

## Collections in Kiasma Live Along with Renewal of Art Itself

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One of Kiasma's key roles is to present and collect the very latest works in contemporary art. There are currently about 8,000 works in the collections and we acquire some 100–150 new pieces of art every year. As part of the collections of the Finnish National Gallery, Kiasma's holdings are an important element of Finnish cultural heritage. Kiasma focuses mainly on works by Finnish artists and those of artists living in nearby countries, as well as international artists who have exhibited in Kiasma. The museum also adds to its collections by commissioning new works. The aim is to collect a diverse range of contemporary art that reflects its own time. Contemporary art is understood, interpreted and defined as a broad part of the visual culture with connections to new art history: art theories and critical theories about society.

Two exhibition floors in Kiasma are dedicated to collections and every year we show a new theme-based collection display, which also includes acquisitions. We showcase Finnish and international art side by side, creating links and discourses around various topics – the topics for 2016 are emotions, senses and materiality. The chosen works invite and challenge us to experience them with all our senses. Even art that we primarily consume with our eyes can speak to our other senses.

Works in the collections extend from those by artists who began their work in the 1970s to those made in the present. Collection operations cover acquisitions, commissions, national and international loans to exhibitions and long-term loans to embassies and government ministers' offices, as well as exhibitions and publications. Media art is one of the specialities in the collections, with some 450 films, videos, media art installations and online commissions.

### Kiasma Collections: acquisitions and donations

Acquisitions by Kiasma are made by the Acquisitions Committee which is composed of curatorial experts from Kiasma, as well as two artist members. The chief curator of collections presents the committee's suggestions to the museum director, who makes the final decisions on purchases. The committee keeps abreast of exhibitions and events in the arts scene. Works are purchased from galleries, as well as directly from artists. Within its means, Kiasma also produces or co-produces works for its exhibitions, some of which may subsequently be acquired for the museum's collections.

The collection is also augmented by donations. The most significant donated collections in Kiasma are the Kouri Collection, created by Pentti Kouri and donated to Kiasma by the Ministry of Education; a collection of more than 3,000 works by Kalervo Palsa, donated by Maj-Lis Pitkänen; and the Porkkana Collection.



Jani Ruscica's multimedia installation, *Conversation in Pieces*, 2106, photographed at the opening of his exhibition at Kiasma's Kontti gallery. Mirjami Heikkinen is seen, above, using a musical instrument called a parlamonium. Courtesy of Jani Ruscica, Galerie Anhava, Helsinki and Otto Zoo, Milan.  
 Finnish National Gallery / Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma  
 Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Pirje Mykkänen

**Jonna Kina, *Secret Words and Related Stories*, 2016, a still from a full HD video, duration 20:08, Finnish National Gallery / Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma**

Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Pirje Mykkänen



The Kouri Collection consists of Pentti Kouri's (1949–2009) personal collection of domestic and international contemporary art, with more than 50 works by 38 different artists. Kouri was a Finnish economist and venture capitalist. The Kouri Collection includes works from many internationally acclaimed artists, such as Richard Long, Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein, Dan Flavin and Christian Boltanski. The works represent international trends in contemporary art – such as minimalism, pop art and arte povera – from the 1960s onwards. The works clearly reflect the transition that art underwent in the 1960s and the detachment of the younger generation from their predecessors' conception of art.

The works of the Porkkana Collection (donated by the Carrot Association) have mainly been donated by international contemporary artists, but there are also a few Finnish artists represented. The collection contains works from more than 50 artists, totalling over 80 works of art. Among the artists who donated works are, for example, Christo, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Mimmo Paladino. The donations include signed catalogues, sketches, photographs and some original works. The Carrot Association was founded in 1986 and it operated in Helsinki in 1987–90. It was a non-formal group of art historians, critics and artists, who wished to address the need to establish a museum of contemporary art in Helsinki.

Kiasma's most recent donation was made by Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto, whose exhibition in Kiasma in spring and summer 2016 included his huge macrame tent installation, *Boa*. Neto decided to donate another work from the show, his wooden bench installation *Apenas sentado no caminho da jibóia (Sitting on a Path of Boa)*, 2016, to the Finnish and Sami people – his whole exhibition focused on the life of the indigenous Huni Kuin people in the Amazon.

## Recent acquisitions at Kiasma

In spring 2016, Kiasma purchased a total of 92 works of art by 36 artists, both Finnish and international artists. We often purchase some key works of art from Kiasma's temporary exhibitions. From the 'Demonstrating Minds' exhibition, which showcased dissent in contemporary art, the museum acquired a wooden sculpture by Kader Attia, which examines repair as a means for addressing trauma, and nine posters by the Suohpanterror group of Sami activists. From the show by Choi Jeong Hwa we selected a piece named *Happy Happy* (2015). Linked to the ubiquitous commodity of plastic and to community, the work was a collaborative effort between the artist, school students from the greater Helsinki area and Friends of Kiasma. Another acquisition was the multimedia work *Conversation in Pieces* (2016) by Jani Ruscica, which was on show in the Kontti space in summer 2016.

Other key acquisitions have included *Secret Words and Related Stories* (2016), a video work by Jonna Kina, which explores passwords, and another video, *Giant* (2013), by Salla Tykkä, which takes place in two Romanian boarding schools for gymnasts. Both works were acquired from the artists' solo exhibitions at galleries in Helsinki.

One special acquisition in 2016 consists of short videos by six artists – six works from each – that were purchased through Daata Editions, a platform dedicated to disseminating and selling online art. The videos were purchased in anticipation of Kiasma's new online service, ARS17+ Online Art, which will be launched in spring 2017. It will extend the 'ARS17' exhibition into the online realm and provide interesting topical art from 15 artists. It can be accessed anywhere and anytime, as part of the collections at Kiasma.