

THE
FINNISH
INSTITUTE
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PRESS RELEASE

BELOW ZERO
Finnish Art
Prize

JONNA KINA

Exhibition: 7 March–22 April 2018

Open Wednesday-Sunday 11-5pm

Preview: 7 March, 6.30-8.30pm

Artist in Residence with Beaconsfield, January-March: Jonna Kina's gallery studio is open to the public on Thursdays and Saturdays, 2-5pm and by appointment.

Emerging from Finland into the international arena, JONNA KINA is the first recipient of BELOW ZERO, a new contemporary art prize for emergent Finnish artists launched in 2017 by the Finnish Institute and Beaconsfield.

Stimulated by a relationship between anarchism and the marble industry and the desire to work with sculpture and film, Kina set off to research the quarries of Carrara during the winter of 2017/18.

The exploitation of natural resources since Roman times continues to transform the landscape on an immense scale, reflecting what this particularly valuable white mineral has grown to signify in Western culture. The artist became fascinated with both the unique structures of the mined landscape and the various techniques of stone-working. In Kina's images, the chopped mountain walls, sculpted in time, lose the traces of human activity as she uses cinematic tools to meditate on the conflicts of nature and culture.

Artisanal work and the art of carving marble is the flip side of a labour-intensive industry and, nowadays, the traditional sculpture studios of the region benefit from digital technologies and robotic engraving. Using these new approaches, Kina produces a new sculptural work in relation to the film, making reference to both the classical motifs of statuary and the industrial methods of the quarries.

Jonna Kina, the selected artist for Below Zero Finnish Art Prize, is invited to work within Beaconsfield's tradition of outward facing, public residency. Artists are encouraged to respond to the unique physical character of the venue and the distinctive creative identity of Beaconsfield. Visual and audio field work carried out by Kina at the site, constitutes raw material for the Below Zero commission; to be developed during the artist's residency with Beaconsfield, for exhibition from 7 March. A catalogue will be published to celebrate the prize.

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Notes to Editors:

Jonna Kina (born 1984, Finland) works with a variety of media, including film, photography, sound and text, using conceptual and structural methods. Kina graduated from the Finnish Academy of Arts and from Aalto University, School of Arts, department of photography. She has also studied in the School of Visual Arts, New York and in Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem. Kina's works have been widely presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions, such as Galleria delle Carrozze di Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Florence; Dunkers Kulturhus, Helsingborg; Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne; Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg; Kunsthalle, Helsinki; Museo Amparo, Puebla; Helsinki Art Museum; Sala Alcalá 31, Madrid; Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki and most recently at the Lishui Photography festival in China as part of the *reGeneration3* show tour launched by the Musée de l'Elysée and the Skira publication project. Kina's film "*Arr. for a Scene*" was selected by Nordisk Panorama as the "Best Nordic Short Film" and was recently shortlisted for the VISIO Young Talent Acquisition Prize. Her works are due to be featured at the Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions 2018 and Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. Kina's works are represented in collections of such as Musée de l'Elysée, Fundación RAC – Foundation of Contemporary Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki City Art Museum, Saastamoinen Foundation, City of Levallois, France, Finnish Museum of Photography among others.

Below Zero has been made possible by an anonymous benefactor. The prize builds on long established links between [Beaconsfield](#) and the Finnish art community and has been developed with the Finnish Institute in London. The Below Zero application process was opened up to Finnish artists who had studied to degree level, either in Finland or the UK, and may have been resident anywhere in the world. The selection committee was grateful for the insights of Finnish writer and curator [Mika Hannula](#), who was invited to the 2017/18 jury which included representatives of The Finnish Institute in London, Beaconsfield and the benefactor. The jury focused on artists who would benefit from a major UK commission. The prize offers residency and a new commission mentored by Beaconsfield, thereby fostering positive relations and creating new opportunities for intellectual cross-fertilisation between Finland and the UK.

The Finnish Institute in London makes Finnish culture, society and research known, by strengthening existing and creating new co-operation and networks in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Finland. The Institute supports the internationalisation of Finnish artists, researchers and other social and cultural actors. The Institute is a private, non-profit trust that identifies emerging issues important to contemporary society and encourages cross-disciplinary and cross-border collaboration by creating networks and building new partnerships.

<http://www.fininst.uk/en>

Beaconsfield and Finnish artists

In 1996, the late [Mika Vainio](#) and [Ilpo Vaisenen](#) as Pan sonic engaged in one of Beaconsfield's first performance based residency-exhibitions, *Rude Mechanic*. This internationally influential project was seminal to sound art developments and included cameo performances from key figures on the scene including Finland's [Jimi Tenor](#). Pan sonic worked again with Beaconsfield in 2007. The following year Beaconsfield co-curated with [Muu ry](#) the UK's first exhibition of contemporary Finnish Art, which included Eija-Liisa Ahtila <http://www.mariangoodman.com/artist/eija-liisa-ahtila>, Andy Best and Merja Puustinen <http://www.andyandmerja.com>, Roi Vaara <http://www.liveartarchive.eu/es/archive/artist/roi-vaara>), Pia Lindman (<http://www.pialindman.com>) and Pekka Niskanen (<http://www.pekkaniskanen.com>). More recently Beaconsfield has developed projects with IC-98 (<http://www.socialtoolbox.com>) and Heidi Kilpelainen (<http://www.heidikilpelainen.com>).