ANNI LEPPÄLÄ

Persons
Projects

As Anni Leppälä states, her interest in photography lies in “its capacity to transform its subjects.” With their acute sensibility of color and power of composition, her works speak beyond the representational realm of words. They are to be grasped and experienced through tacit knowledge similar to an oneiric state of consciousness, rather than logical reasoning. Leppälä aims to reveal the invisible routes that lead us from the tangible to the oblique image, which can be released through the evocation of a certain memory, an emotion, an anxiety. Her works are full of subtle paradoxes, the most enchanting one being a condition inherent to the photographic genre: a concurrent expansion of presence and absence, in that the images capture both something that is, here and now, and something that was, past and gone forever.

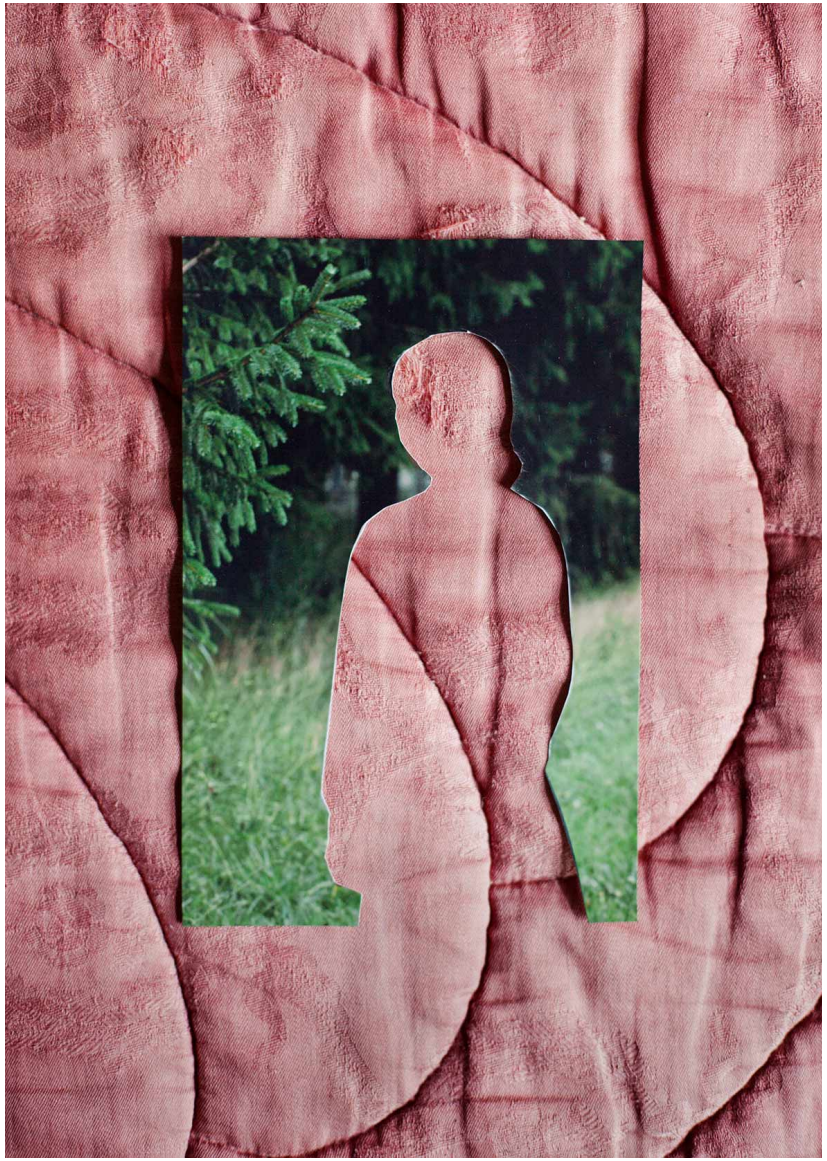
Anni Leppälä (*1981 in Helsinki, Finland) studied photography at Turku University of Applied Sciences (BA) and University of Art and Design in Helsinki (MA). Her works have been exhibited internationally since 2006, and are included in the collections of Finnish institutes, such as the Finnish Museum of Photography, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, EMMA Museum of Modern Art, Heino Collection, and international collections such as the Deutsche Bank Collection, Teutloff Photo Collection, Sanders Collection, Hoff Collection and Fondation d’entreprise Hermès.

WORKS

Anni Leppälä approaches her photographs as if they're fixed points in a process of change and alteration. She explores the relationship between what was and what is, with the desire to freeze and isolate a single moment in time, knowing well that it's not realistically possible. Therefore, she straddles the impossible by keeping one foot in the past and the other in the present. Her images move from one to another like an infant's cradle that slowly rocks itself to sleep. In other words, Leppälä's photographs are timeless images that evolve out of a trust stemming from how we as viewers are invited into her world as neutral observers, as they all share a universal feeling of something familiar. She works her images like a poet with words, leaving us with something "outside" the image, something out of sight, a sensibility without a face to name it. Her photographs can't be categorized by sets or series, as they all work together in one continuous stream of thought. Leppälä's visual language is filled with various kinds of textured landscapes that can float or fly, closets and curtains that offer us a mysterious passage to somewhere else. Her focus is on how these images affect each other by their multiple combinations and pairings, unveiling a new understanding, "a third image." This so-called elsewhere image is suspended between action and passion. It's not a place but a state of mind. Leppälä's subjects range from forgotten places to female figures caught in the seclusion of their own presence. Her photographs uncover hidden emotions, memories in dream-like settings, which convey a deep sense for a place that's not hers to own but to share.

Images that Fall from the Sky - The Helsinki School, 2024, State Gallery of Art, Sopot, Poland

Girl in Green, 2007, C-print mounted on aluminum, 80 x 108 cm



Blanket, 2019, Archival pigment print, framed, 43,5 x 31,5 cm

Green Skirt, 2019, Pigment print, 65 x 96 cm

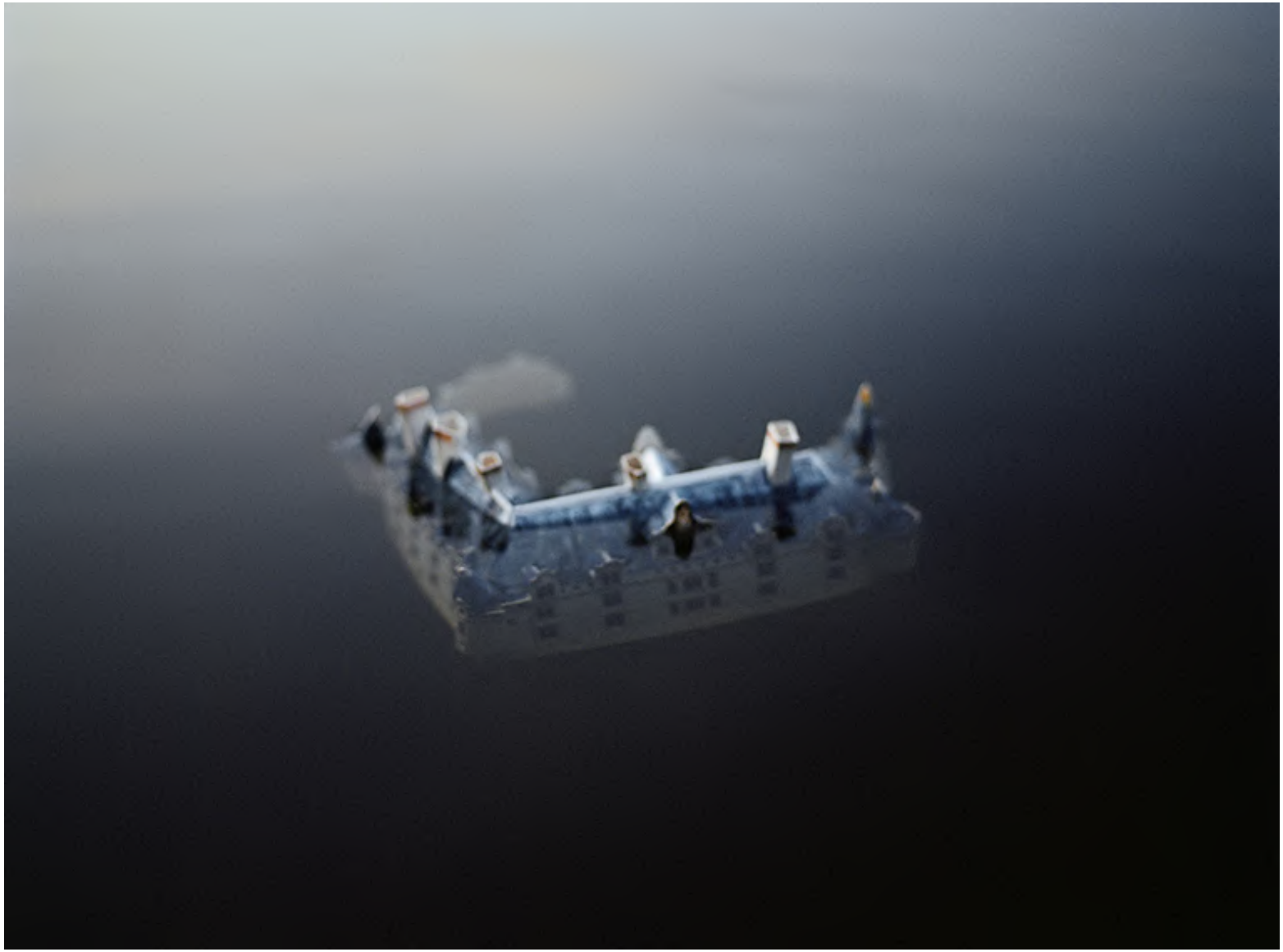
New Perspectives Through Photography – 25 years of the Helsinki School, 2021, Taidehalli Helsinki

Yearly Growth, 2009, Pigment print, framed, 48 x 64 cm

Rescue Devices, 2010, Pigment print mounted on aluminum, 62,5 x 84 cm

Apple Tree, 2010, Archival pigment print, framed, 62,5 x 84 cm

Frischer Wind aus dem Norden! Naturmotive in der Helsinki School, 2020, Kunsthalle St. Annen, Lübeck, Germany



Castle (ark), 2010, Pigment print mounted on aluminum, 21 x 28 cm

Untitled (Ascending), 2010, Pigment print, framed, 27 x 17 cm

Face , 2010, Pigment print mounted on aluminum, 31,5 x 42 cm

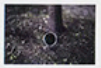
Buttons II (marble), 2014, Pigment print on aluminum, framed, 21 x 28,8 cm

Anni Leppälä, 2011, Barbara Gross Galerie, München

Untitled (thread), 2013, Pigment print, framed, 95 x 64 cm

Leaves II (the couple), 2013, Pigment print, framed, 30,5 x 21,3 cm

Wood (profile), 2016, Pigment print, framed, 34,5 x 25 cm



Texture and Sense, 2012, Aomori Contemporary Art Center, Aomori, Japan

Alplandskap, 2017, Pigment print, collage, framed, 34 x 25.5 cm

The Bell, 2017, Visiting card stand, pigment print, 10.5 x 6.5 x 4 cm

Collection I-VI (Hyle, Curtain, Backdrop), 2017, Pigment print, plywood, cloth/canvas, carved acrylic, wooden shelf, 52 x 45 x 5 cm

Curtain, 2017, Visiting card stand, pigment print, 10.5 x 6.5 x 4 cm

An der Nordkante - Mensch in der finnischen Gegenwartskunst, 2019, Stadtgalerie Kiel

Looking at the Landscape, 2017, Pigment print, glass, wooden shelf, 28 x 15 x 10 cm

Collection, 2024, Pigment print, plywood, cloth/canvas, carved acrylic, wooden shelf, 50 x 47 x 7 cm

Visiting, 2024, Pigment print, plywood, cloth/canvas, carved acrylic, wooden shelf

Anni Leppälä, 2014, Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland

Window (Screen): Winter View, 2017, Pigment print, glass, wooden frame, 20 x 32 x 8 cm

Portrait with silver frame , 2017, Hair, sametti, framed, 20 x 15 cm

Stairs (rose), 2017, Pigment print, collage, framed, 34 x 25.5 cm

Untitled (rose cloth), 2017, Pigment print, collage, framed, 34 x 25.5 cm

Relic, 2019, Silver gelatin print, mirror, framed, 17,5 x 17,5 cm

The Light of Other Days, 2016, Gallery Taik Persons (now Persons Projects), Berlin

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