



Tommi Toija

*Jusia teoksia
2009-2010*

Tommi Toija

*Uusia teoksia
2009-2010*

Tommi Toija on jo jonkin aikaa tehnyt matkaa kohti uuden suomalaisen kuvanveiston kärkeä. Viimeaikaisten teostensa perusteella hän tuntuu olevan yhä lähempänä. Monipuoliset opinnot ja työskentely Kain Tapperin ja Radoslaw Grytan kaltaisten taiturien apulaisena ovat selvästi kantaneet hedelmää.

Toijan teosten pääosassa on sympaattinen pikku figuuri, epäilemättä sekä taiteilijan että meidän kaikkien alter ego. Hän on jokamies tai -nainen, joka puuhaa erilaisia asioita tai vain on ja miettii maailman menoja. Häneen on helppo samastua.

Usein Toija esittää figuurinsa siten, että katto on korkealla ja seinät kaukana, jolloin veistoksen ja näyttelytilan epäsuhte tuo tilanteeseen filosofisen ja eksistentialistisen ulottuvuuden. Suurissa reliefiissään hän kuitenkin kääntää näkökulman toisin päin. Figuurit ovat niin suuria, että katsoja voi kokea itsensä paitsi pieneksi myös katseen kohteeksi.

Toijan veistoksia voi ihailla jo yksinomaan niiden teknisen vaikeusasteen vuoksi. Hän lähtee liikkeelle puusta ja keramiikasta ja viimeistelee teostensa moniväriset pinnat nimettömillä maaleilla ja patinoilla. Kuin ohimennen hän kyseenalaistaa perinteisen veistoskäsityksen jalustoineen kuten teoksessa Goodbye (2010) tai kytkee teoksensa suoraan näyttelytilan arkkitehtuuriin antamalla sen "vuotaa lattialle", esimerkkinä Bang (2009).

Toijan veistoksia ja reliefejä katsovan on mahdotonta ohittaa pienten henkilöhahmojen teevadin kokoisia silmiä, jotka saavat ne joskus näyttämään toisten planeettojen asukkailta. Silmillä on tärkeä tehtävä, sillä ne ovat sielun peili myös veistoksessa. Ihmettelevät katseet johdattavat katsojan ajatukset muodosta ja materiaaleista kohti yhteisiä ihmisenä olemisen perustuntemuksia, joista Toijan taiteessa pohjimmiltaan on kyse ja jotka me kaikki viime käessä tunnistamme itsessämme.

Jos Toijan teos pitäisi tiivistää yhteen kirjainmerkkiin, luontevin valinta olisi kysymysmerkki. Taiteen tehtävä ei ole selittää asioita, vaan ihmetellä maailmaa ja esittää mieltä syvästi kaivelevia kysymyksiä.

Timo Valjakka

Tommi Toija has long since been one of Finland's finest sculptors. Toija's comprehensive studies and his being an assistant to renowned artists such as Kain Tapper and Radoslaw Gryta have played important roles in his development as an artist.

The primary subject in Toija's works is a sympathetic little figure – undoubtedly an alter ego of the artist – a representative character who is also meant to remind us of ourselves. This little fellow – he or she – does all sorts of things or simply ponders upon the surrounding world.

Toija often represents his figure in a manner that creates a surreal atmosphere between the sculpture and the space it inhabits. The diminutiveness of the figure in relation to the vastness of its surroundings conjures a contemplative aspect to the artwork. In contrast, the point of view is completely different with Toija's large relief works; the carved figures are so huge that the viewer might feel himself as the object of art that is being gazed upon.

The artist's work could also be admired for its technical prowess alone. Toija begins with wood and ceramics and finishes the works' multicoloured surfaces with various paints and patinas. Furthermore, his works subtly questions the traditional concepts of sculpture. Toija also integrates his artwork into a venue's architecture, as with Bang (2009), where he allows the piece to "bleed on the floor."

It is impossible to ignore the enormous eyes when one looks at Toija's sculptures and reliefs. The wondrous gazes of Toija's little figures lead the viewers' thoughts from form and material to the collective feelings of being human, which is what Toija's work is essentially about.

If one were to summarise Toija's art in one written character, it would be natural to select the question mark. Art is not about explaining things. It is more about wondering and posing difficult questions.

Timo Valjakka

Pinocchio
2009
81 x 85 cm
Mixed media on plywood



Giving the Light

2009

104 x 60 x 58 cm

Mixed media (painted ceramics, wood, etc.)







Exhibition in Galerie Forsblom, 2009

Black Forest

2009

180 x 135 x 190 cm

Mixed media (painted ceramics, wood, etc.)





BadBadBoy

2010

70 x 40 x 43 cm

Mixed media (painted ceramics, wood, plastic, etc.)

Dream
2009
90 x 79 cm
Mixed media on plywood





Exhibition in Galerie Forsblom, 2009



Big Dream

2009

193 x 190 x 13 cm

Mixed media on plywood



Moon and Madman

2009

89 x 83 cm

Mixed media on plywood





Exhibition in Galerie Forsblom, 2009





Boy and Butterfly
2009
95 x 118 cm
Mixed media on plywood

BANG!
2009
245 x 190 cm
Mixed media on plywood





No more...

2009

136 x 162 cm

Mixed media on plywood

Little Paradise
2009
96 x 68 x 60 cm
Mixed media (painted ceramics, plastic, etc.)





Bird Boy

2010

36 x 21 x 20 cm

Mixed media (painted ceramics, wood, etc.)

Goodbye

2010

118 x 60 x 45 cm

Mixed media (painted ceramics, wood, etc.)



Tommi-Henrikki Toija

Born June 6, 1974

Lives and works in Helsinki

EDUCATION

- 2000–2003 Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki
Master of Arts
- 1998–2000 Academy of Fine Arts
sculpture (subsidiary subject)
- 1995–2000 University of Art and Design Helsinki
Interior Architecture and Design
Bachelor of Arts
- 1997–1998 Art School MAA
- 1994–1995 Art School MAA
- 1993–1994 Free Art School

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki
- 2009 Finnish institute, Paris, France
- 2008 Lapua Art Museum
- 2007 Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki
- 2007 Rörstrand Museum, Lidköping, Sweden
- 2007 Varikko Gallery, Seinäjoki
- 2007 Museum of Saarijärvi, Galleria Jarska, Saarijärvi
- 2007 Finnish Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2006 FORUM BOX – Space for Art, Helsinki
- 2006 Turku Art Museum
- 2005 Galleria Katarina, Helsinki
- 2005 Art Centre AHJO, Joensuu

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Kainin perilliset, Lönnströmi Art Museum, Rauma
- 2009 Mänttä Art Festival
- 2008 Beijing International Art Biennale, Beijing, China
- 2008 BAD JOKE #2, Riga Art Space, Riga, Latvia
- 2008 Vibrations, Villa Danielsson-Kalmari, Vääksy
- 2008 Simple Life, Fiskars Summer Exhibition, Fiskars
- 2007 FATHER / SON / HOLY / SPIRIT, Vantaa Art museum
- 2007 BAD JOKE #1, Tallin Kunsthalle, Tallin, Estonia
- 2007 Stopover, Samuelis Baumgarte Galerie, Bielefeld, Germany
- 2007 SOFA NY, New York, USA
- 2007 Finn Art 2007, Eskilstuna Art Museum, Sweden
- 2007 Self Portrait, Helsinki Artists' Associations 40th Anniversary Exhibition
- 2006 Young Artists of Gallery Forsblom, Kämp Galleria
- 2006 Vuojoki Mansion, summer exhibition

- 2006 Suvi-Pinx, Sysmä
2006 Young Artists 2006: The 111th Annual Exhibition of the Finnish Artists, Kunsthalle Helsinki
2005 Young Artists' Biennale 2005 Small Heaven, Kunsthalle Helsinki
2005 1, 2, 3, – 12 Artistes d'Helsinki, Aula du Palais Universitaire, Strasbourg, France
2005 At Home in Jollas, Helsinki Design Week
2004 Fragile, Nordic Art Association in Finland exhibition at Jetty Barracks Gallery, Suomenlinna, Helsinki
2004 RAJATON, National Young Artists' Exhibition, Art center Ahjo, Joensuu
2004 Mini 3, Galleria Katarina, Helsinki
2003 Mänttä Art Festival
2002 Finnish Sculpture Now and Tomorrow, KKV Gallery, Bovallstrand, Sweden
2002 Masters of Arts, Helsinki
2001 Exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts Students, Helsinki
2000 FIASKO, furniture exhibition INTO Gallery, Helsinki
2000 100, Helsinki
2000 Paris EXPO, Section of the European Universities of Design
1999 The 69th Annual Exhibition of the Union of Finnish Art Associations, Poleeni Cultural Centre, Pieksämäki, Finland
1998 Exhibition of the Art School MAA, Pärnu Art Museum, Estonia
1998 'Lets Make Things Better' – Office Furniture of the Future, MARTELA House, Helsinki
1997 DON'T – ÄLÄ Furniture Exhibition, INTO Gallery, Helsinki

WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

- Museum of Contemporary Art KIASMA
Amos Anderson Art Museum
Sara Hildén Art Museum
The State Art Collection
Helsinki City Art Museum
Oulu City Art Museum
Hämeenlinna Art Museum
Pori Art Museum
Vantaa Art Museum
Lönnströmi Art Museum, Rauma
Kuopio Art Museum
Saarijärvi Museum
Artphilein foundation , Liechtenstein
Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation Art Collection
Saastamoinen foundation
The Paulo Foundation
Finnish Art Society
Pyynikki Castle Collection
Ristomatti Ratia Collection
Art Center Salmela
Mäntyharju municipality
Baltic Sea Centre, Kellokoski

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2010 Arts Council of Finland, five year
- 2009 Arts Council of Finland, one year
- 2009 Finnish Cultural Foundation, working stipend to Hotel Chevillion, France
- 2008 Finnish Cultural Foundation
- 2006 Raimo Utriainen Foundation Grant
- 2006 Arts Council of Finland
- 2006 Finnish Cultural Foundation
- 2005 Finnish Art Society
- 2005 Finnish Cultural Foundation, Uusimaa Regional Fund
- 2005 Association of Finnish Sculptors
- 2005 Paulo Foundation
- 2005 Arts Council of Finland
- 2003 Finnish Art Society
- 2000 Art Center Salmela

MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of Finnish Sculptors
- Helsinki Artists' Association
- Co-operative Forum Box
- Design Group FIASKO

OTHER ARTISTIC ACTIVITY

- 2008-2011 Vice President of the Association of Finnish Sculptors
- 2006-2007 Board member, Association of Finnish Sculptors
- 2002-2004 Assistant to Academic, Sculptor Kain Tapper
- 2001 Assistant to Professor, Sculptor Radoslaw Gryta
- 2003 Vantaa Art Museum, information desk, design together with FIASKO
- 2002 GOLEM, Clay Theater, Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki
- 2001 Franciszek Starowieyskis' Drawing Theater, Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki
- 2000 EUROHEAD – Art Schools from Prague, Krakow and Helsinki, Prague,
Krakow and Helsinki
- 1999 Sculpture Symposium of the Baltic Sea, Kellokoski, Finland
- 1999 Scholarship for working in Art Center Salmela, Finland

