



Press release Sept 10 2009

ANTI - Contemporary Art Festival 23.-27.9.2009
Kuopio, Finland

Bookings now being taken for *Footfalls* seminar and the works of ANTI Festival

The world's only international contemporary arts festival solely focused on time and site-specific works, ANTI - Contemporary Art Festival, will commence on Wednesday 23rd September 2009 in Kuopio, Finland. The festival, in its eighth year, will bring 27 works by world's leading artists to public spaces. The theme of this year's festival is walking. Walking has become an important part of the ethos of ANTI Festival, as transitions between works, ie. sites, have been embedded in the structure of the festival since its beginning. In conjunction with the ANTI Festival, the members of the public will have the opportunity to participate in a two-day seminar entitled ***Footfalls*** as well as in two children's workshops, on Sunday 27th September. The culmination of ANTI Festival will be a performance from the children's workshops on the evening of Sunday 27th September, at 7.30pm at Satamatori (Harbour Market Place).

***Footfalls*, international seminar**

Focused around the festival theme of walking, the seminar on 24th - 25th September will bring together artists, researchers, writers, students and people from all the corners of the world with a shared interest in live art. In her opening speech Doctor of Art **Anne Keskitalo** from University of Lapland, talks about the manifestation of walking in art history and its meaning in modern art. Artist **Tero Nauha** discusses his walking performances, his related doctorate research and a soon to be published artist book. In addition, British artist and researcher **Stephen Hodge** will introduce the audience to the site specific and often walk-related works of group **Wrights & Sites**. The relationship between walking, performance and audience is examined in his lecture by Austrian dramaturge and curator **Thomas Frank**. Teacher of Performing Arts, Dr **Deirdre Heddon** from University of Glasgow talks about the art of walking and **Esther Pilkington** will create a lecture performance, based on an original piece by Richard Long entitled Crossing Stones. In his address, artist **Samo Gosarič** talks about Slovenian walking art in the neo-avantgarde period. **Daniel Gosling** will discuss his walk-based works and his 160km walk from Kiuruvesi to Kuopio, especially commissioned for ANTI Festival. Art historian **Jennie Klein** from the Ohio University in the United States will act as a seminar presenter and chair.

Walks, fragrances, interventions, movement, sound works, food and drink!

Through their works the artists approach the theme of the festival in a variety of ways. **Adele Prince** (UK) walks a marathon through offices and a shopping

centre. **Alexis O'Hara** (CA) creates a collective sound piece out of recordings made by the public. The artists lead the audience through both virtual landscapes as well as the actual fragrances of a perfume counter. A new shortcut will be created to honour ANTI Festival and all of Finland will be invited on a treasure hunt, to find hidden art works in different parts of the country. ANTI Festival will expand to neighbouring communities and the Internet, where **Antti Laitinen** will use walking to draw a self-portrait on the map of Kuopio. It will be Antti Laitinen's second appearance at ANTI Festival, as it is for **Essi Kausalainen**, who last participated in 2002. Kausalainen is ANTI Festival's first residential artist. During the month of May, Kausalainen worked in Kuopio, where numerous residents participated in realizing her work. Even now, on the window sills of homes, in the gardens and on balconies grow this autumn's surprising and mysterious yield.

La Pocha Nostra, (US/ Mexico) is perhaps the most accomplished of the groups at ANTI Festival. Its three members, together with three Finnish artists, will create performance interventions all around Kuopio. A Finnish-French collaboration **Flow Productions & Rialto Fabrik Nomade** offer a comprehensive art creation of dance, music, light and gastronomy entitled *Streams*, in the ball room of Kuopio Town Hall. Whereas the British group **Rotozaza** will provide an entirely new angle to the all-familiar retail store.

Bookings taken now!

All works at ANTI Festival, as well as children's workshops are free for participants. There is only a charge for the seminar. **Bookings are now being taken for ANTI-festival performances, children's workshops and Footfalls seminar.** Please book your place at the seminar by **15th September**. Some of the performances have a limited number of spaces for the audience. Please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

You may view the full festival programme online at www.antifestival.com.

Enquiries and bookings:

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