

MERJACASTRÉN

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EDUCATION

- 2017 Bachelor of Culture and Arts 1.9.2013 - 2017, Häme University of Applied Sciences, Degree Programme in Design, Glass and Ceramics.
- 1993 Master of Science (Engineering) 6.4.1993. University of Technology Helsinki, Faculty of Chemistry, Finland.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2021 Throwing boxes, Heidi Puumalainen, Ceramic Centre Septaria, Helsinki.
- 2019 Filaments and Textures Workshop, Alberto Bustos, Ceramic Centre Septaria, Finland.
- 2019 Hand build large objects, Leena Juvonen, Glass- and ceramic centre Kuu, Finland.
- 2017 Special techniques in ceramics - Nerikomi, Nanna Bayer, Glass- and ceramic centre Kuu, Finland.
- 2016 3D Clay Printing workshop, Estonian Academy of Arts, Estonia.

JOINT EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Hospitality, Yearly exhibition of LUTS Artist Association, Gallery LUTS, Lohja, Finland.
- 2021 RED, Espoo Visual Artists, joint exhibition, Gallery Aarni, Espoo, Finland.
- 2021 Pearls of winter, Huone ett Rum, joint exhibition, Inkoo, Finland.
- 2021 "Asteita", joint exhibition, Finnish Glass Museum, Riihimäki, Finland.
- 2021 House of Arts, Lohja House Fair, LUTS Artists exhibition, Lohja, Finland.
- 2021 Nordic Nature, Galatea Contemporary Art Gallery, Bucharest, Romania.
- 2021 Ornamo Art & Design Sale, Helsinki Cable Factory, Finland.
- 2020 Snowless Day, Gallery K, Vantaa, Finland.
- 2020 Ornamo Art & Design Sale, Helsinki Cable Factory, Finland.
- 2020 4°C - Reflections on the state of nature, Gallery Ronga, Tampere, Finland.
- 2019 Told by Layers, joint exhibition, Nokia Art House, Finland.
- 2019 Ornamo Art & Design Sale, Helsinki Cable Factory, Finland.
- 2018 A+ Ambition In Glass – Glass Exhibition, Riihimäki Glass Museum, Finland.
- 2018 Ornamo Art & Design Sale, Helsinki Cable Factory, Finland.
- 2017 Summer Dates – Ceramic and Glass Works, Design and Art, GalleriAri, Mikkeli, Finland.
- 2017 Intervention – Glass Exhibition, Riihimäki Glass Museum, Finland.
- 2016 Vibration – Experimental Glass Art, HAMK Hämeenlinna, Sello Library Espoo and Ikkunagalleria Helsinki, Finland.
- 2015 Wetterhoff 130 years, HAMK, Hämeenlinna, Finland.
- 2015 Finnish Craft & Design 2015, Wetterhoff since 1885, HAMK Design Exhibition. Tampere, Finland.
- 2015 Hidden World Gateway, Tallinna Lillefestival 2015, Estonia.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Artist of the Month, Artisaani Shop, Helsinki.
- 2019 Where is new green..., solo exhibition, Caisa Gallery, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2018 Eternal Ice - Pop-up-exhibitions: Restaurant Fero Helsinki and Restaurant Kuura Espoo, Finland.
- 2018 Eternal Ice – Glass Art exhibition, Galleria Mafka&Alakoski, Helsinki, Finland.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Ornamo Art & Design Sale, joint exhibition, Helsinki Cable Factory, Finland.
- 2022 What a Wonderful June, Gallery Fokka, joint exhibition, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2022 Artist of the Month, Gallery Aarni, Espoo, Finland.
- 2022 Mikrogallery, Gable Factory Konttori, solo exhibition, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2022-23 Laterna Magica, joint exhibition, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2023 Muji Gallery, Joint exhibition, Helsinki. Finland.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- 2015 Tallinn International Flower Festival, Collaboration work between Häme University of Applied Sciences and Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn, Estonia.
- 2014 Ecoceramics, Collaboration work between Häme University of Applied Sciences, Estonian Academy of Arts and Art Academy of Latvia, Methods of Sustainable Design, Riga, Latvia.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 *Muotoilija Merja Castrénia ajaa käsillä tekemisen palo ("Designer Merja Castrén is driven by the passion of hand making")*, Kaisa-Liisa Ikonen, "Antiikki ja taide" Magazine, 3/2018.
- 2018 *Sininenkin lasi on joskus oranssia ("Even blue glass is sometimes orange")*, Petri Lyy, "Aamuposti" nr 102 and "Länsiväylä" nr 43, Local News Papers.

WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

- 2019 Touch of Ice, blown glass (three pieces), HUS Art Collection, Helsinki, Finland.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 2017 Light Bringers, artistic outdoor lamps (graphical concrete, metal and glass), Urkin piilopirtti, Pinsiö, Finland.

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2021 LUTS, the Artists' Association of Western Uusimaa
- 2020 Espoo Visual Artists
- 2019 Artists O
- 2015 Ornamo Art and Design Finland

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

- 2021 Taika Corona Grant, 3 months grant for artistic work.
- 2019 City of Espoo Cultural Institution, 3 months artist grant.
- 2017 The Häme Foundation for Professional Higher Education and Research, Scholarship for Thesis.
- 2016 The Häme Foundation for Professional Higher Education and Research, Scholarship for joint exhibition.