having an art exhibition and an open house day with the people from ETEVA made it really special. We were doing art as equals.

Painting was important - that was clearly said to us. It was not what we had planned before hand. It made the project their own.

And so are colourful wind chimes were created by people who can charm. It was a touching experience, and we are happy about the time at ETEVA.



HAGAHEMMET

Patrik Lemberg & Maximilian Fliessbach

An artistic symposium with social aspects is new to us both. We are pleased with the results of having met such diverse group of artists – a positive and inspirational experience. Our performances at Hagahemmet in Ekenäs were very well received, and consisted of a healthy variety of styles; improvised classical piano, improvised harmonic-melodic bass guitar, as well as poetry and guitar ballads sung in Swedish, which we believe to be quite a unique musical repertoire, whether at elderly homes or elsewhere. It was inspiring to learn how enriching the musical performances have been to the seniors and the workers at the home. Though the seniors weren't actively involved in the musical performances it was clear that their presence in the music gave them a direct, spontaneous energy of joy, which was mirrored back to us. Music, like visual art, is a universal language in which we all participate, regardless of the degree of our active, physical participation – a dialogue always takes place. This has been an enriching experience for both of us. Thank you.



“Listen to the silence within you – it is the basis of every journey.”

ROSSINNE ATTENDO & KASKIMAAN HOIVAKOTI

**Clarice Zdanski USA, Pipa Nikula Finland, Evrim Ozeskici Turkey,
Vittorio Tonon Italy**

Our project involved working with adults with physical and mental challenges. We spent three days at two different residential facilities, Rossinne and Kaskimaa. We wanted to paint sheets that would cover a teepee, because the teepee is a place that brings people together.

The residents and staff at the centers welcomed us enthusiastically and with open hearts. In one center, another idea to create a "Tree of Hope" or "Tree of Joy" sprang spontaneously from the painting project. We made small objects to decorate the tree. In both centers, residents were asked what gave them joy or what their wishes were. Their words were written on ribbons that are also part of the installation.

The project is important because through art we were able to communicate with others, regardless of language or physical or mental condition. We would like to have the opportunity to develop our work further, not only in Finland, but in our own countries and elsewhere, because people want the world to be their home, even if they must stay in one place.



JOPO-LUOKKA

Delphine: At the beginning we met together with Matti and discussed about how to do our project. But the first day, He could not come, so I am alone....I sit in front of the teenagers, they are distant. They listen, look at my paintings, but do not communicate. I speak about the project..... No reaction. The teacher suggests they participate...Some agree. They do not know how to draw. I suggest they work with the color of the subjects. They begin to play with the médium. At the beginning many darkened colors..... the young people open up....

They begin to speak to me in English. Then a click, they dare, throw the colors, have fun. Colors invade surfaces. The work evolves into paintings. The first shy approaches give way to experiments. The next day, my presence is natural As if I had always been thereOn Wednesday we start the work on Gay Pride. The idea: create a gigantic rainbow decorated with expanding words of hope. I suggest to the teacher to cut the fabric band into squares and sell them. It is the symbolic participation of exchange that integrates every individual into a whole.

It is the parallel between what takes place at the school and what takes place in life. We are unique, but we all participate in the evolution of our civilization. Each person has a place, each his or her own ... We have to learn respect.

Matti: I could not be present in the first days, so Delphine had to start the project by herself with the students . Thursday afternoon we were in the school together, helped the students to finish their works and had a discussion with the students about the topic and about the whole project. The youngsters were quite quiet but they received very well all that we spoke to them about this work. At the end the teacher told us about the process of each student and she was satisfied.



Kårkulla Samkommun

Urban Shamanic Experience

Jan Jämsén and Joan Kelly

Jan Jämsén, an artist who incorporates ritual Shamanic practices into his life experience and art making. Joan Kelly, an artist who uses art to facilitate communication between dominant and minority communities. Jämsén and Kelly came together to play a version of the Surrealist André Breton's "Le cadavre exquis boira le vin nouveau" in a game of exchange and response between Finnish women with disabilities and Singaporean engineering and art students. Each group listened in a concentrated way to a recording of Shamanic drumming inviting a subconscious vision. The students laid down on the floor in the dark. After listening to the drumming, they wrote what they experienced. Afterwards heading to their easels to put paint to canvas, bring their visions into tangible form. The women listened to the drumming and immediately began to paint, some painting to the rhythm with their whole body. The paintings from this experience can be seen in this exhibition. As a finale both groups met virtually through a dynamic sharing session on SKYPE. Everyone was amazed at what we could learn from each other.



DOCUMENTARY TEAM

Franco Umbertini (Italy) Denis Gorenc (France)

The project craved. I had to work with another artist and cutter (Franco Ubertini) of the works of ISEAS community artists for a week. After I got to Mustio and started my work, I realized that it was more than experience, it was also a small challenge. Description and editing several workshops in four days – panic!

We talked with Franco Ubertini and decided to bring out the artists' intentions and feelings. In this project, time was strictly framed, making the texture more significant than the finishing technique. We hope the video will bring this up.

ISEAS learned several things. Language is not a limit, but we can work beyond language limits without a common language. Working in an international atmosphere is fantastic!



I am Fabio Cito, photographer and curator of the International Symposium of Contemporary Art Scampia, ISCAS. I would like to reflect upon ISCAS in comparison to the International Socially Engaged Art Symposium in Raseborg Finland 2017. Both events have similar mandates but are very different in context, producing contrasting results. Scampia, a town in the north of Naples (Italy) is a complex and difficult neighborhood where the absence of any state oversight or intervention has emboldened criminal organizations, assuring their reign over the city as a matter of historical fact. Continuous poverty and problems relating to the lack of work, have also empowered the CAMORRA, a mafia-type crime syndicate, to infiltrate every aspect of Scampian society. This is reflected in the social behavior of the local people who live daily with stifling social structures, lack of freedom, fear, distrust and violence. The Art at the Symposium of Scampia, this year at its tenth edition, offers rare opportunities for local people to transform their daily experiences and engage in expressive, creative activities. ISCAS generates a glimmer of social emancipation facilitating hope and imagination in a context that is a daily struggle. To experience ISEAS Finland, of course I found a very different situation. The artistic work conducted in contact with the local population, is not a means of emancipating people when people are fully protected by the State; they are free to develop their skills and creative energies. They have no suffocating social structures to live under. The Symposium was a harmonious moment of sharing, creating strong exchanges of knowledge of the other. It is not difficult to feel loved, and appreciate everything that has been accomplished. I was very happy to see and live the laboratory results of ISEAS. It was an explosion of emotions, slipping on canvases ... explosions of colors that filled my heart, producing an overwhelming awareness that we are not alone.

PHOTOGRAPHER FABIO CITO, ITALY

