

VEERA KOMULAINEN

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CV

STATEMENT

ARTISTIC TOPIC - **SOULS 2023-2024**

ARTISTIC TOPIC - **LANDSCAPE 2021-2023**

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EDUCATION

2017 Master of Arts / University of Lapland, Finland

2012 Master of Design / Raffles Design Academy, Singapore

2008 Post graduate, Multimedia Designer / Hansenberg Multimedia Academy, Kolding, Denmark

GRANTS

2023 Land Salzburg / Residency stipend 1500 euro

2023 Goethe Institute, EU, Europe Moves Culture / working grant 2890 euro

2022 TAIKE Art Support Centre of Finland / working grant 4000 euro

2021 TAIKE Art Support Centre of Finland / working grant 12 000 euro

2020 TAIKE Art Support Centre of Finland / working grant 4000 euro

RESIDENCIES

2024 March / AGA LAB / Amsterdam, Netherlands

2023 September / Sofia National Arts Academy / Funded by Land Salzburg / Anthopol, Bulgaria

2023 May / AGA LAB / Funded by Goethe Institute EU/ Amsterdam, Netherlands

EXHIBITIONS

2024 June / Group Exhibition / Sommer Frisch, Bad Gastein, Austria

2024 April / Group Exhibition / Tulln Kunstlerhaus, Tulln, Austria

2023 July / Project statement exhibition with Aurel Dahlgrun / Parallel Vienna, Vienna, Austria

2023 July / Group Exhibition / Galleri Snow x Carl Hansen & Son Flagship Store, Hamburg, Germany

2023 July-September / Group Exhibition / Alabamaster / Kunsthalle Wels, Wels, Austria

2023 May / Group Exhibition / De Bouwput/ AGA LAB Amsterdam, Netherlands

2022 November / Solo Exhibition 'Kuin sieni sateella' / Gallery Pleiku, Berlin, Germany

2022 April / Solo Exhibition ' Kannan tt maisemaa sisllni aina' / Maltinranta Art Hall, Tampere, Finland

2022 November / Group Exhibition / Kaapelitehdas, Helsinki, Finland

2022 July / Group Exhibition / Free space / Barok museum, Salzburg, Austria

2021 March-April / Group Exhibition / Imberg, Pop-up Gallery, Salzburg, Austria

2021 March-April / Group Exhibition / Gegner-haus, Attersee, Austria

2020 August / Group Exhibition / Summer Academy of Fine Arts / Salzburg, Austria

2016 January - February / Solo Exhibition 'Siunattu yksinisyy's' / Valkee, Oulu, Finland

2014 July / Solo Exhibition 'Grafiikka Pop-up' / Oulu, Finland

2014 January / Solo Exhibition / Design Valkea, Oulu, Finland

2013 April / Group Exhibition / KU!: THE LAST MATCH, Urban culture centre Kino ika, Ljubljana, Slovakia

2013 December / Group Exhibition / Art centre Taarasti member exhibition, Nastola, Finland

PUBLIC ART

2020 Window reliefs for BusinessOulu / Oulu, Finland

2019 Art Linnakallio Goes Baana Symposium / Kempele, Finland

2018-2020 HKL, Mellunmki Metrostation, City of Helsinki / Mellunmaki Helsinki, Finland

2014 Mural for Street art organisation / Linnasaari Oulu, Finland

WORK EXPERIENCE

2018 - on-going / Visual artist / Veera Hannele Komulainen MA

2013 - 2015 / Marketing specialist & Art Director / BusinessOulu, City of Oulu, Finland

2008 - 2011 / Art Director / In Touch A/S, Denmark, Sweden, Finland

WORKSHOPS

May 2019 - May 2022 Veera K. Workshops, Salzburg, Austria

June - August 2017 Street Art workshop for slum kids / Koseli school, Kathmandu, Nepal

January 2017 Contemporary Art Workshop in Ludwig Museum / Budapest Hungary

September 2014 Street art workshop / Youth centre, Kemi, Finland

PUBLICATIONS

2015 BOOK: Nietos - Journey in LAPLAND / Self published

MEMBERSHIPS

Salzburg Kunstverein - from 2020

IG Bildende Kunst - from 2020

Veera Komulainen (b. Orimattila, Finland, 1985) is a contemporary artist living and working in Radstadt, Austria. Veera Komulainen has studied for two master's degrees, one from Singapore's Raffles Design Institute and another from Lapland University of Arts. She has lived in Denmark, Singapore, Sweden, and Finland over the years and developed her artistic language while living among different cultures.

Her practice includes various materials; linen, concrete, metal, paints and wood. She paints with acrylic, oil pastels, and inks, on paper and linen. She started her artistic career by making etchings and lithograph prints, with her debut solo exhibition in 2014.

'I have researched the theme of not belonging beyond borders for over 10 years, in my artistic work as well as in my Master's degrees. Currently, I work with themes of nature and belonging, roots and connection to the earth. As an artist I am searching for a connection to the land, one's roots, and a momentarily feeling of belonging. Metal as a material is my blood heritage, and as a daughter of a welder, it connects me back to my childhood. My visual language is mainly repetitive and feminine.'





Kaamoksen aurinko, 2024

(translated as 'sun of mid winter')

carborundum, dry point, 70×90 cm

AGA LAB, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

'Sielut'

Translated from Finnish 'Souls.'

JANUARY 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2024

The Soul Series explores the ancient soul beliefs of the Finnic peoples around the Baltic Sea and their connection to nature, particularly the swamp—a place where the soul was believed to disappear. The works in the series deal with themes of disappearance and the relationship between humans and nature through multidisciplinary means.

The carborundum technique creates depth and physical texture, symbolizing the friction between the soul and the earth. The glassworks created in collaboration with glassblower Verena Schatz, such as "Sielut" (Souls) and "Kulkijat" (Wanderers), materially explore the relationship between the soul and nature—the contradiction between fragility and permanence.

Additionally, the series includes silkscreen prints on linen, where the natural texture of the linen intertwines with the layered nature of the artwork, creating a connection between the past and the present. The works emphasize history and symbolism rooted in Finnish beliefs and the sacredness of nature.

The swamp, the world's most efficient carbon sink and a symbolic hiding place for souls, is a central theme in the series. It represents a place that humans are currently destroying without hesitation, while it carries with it both the mysticism of history and a potential solution to climate change. This contradiction between destruction and preservation reflects the complexity of the human-nature relationship—emotions that I strive to convey to the audience.

Exhibitions:

2023, 2024 - Group Exhibition - De Bouwput AGA LAB, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2024 - Group Exhibition - Sommer. Frische. Kunst. Bad Gastein, Austria

2024 - Group Exhibition Folgen Den Pflanzen, Künstlerhaus Tulln, Tulln, Austria

2023 - Group Exhibition LAB5550, Parallel Vienna, Austria

2023 - Group Exhibition Gallerie SNOW x Carl Hansen & Son, Hamburg, Germany

2023 - Group Exhibition Alabamaster, Kunsthalle Wels, Wels, Austria



Image from the De Bouwput group exhibition in 2024, where I presented the process of the works. I spent a month in residence at AGA LAB, where I worked on the theme visually using the carborundum printing technique and silkscreen printing on linen.

Yllä:

Metso, 2024, carborundum, dry point, 40×75cm

Sotkan muna, 2024, carborundum, dry point, 50×75cm

Kaamoksen aurinko, 2024, carborundum, dry point, 70×75cm

Käärme, 2024, carborundum, dry point, 40 cm x 60 cm

Oikealla:

Metso, 2024, carborundum, dry point, 40×75cm





In 2023, I created a series of sculptures titled Kulkijat in collaboration with Austrian glass artist Verena Schatz. The series consists of 15 unique, almost human-like sculptures made from wood and glass, representing souls that have become lost in the swamp and remain wandering. The burnt black wood used in the sculptures symbolizes the old belief in will-o'-the-wisps as souls, while the glass represents the swamp. Air bubbles have been added to the glass elements using ash, emphasizing the breathing.

The contrast between the wood and glass creates a visual tension. I personally crafted the wooden molds used for blowing the glass elements, making the process physically engaging.





Above and left:

Puinen kulkija, 2023, wood, beeswax, 40×15cm



In 2024, I continued working with Verena Schatz and expanded the Sielu -series. The works were blown into naturally hollow tree trunks. The wood serves as a refuge, representing the first stage of the souls' journey. The connection between glass and wood emphasizes the state of the soul as fragile and protected, yet simultaneously trapped and detached from the rest of the world.

Through the Sielut works, I highlight the first phase of the souls' journey—the beginning, where they become entangled with nature but have not yet completely disappeared or taken on their own form.

Three 'Sielu' sculptures with their molds, The photos are from Tulln exhibition 'Den pflanzen folgen'.





Image on left is from Parallel Vienna 2023, Austria and photo above is from personal archive 2024.

Left:

Häilyvä vesikasvi, 2022, brass, 40 x 40 x 50 cm

Pieni Suo II, 2023, acrylic paint, linen, 62 x 70 cm

Eksyneet, 2023, acrylic paint, linen, 100 cm x 60 cm

Above: **Taivaan juuret, 2024**, acrylic paint, linen, 160 x 140 cm



The works 'Suon piilo' and 'Suo' were the first pieces of the series that I presented publicly. The unfinished welds give the impression of a hastily constructed, man-made structure. The works feature rough, coarse surfaces, where coarse jute is combined with metal that bears marks reminiscent of scars. The long jute ropes lying on the ground symbolize roots, which can either bind or provide shelter for a lost animal or human.

The unfinished edges of the linen works also continue this aesthetic of incompleteness.

Left:

Suo, 2023, acrylic paint, linen, 246×246cm

Suon piilo, 2023, Steel, jute, 240 x 70 x 40 cm



LANDSCAPE

‘Minä se kannan tätä maisemaa
sisälläni aina’ and ‘Kuin sieniä
sateella’

2021 - 2022

The move to the Austrian Alps opened a new phase in my artistic practice, where I continued to explore the experience of space and landscape as part of my visual language. The sharp contrasts of the new environment– the dynamic interplay of light and shadow, the diversity of textures, and the physical presence of natural forces–challenged me artistically.

In my works, I aim to address the symbolic meaning of the landscape and its ability to reflect individual emotions as well as layers of the past and present. The new landscape raised questions of rooting and feelings of estrangement, which manifested as repetitive elements and a consciously limited color palette.

The formal structure of the works is based on contrasts and tensions, where material and immaterial elements–light, texture, and color–meet. This created a visual dialogue that reflects the experience of transition and space, both locally and universally. In the treatment of form, organic yet controlled lines repeat, expressing both control and chaos associated with the new place and its internal interpretation.

Exhibitions:

2022 - Solo exhibition - Galleria Pleiku, Berlin, Germany

2022 - Group exhibition - Kaapelitehdas, Helsinki, Finland

2022 - Group exhibition - Barok Museum, Salzburg, Austria

2022 - Solo exhibition - Mältinranta, Tampere, Finland



Installation "Minä se kannan tätä maisemaa sisälläni aina.", 2022.
Mäntinranta, Tampere, Finland



The installation 'Minä kannan tätä maisemaa sisälläni aina' on the previous page highlights the childhood landscape of Southern Finland. Through her works, she reflects on the significance of childhood; how the social and physical landscape into which a person is born shapes their future and, at the same time, their mental landscape.

The title of the exhibition and installation originates from Arto Meller's play 'Siriuksen vieraat' (1984).

Above:
Kruunu, 2022
veneer, acrylic paint, 210 x 98 cm

Left:
Linna, 2022
Steel, concrete, limestone paint, 34 x 25 cm

Ikuinen, 2022
steel, 45 x 30 cm
Mäntinranta, Tampere





Left:

Iso Tatti, 2022

Wood, copper, 32 x 12 cm



Above:

Ikuinen tihku, 2022

Paper, acrylic

500 x 80 cm

Säiliö jossa reikiä, 2022

Steel

34 x 12 cm

Galleri Pleiku, Berlin, Germany



The sculpture installation “Kuin sieniä sateella” is inspired by mushroom fever; the frenzy that overtakes people during mushroom season while wandering through forests. The work explores human visual experiences, the forms that fill the landscape, and what a person focuses on when in the grip of mushroom madness. Which forms repeat? What is essential?

Metsä, 2022, acrylic paint, linen, 150 cm x 120 cm

Häilyvä vesikasvi, 2022, brass, 55 x 38 cm

Tatti, 2022, wood, copper, 42 x 10 cm

Iso tatti, 2022, wood, copper, 32 x 12 cm

Korkea tatti, 2022, wood, copper, 45 x 7 cm

Galleri Pleiku, Berlin, Germany



**"I drew inspiration for my
linen works from Karelian red
embroidery and wall hangings."**

Sukupolvet, 2022

*Acrylic paint, oil pastel, linen
90 cm x 115 cm*



Everyday Femininity

2018 - 2022

Everyday femininity is a phase of my work consisting primarily of abstract paintings created using mixed media techniques. The color palette of my works is inspired by my surroundings; the colour scheme of Salzburg, especially the layered, matte surfaces of old buildings. The matte chalk paint covers layers of acrylic paint, which glow in bright colors but are partially concealed, creating visual tension and layering in the works.

In my work, I explore the many manifestations of femininity, such as sexuality and its connection to the physical and emotional experiences of the body. The surfaces of the works also reflect pain and vulnerability—especially the impact of endometriosis on femininity, and how it shapes the relationship with one's body and its ability to function. This tension is visible in the interplay between revealing and concealing elements in the pieces.

The visual tensions represent gender expectations while simultaneously deconstructing and challenging those structures. The works invite reflection on how femininity manifests in everyday life, and how sexuality, health, and bodily experiences affect the totality of that experience.

Exhibitions:

2021 - Solo exhibition - Pop-up Imberg, Salzburg, Austria

2021 - Group exhibition - Gegner-Haus, Attersee, Austria

2020 - Group exhibition - Summer Academy of Fine Arts, Festung Salzburg, Austria

Divine Feminine II, 2020

Limestone paint, acrylic paint, 110 x 85 cm





Big Yellow, 2020

Limestone paint, acrylic paint
70 x 100 cm

Two of Us, 2020

Limestone paint, acrylic paint
110 x 130 cm



Park, 2020

Limestone paint, acrylic paint
120 cm x 150 cm

Mayhem, 2020

Limestone paint, acrylic paint
100 cm x 70 cm



Divine femininity III, 2021

Limestone paint, acrylic paint
35 x 45 cm

Golden Avenues, 2021

Limestone paint, acrylic paint
160 x 200 cm