

CURRICULUM VITAE EXCERPTS (2020)



MARKKU PIRI

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Profession

designer, artist, producer, lecturer, writer
managing director, Entusiasmo Oy/Corp

Member

ORNAMO association's designer and artist -sections
GRAFIA association of graphic designers
Friends of Finnish Handicraft association
Aalto University alumni

Education

American high school diploma, Merritt Island High School, Florida, USA (6/1973)
Parsons School of Design, New York, USA (7-8/1973)
Arts award and a 2-week art camp scholarship by Nuoren Voiman liitto, a union for young artists (1974)
High school diploma, Ruovesi, Finland (5/1975)
University of Art and Design in Helsinki (1975-1979)
Arrowmont School for Arts and Crafts, Tenn. USA; apprenticeship (1978)
Centro Dante Alighieri, Siena, Italy; an intensive course of Italian language and in Italian cooking (7-8/1992)
University of Art and Design in Helsinki, post-graduate studies (1994-1995)
University of Economics, Helsinki, studies (1994-1995)

Honors, awards and grants

Grand Prize of the Finnish Culture Foundation "as the cosmopolitan designer and maker of visual magic" (2018)
Pro Finlandia-Medal of the Order of the Lion of Finland, the highest honor for the arts, bestowed by the President (2017)
The Finnish Markku Association's "Markku of The Year" award (2005)
Ambassador of good manners, The Finnish Association of Good Manners (2005)
Satakunta region's culture award (2004)
The state's 3-year grant for the arts (1990-1993)
State Prize for design (1986)
Jugend Gestaltet exhibition, Munich, special prize (1981)

Finnish Culture Foundation grants (1980, 1984, 1999, 2002, 2009)
Grants of the Ministry of Education and The French Cultural Center for an exhibition of art glass at galleria Nevada and The Finnish Glass Museum (1999)
The State's Central Association for the Arts, a grant for an autobiographical novel (1988)
City of Helsinki (the exhibition space Kluuvi Gallery) (1981, 1986)
Ornamo design association's scholarship (1981)
Roscoe Award (China Seas, Inc.) (1982)
Hoover foundation study & travel grants (1978, 1980, 1981)
Nuoren Voiman Liitto (association for young artists) scholarship (1974)
Parsons School of Design scholarship, "Foundation Program", New York (1973)

My professional development has taken place through several different kinds of projects. I have had the possibility to design in different materials and in various organizations and cultures. Writing and lecturing has been an integral part of my professional output. My later projects feature artistic cross-over aspects and the conception and control of wide design management entities. Glass art and painting have evolved in importance in recent years. The selection of the projects below is based on their significance in my professional development.

WORKS AND PROJECTS

The exhibition tour in Italy (2017–2018)

- Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Florence, 22.3.–4.6.2017
- Museo Carlo Bilotti, Rome, 16.6.–17.9.2017
- Museo del Vetro, Murano, Venice, 6.10.2017–7.1.2018
 - Invited solo exhibition in three major museums, consisting of new unique or limited edition art glass, serigraphy prints, paintings and printed interior textiles; curated by Ritva Röminger-Czako
 - the first ever exhibition of a Finnish artist at the legendary Murano Glass Museum
 - collaboration with the famed Murano glass masters Pino Signoretto, Simone Cenedese, Gianni Seguso and Matteo Tagliapietra; collaboration with the Finnish glass blowers of Lasismi Group, Kaappo Lähdesmäki, Joonas Laakso, Kimmo Reinikka
 - the main cultural event in Italy celebrating the 2017 centennial of the independence of Finland
 - a great success: altogether 70 000 visitors; at the launch of the tour in Florence, 47 media reporters; inserts in the main news of 6 Italian tv-channels; 90 major articles published, including a full page in La Repubblica

Interior textiles for Eurokangas (2016–2017)

- a large collection of interior textiles, launched in 2017 to celebrate the centennial of Finland's independence
- 9 different designs with themes of iconic Finnish visions, landscapes, emotions

The LUOTA support project in "creative economy" by the city of Hämeenlinna (2013–2016)

- an expert on visual culture in the development of the major brands within the city of Hämeenlinna
- the concept and the designed elements for the city look in celebration of the 150-year anniversary of the composer Jean Sibelius, born in Hämeenlinna in 1865
- the design of the fair stands at the Nordic Travel Fair in Helsinki in 2014 and 2015
- design projects directly with companies as well as mentoring the design students at HAMK, Häme Institute of Applied Sciences

Interior textiles for Vallila Interior (2008–2012)

- several collections of printed interior fabrics for the successful Finnish interior design and textile brand Vallila Interior
- new designs are introduced at the 2009 retrospective exhibition and turn out commercial hits
- collaboration with Vallila Interior becomes continuous, with new designs and colourings twice a year
 - some of the designs became the firm's history's all-time bestsellers

Pukkila (2010–2013, 2002–2003, 1990–1992)

- ceramic tiles designed to be manufactured by Pukkila Co. in Finland, part of the Ricchetti Group

- participation in various launch and marketing projects, including the concept and design for a major exhibition event and launch party for 1200 guests at the Sea Cable Hall in Helsinki

Solo exhibitions invited by museums and institutions

- Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Museo Carlo Bilotti and Murano Glass Museum, Italy (2017–2018; catalogue)
- 2018 – an edited version of the Italian exhibition tour at Galleria Himmelblau’s Cotton Hall, Tampere
- Hämeenlinna Art Museum (2013–2014)
- Tampere Art Museum / TR-1, a 30 years’ retrospective (2009; book)
- “The Spirit of Paradise”; curated by Ritva Röminger-Czako, Bonn, the exhibition started in Madrid (Finnish Institute), continued to Barcelona (Museo Artesania Catalunya), Lisbon (Instituto Camoes), Berlin (Felleshus) and Washington DC (Finnish Embassy exhibition hall); new glass art, interior textiles and photographs (2011–2012; book)
- Finnish Craft Museum, Jyväskylä (1999, book)
- Wäino Aaltonen Art Museum, Turku (1992, catalogue)
- German Textile Museum, Krefeld (1991; the museum’s first ever solo exhibition; catalogue)

Several solo and group exhibitions in Finland and abroad.

Glass art (2016–2018, 2013, 2009–2012, 1998–2010)

- keen interest in the art of glass leads into a collaboration with the Finnish master blower Jaakko Liikanen for works in limited edition, 1998–2010
- collaboration with Lasismi Group started in 2011 after they bought the studio of Jaakko Liikanen
- collaboration started with Murano masters in 2016

Extensive experience in costume and stage design for the theater (1978–2007)

- costumes and accessories for many productions by the Finnish choreographer Jorma Uotinen, 1978–1981
- costumes and stage design for the Kaija Saariaho-Carolyn Carlson dance theater work “Maa” at the Finnish National Opera, 1991; guest visits at Teatro Olimpico, Rome in 1992 and Het Musiktheater, Amsterdam in 1993
- costumes and stage design for “Anna Karenina” at Valkeakoski city theater, 2002
- costumes for “Piaf!” music theater at Valkeakoski city theater, 2003
- costumes and jewelry for the Karita Mattila recital tour in 2003–2004
- costumes and visual design for several productions by Dance theater Eri, Turku (2000–2006)
- costume and stage design and production planning for the 4 sold out concert extravaganzas by soprano Karita Mattila, Tampere-Hall 2007

Large scale event planning (1994, 2000, 2005, 2015)

- artistic director for the European Athletics Championships, Helsinki 1994; visual design concept and implementation, with “design management” principles, including costumes and outfits for 4 000-member personnel and concept for the opening ceremony; a 14-month project
- Helsinki Culture Capital 2000, design of the city look
- event look designer for the World Athletics Championships, Helsinki 2005; a 2-year project
- a historical preservation project of the Old Vicarage of Huittinen as a cultural center; ambitious concert and exhibition program (2001–2006)
- city look for the Sibelius 150 years celebrations in Hämeenlinna, including the re-planning of the birth home gardens and several pop-up exhibitions in the city

Trailblazing Piri-brand collection design (1984–1992)

- home- and bed & bath textiles collections for Finlayson, marketed internationally
- a holistic approach in which the designer participated or guided the marketing, photography, display and exhibition planning and building
- a legendary collection of mens shirts with Petritex in Finland, 1984–1992, extended to include sportswear with Finwear (1986–1987) and shoes with Reko (1989–1990)
- State Design Prize, 1986

Excerpts from international design projects

- own design studio in New York City, 1982–1992
 - collaboration with Marimekko Inc, USA, Imperial Wallcoverings, Wamsutta bed linen
 - invited textile design instructor at Parsons School of Design, New York, 1981–1983; work shop leader, 1983. 1984
- high end bath textiles for Egeria GmbH 1989–1992; own shop-in-shop at the Paris Printemps department store
- high end home- and bed & bath textiles and accessories licensing together with Finlayson in the Japanese market with Osaka Nishikawa (Nishikawa living), 1985–1991; the Markku Piri by Finlayson collections were marketed as Nishikawa's best, side by side with those by Issey Miyake and the house of Givenchy
- invited chief designer at China Seas, Inc, New York, 1981–1982
 - home- bed & bath textiles and wallcoverings for the USA market, licensing for the Japanese Isetan department store chain

Career beginning: Marimekko (1979-1981)

- the last designer chosen for the famed Finnish textile company by its founder, Ms. Armi Ratia
- extensive licensed collections for Marimekko's Japanese partner, Nishikawa Sangyo; two textile collections for Marimekko's own production and international marketing

Study travel to Japan (3–4/1980)

- a travel grant from the Finnish Culture Foundation
- field trips to design masters' and artists' studios in Tokyo and Kyoto
- visits to major museums in Kyoto and Tokyo, meeting their directors
- meetings, field trips and PR work with Nishikawa Sangyo Co Ltd in Tokyo
- after returning to Finland lectures at the University of Art and Design, Finnish-Japanese Society and the Finnish Association of Textile Culture

Concert production

- over 40 concerts and recitals produced in mostly classical music and jazz, also lighter entertainment, at own venues as well as major concert venues in Finland and Germany (1989–)
- collaboration projects with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra in 1994 and 2005
- collaboration partners in recital include the classical singers Karita Mattila, Soile Isokoski, Jorma Hynninen, Lilli Paasikivi, Tommi Hakala, Gabriela Bone, Oliver Ringelhahn, Helena Juntunen, Gabriel Suovanen, Tiina-Maija Koskela, Jaakko Kortekangas, Petteri Salomaa, Riikka Rantanen, Eeva-Kaarina Vilke, and the acclaimed pianist partners Martin Katz, Ilmo Ranta, Kristian Attila, Marita Viitasalo, Ilkka Paananen and Gustav Djupsjöbacka. Instrumental concerts include Pekka Kuusisto (violin), Laura Hynninen (harp), Ismo Eskelinen and Jukka Savijoki (guitar), and the trio Yoshiko Arai (violin), Seppo Kimanen (cello) and Vjatseslav Novikov (piano), The Cantores Minores Choir as well as Jukka Perko (saxophones) and his band.

Books published, including the art direction of their design

- Vuosi (autobiographical novel, 1988); Portraits (Tammi, 1991), Helsinki – light and shadow (Otava, 1994); Markku Piri 20 years (Piri-Piri Oy, 1999); Life's Work (Tampere Art Museum & Piri-Piri Oy, 2009), The Spirit of Paradise (Piri-Piri Oy, 2011); Glass and Paintings (entusiasmo Oy, 2017)

Planned and art directed three tv-documentaries involving own artistic output as content

- Portraits (YLE-1, 1992; main prize at the Helsinki educational film festival, 1993)
- Shapes – Colors- Patterns (YLE-2, 1993)
- European Championships Anew (YLE-2, 1995)

Work as a journalist

Dozens of articles (text and photos) published in major newspapers and magazines in Finland about design, art, travel, food and cultural politics (1978-)

Teaching and lectures

Appreciated and charismatic teacher, lecturer and speaker; several long-term teaching relationships in Finland and abroad including Parsons School of Design, New York and Mercuria Business School in Finland; tens of lectures in international seminars, universities, institutes, guest lecturer in all the Finnish design related schools, including Aalto University.

Visiting lecturer for example at:

Design Museum, Helsinki
Society of Textile Culture, Helsinki
Finnish-Japanese Society, Helsinki
The New School for Social Research, New York
Fashion Institute of Technology, New York
Parsons School of Design, New York
The Cranbrook Academy of Arts, Michigan
Rhode Island School of Design, RI
Philadelphia University of the Arts, Pennsylvania
The Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC
American Surface Designers Assembly, DeKalb, Illinois
World Crafts Council Assembly, Dublin, Ireland
Banff School of The Arts, Banff, Canada
Design University in Bergen
Design University in Stockholm
IED design university, Madrid
Chief speaker at seminar, and invited guest artist with solo exhibition, Belgian furniture fair (1984)
Chief speaker, Royal Swedish Academy of Arts, Finlandia -seminar , Stockholm (1992)
Chief speaker at the UIAH International Fashion seminar, Helsinki (1993, catalogue)
Chief speaker at the Kyoto International Textile Competition (1996, catalogue)
Chief speaker Pori Jazz for Professionals seminar (2011)
Chief speaker at Madrid Design week's DIMAD seminar (2011)
Chief speaker at Business Development Center Häme seminar, Hämeenlinna (2012)
Helsinki Fresh -event, Berlin (2012)
Chief speaker at the national assembly of the arts, crafts and music instructors in Finland, Riihimäki (2014) Chief speaker
at Tampere Craft Fair opening (2008, 2015)
Guest speaker at Furniture Istanbul Design Stories forum (2017, 2018)

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Mottos:

Without colors I would go mad.
Beauty is worth searching for.
More life into design.
Rather camp than anemia.