

## **ANNA-MAIJA RISSANEN**

b. 1983, Järvenpää, Finland

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Anna-Maija Rissanen has been living in Belgium since 1995, and has taken regular trips back to Finland since 2009. She graduated from the Royal Fine-Arts Academy of Brussels in 2009 with a Master of Arts (with Distinction) and also qualified as an art teacher. During 2012-2013 she studied techniques of traditional Chinese painting at the China Art Academy in Hangzhou.

As a painter she focuses mainly on painting inner meditative landscapes, universal mindscapes water and rock, bordering on the abstract, between western and eastern pictorial representation. Her works create spaces for silence and for relaxation. They leave a room for the viewer's imagination and memories of the landscape.

In her paintings Anna-Maija Rissanen uses mixed media including watercolour, acrylics, Chinese ink and collage on canvas or on paper, amongst others. Works sizes start from small 5x5cm until 12 meters long painting-installations. Semi-transparent paintings represent travelling and floating mountains in a given city or nature space. Play of sunlight and shadow give an illusion of a living painting.

In 2009 she won the first prize at the Godecharle art contest for young painters, architects and sculptors. In 2011 she held an extensive solo exhibition at a prominent Finnish art gallery in Helsinki, Galleria Bronda. Since 2009 she has held individual exhibitions including in Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Helsinki, London, and taken part in more than 20 group exhibitions.

In November 2011 a 20-page article about Anna-Maija and her work appeared in 'Särö', the Finnish culture and poetry revue.

## **EDUCATION / ARTIST TRAINING**

2012-2013 Traditional Chinese painting studies at China Art Academy, Hangzhou, China

2008-2009 MFA painting (2nd degree) (with Grande Distinction), the highest joint degree with teacher training, Royal Fine-Arts Academy of Brussels, Work experience at European School of Brussels II and at Pédagogie Nomade in Limerlé (Gouvry), Belgium

2004-2008 BFA, MFA painting (1st degree) (with Grande Distinction), Royal Fine-Arts Academy of Brussels, Awarded the « Alaux-Bakes » painting prize, Training course in printmaking, Erasmus exchange at Quimper, France

## **PRIZES**

2009 The Godecharle Prize for painting (awarded by Godecharle Foundation)

2008 Alaux-Bakes Prize for painting (awarded by Brussels Royal Fine-Arts Academy)

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2015 Galleria Aino, Järvenpää

2015 Galleria Bronda, Helsinki, Finland

2014 Promenade Gallery, Artist of the month, Hyvinkää, Finland

2014 Taikka Gallery, Artist of the month, Järvenpää, Finland

2014 Akvart Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

2013 China Art Academy, Hangzhou, China

2012 Galerie Evelyne Heno, Paris, France

2011 Hospital of Peijas, Vantaa, Finland

2011 Galleria Kapriisi, Tampere, Finland

2011 Journeys, Galleria Bronda, Helsinki, Finland

2010 On a journey, Galleria Järnähti, Järvenpää, Finland

2010 Floating mountains, Fjällbo Park & Viljamakasiini, Tuusula Night of the Arts, Finland

2010 Travelling Landscapes, Artists' House, Järvenpää, Finland

2009 Journey to the landscape, Liike 6 Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

2009 Urban and rural landscapes, Vicar Art Gallery, Finland House, Brussels, Belgium

2009 Portraits, Bookshop and Centre for Expression and Creativity, Le chant de rues, Brussels, Belgium

2008 Shop-window art, exhibition in a window of Bxl-Deco, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Brussels, Belgium

2007 Landscapes, Cornouaille College of Fine Arts, Quimper, France

2003 Memories from Finland, pastel drawings, Finland House, Brussels, Belgium

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2015 Promenade Gallery, with JariVeikko Minerva, Hyvinkää, Finland

2015 Art Arnhem 2015 -art fair, with sculptrice Badriah Hamelink, Arnhem, Netherlands

2015 K-16 gallery, Vác, Hungary

2015 From beauty to peace of mind, Tuusula's library with Aino Keinänen, Lasse Jusula, Tuomas Petelius, Hyrylä, Finland  
 2015 Galerie Böhner, Mannheim, Germany  
 2014 Artists' Association of Järvenpää Anniversary Exhibition, Galleria Järnätti, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2014 Egos VIII, Royal Opera Arcade gallery, London, England  
 2014 Art Canton art fair 2014, LDXArtodrome Gallery, Guanzhou, China  
 2014 Akvart Gallery, Anniversary Exhibition, Helsinki, Finland  
 2014 Baggå festival, Skinnskatteberg, Sweden  
 2014 Arteground Art Festival 2014, Viljandi, Estonia  
 2014 Kohtaus, collaboration exhibition with poets, Swengi, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2013 On water drawn line, Veteen piirretty viiva, Hyvinkää's Art Museum curated by Markku Valkonen, Finland  
 2012 Time, Arteground Art Festival 2012, Wagner+Partner Galleria, Berlin, Germany  
 2012 In dreams "Unissa maailmalla unelmissa", K. Veijonen, V. Pellikka, A. Rissanen, Gallery of Hanko's city hall, Finland  
 2012 Palikkaoooppera, Exhibition of Opening a New Art Museum of Kerava, curated by Kristian Smeds, Finland  
 2012, 2010 Take away – art to go, Galleria Johan S., Helsinki, Finland  
 2012 Take away summer exhibition, Galleria Bronda, Helsinki, Finland  
 2012 Summer exhibition of Järvenpää's Artists' Association, Artists' House, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2012 Hybrid, co-operative exhibition, Jari Veikko Minerva & Anna-Maija Rissanen, House of Arts, Järvenpää  
 2012 Festival d'Art au Château de Lavaux-Sainte-Anne, Rochefort, Belgium  
 2012 Art contest exhibition, Culture center of Meise, Meise, Belgium  
 2012 Art contest exhibition of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre(WSP), Culture center, Brussels, Belgium  
 2011 Winter Exhibition, Artists Association of Järvenpää, Galleria Järnätti, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2011 Cry of the Mother-Earth, Gallery Ferin, Helsinki, Finland  
 2011 Water, Arteground Art Festival 2011, an Exhibition of Finnish Art, Viljandi, Estonia  
 2011 Summer exhibition of Järvenpää's Artists' Association, Galleria Järnätti, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2010, 2011, 2014 Art fair organised by the Association of painters of Finland, Kaapelitehdas, Helsinki, Finland  
 2010 Travelling mountains in a Finnish landscape -installation, OrankiArt -landart exhibition near Pello, Lapland, Finland  
 2010 Mountains and sculptures, Cornelia Colliander, A. Rissanen, Kirkkonummi municipal library, Kirkkonummi, Finland  
 2010 Spring Revival, Concept Artitude Gallery, Brussels, Belgium  
 2009 Finnish Association 30th Anniversary Exhibition, Vicar Art Gallery, Finland House, Brussels, Belgium  
 2009 Artists' Association of Järvenpää Anniversary Exhibition, Galleria Järnätti, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2009 At Jardin Demeter, Limerle, Gouvvy, Belgium  
 2004-2009 Final year show, group exhibition, students' works, Royal Fine-Arts Academy of Brussels, Belgium  
 2009 Godecharle, the nominees, Open competition for young painters, architects and sculptors, Royal Fine-Arts Academy of Brussels, Belgium  
 2008 11th International Painting Prize 2008, Hoppeland, Benelux & Nord-Pas de Calais, Poperinge, Belgium  
 2007 Occident-Orient, Open competition for young European painters, Munich, Germany

## RECIDENCIES

04-05/2015 La Nucia, Alicante  
 01-02/2011 Arctic Polar, Kilpisjärvi, Finland (Finnish Lapland)  
 11-12/2010 Särö ry, Berlin, Germany

## DIVERSE ART RELATED WORK

2015 Producer of a three-days Art and music Event "Over the House shines a Moon", Artists House, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2014- Holding starting courses on traditional Chinese painting in Southern Finland  
 2011 Interactive painting-installation during Tuusula's Night of the Arts, Finland  
 2009 – Substitute teacher for art, handicrafts and foreign languages, Järvenpää and Helsinki, Finland  
 2008 Commission to paint a landscape on a wall of room 611, Hotel Bloom, Rue Royale 250, 1210 Brussels, Elia -art schools competition, Belgium  
 2010 Teacher of art techniques, Professional school Keuda, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2010 Producer of a two-days Art Event "Under the House grows a Tree", Artists House, Järvenpää, Finland  
 2009 Creation and illustration of stories, workshop for children aged between 7-10 years, at Le chant de rues, Brussels, Belgium  
 2008 A mill to paint randomly, interactive collective installation made for the annual Zinneke Parade, exhibited at De Markten gallery, Brussels, Belgium  
 2005, 2006 Mounting exhibitions, Moroccan Oasis; Once upon a time, tales in images, Porte de Hal Museum, Brussels, Belgium  
 2006-2007 Teacher for a group of Finnish art amateurs, Brussels, Belgium

## ARTSOCIETIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Finnish painters union  
 Finnish artists union  
 Art society of Finnish watercolor painting  
 Kuvasto ry  
 Art society of Järvenpää  
 JCI Järvenpää, Finland

## LANGUAGES

Mother tongue: finnish

Fluent: french, english

Communicative: german, chinese, belgian flamish and spanish

## Artist's statement

Anna-Maija Rissanen

As a painter I focus mainly on painting inner meditative landscapes. I want to create works that calm people in this hectic world. I want to create beauty with my painting - to make a space for silence, to create roads and pathways towards oneself in a poetic and organic way.

Cracks on walls and on pavements, stone arrangements on the shoreline, structures on rocks, branches and mountains all inspire me to paint. I see beauty around me and I want to share my experience. I make lots of sketches and take photos from my surroundings which I later compose to be painted on a bigger scale. Sometimes the landscapes seen during my travels are recorded only in written form.

I paint landscapes composed mainly of rock and water, mountains and fog. I like to hide elements of nature under a mist, to keep the mystery and not to show everything. The whiteness I use can be either steam, clouds, snow, sea foam or something else. I like to keep my works between abstract and figurative, thereby allowing the viewer to form their own conclusions about what they are seeing in the picture. I try not to be too obvious about what is represented and always leave room for the viewer's own imagination and memories of the landscape.

I paint from a birds-eye perspective, thus facilitating a visual journey between the details and the whole landscape extending towards the horizon. Landscapes are not limited to a specific place, but rather have elements that evoke many different places. I try to paint the feeling I have in a landscape rather than the exact view.

I mix Western and Eastern pictorial conventions. I work with Chinese ink on canvas with Chinese landscape painting elements. People from Eastern-Asia can recognise their culture heritage but may also be puzzled by my western composition or paint treatment. Similarly, western viewers may find my Asiatic handling exotic.

For me the act of painting and creating gives me lots of energy and joy. I work hard to make this passion my profession. For me it is important to make landscapes that are universal, that can touch and go beyond cultural boundaries.

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