

Sandra Kantanen*Bamboo Whispers in Fading Light*

Opening: Friday, 03 July 2026, 6 - 8 pm

Exhibition: 04 July – 29 August 2026



Persons Projects is pleased to present *Bamboo Whispers in Fading Light*, a solo exhibition by Finnish artist Sandra Kantanen, one of the leading figures of the Helsinki School. The exhibition brings together works that reflect Kantanen's long-standing fascination with idealized Asian landscapes. The show continues her search for environments threatened or already damaged by human activity, which she then reinterprets through her artistic intervention.

Inspired by classical Chinese shan shui painting and Japanese aesthetics, Kantanen creates photographic landscapes that exist between reality and imagination. Ever since her studies in Beijing in the early 2000s, the artist has explored Eastern philosophies that engage with nature not as something to conquer or merely document, but as a source of contemplation and spiritual reflection. Her photographs evoke idealized images shaped by memory, longing, and inner perception.

The exhibition title, *Bamboo Whispers in Fading Light*, reflects the quiet and meditative atmosphere that runs throughout Kantanen's work. In Asian art and philosophy, bamboo symbolizes resilience, humility, and spiritual calm. The fading light evokes impermanence, fragile memory, and the gradual disappearance of imagined, idealized natural settings. Together, the title creates a poetic space suspended between presence and loss, stillness and transformation.

Combining photography with painterly techniques, Kantanen digitally transforms her images through diffused light, layered colors, and dissolving pixels that resemble brushstrokes or ink washes. Suspended between photography and painting, her works question the truthfulness of the photographic image while echoing the meditative sensibility of traditional Asian art.

Existing between Eastern philosophy and Western Romanticism, Kantanen's photographs invite viewers into poetic, dreamlike interventions. Beneath the meditative beauty of her images lies a subtle ecological awareness. These works reflect the fragile relationship between nature and the 21st century's ever-accelerating indifference expressed through pollution, urbanization, and environmental neglect.

Kantanen's photographs demonstrate her ability to paint with light, creating a quiet melancholic atmosphere that evokes a deep sense of longing for places that are slowly disappearing.

Sandra Kantanen (b. 1974, Helsinki, Finland) has exhibited at numerous institutions worldwide, such as the J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles), LACMA (Los Angeles), the Brooklyn Museum (New York), the Museum of Photography in Seoul, KIASMA (Helsinki), HAM Helsinki, Turku Art Museum, Houston Center for Photography, Denver Art Museum, and Kulturhuset (Stockholm). She has published two monographs with Hatje Cantz, Berlin: *Landscapes* (2009) and *More Landscapes* (2019).

Artwork: Sandra Kantanen, *Bamboo 01 (fragment)*, 2005, 112 x 100 cm