Ilona Valkonen (b.1980) describes herself as a collector of phenomenons. She is interested in collegial energy, botany, boats, space poetry, urban exploring, experimental architecture, View-Masters, garbage, electricity, raw materials and odd colors.

Ilona Valkonen creates pieces that she would like to experience herself.

Ilona Valkonen studied in painting department at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts but she has always been professionally restless and curious. Alongside painting she has presented conceptual installations and she has also worked on experimental performance art and done collegial curating.

1. WORKS

VIENO MOTORS, since 2015
PAINTING AND BONDAGE 2014
MONREPOS LOVIISA 2013
THE DEPARTEMENT OF PICTURE PATHOLOGY - INVESTIGATING PAINTING 2010
INDOOR KARESANUI 2007
GARDEN FOR ONE WITH NO LAND 2005

2. CV
1. WORKS
Vieno Motors represent anarchist floral work - urban botany is mixed with found objects. Routines of flower shops are turned into a show and atmosphere varies according to the touch of guest artists and public involved. Wearable flower works and bouquets spread around fresh sensuality also after the event.

Finnish visual artist Ilona Valkonen has been primus motor for Vieno Motorst that was found 2014. Vieno Motors play as an improvisation band that co-operates with fellow artist and they treat the flowers according to their own work basis. There have been already over 30 artists from differing fields performing in Vieno Motors. The concept is developing through co-operation.

Audience wearing Vieno Motors headphones – easy to put on and take off.

Vieno Motors: How to Prepare 1.0, 2015
courtesy of Ilona Valkonen
and HAM Helsinki Art Museum
Performance documentation of *Vieno Motors: How to Prepaire 1.0* at HAM Helsinki Art Museum, 2015, courtesy of Ilona Valkonen and HAM Helsinki Art Museum
Audience takes selfies and photos of each other during the Vieno Motors performances Motors: How to Prepaire 1.0, 2015, courtesy of Ilona Valkonen and HAM Helsinki Art Museum
Block I-IX
2014
Bondage installation with Block paintings and chairs and other objects

Photo: Yehia Eweis
Block I-IX
2014
Bondage installation with Block painting and the log

To Tove Jansson: Could I trust my notes with you until I write my memoir?
2014
oil and egg tempera on canvas, 250 x 168 cm
Untitled Good
2014
painting and bondage installation
Untitled Good
2014
acryl and egg tempera and oil on canvas, 3 parts: 215 x 130, 210 x 310, 215 x 130 cm
Dear Stop
2014
oil and egg tempera on canvas, 200 x 380 cm
To Gabriele Basilico: Can I leave my bike in front of your Beirut?
2014
painting and bondage installation
To Gabriele Basilico: Can I leave my bike in front of your Beirut?
2014
oil and egg tempera on canvas, 230 x 387 cm
Painting installation, 30 meters long urban panorama on 22 pieces, 2013
Acryl and egg tempera, oil and alkyd on canvas; also strings, ropes and wood
Part: Church and memorial of 8th of April, 1918
Graffiti in Arabic: Tomorrow is a better (more beautiful) day.
Acryl and egg tempera and oil and alkyd on canvas, 171 x 205 cm
Part: Corner of former post office
Acryl and egg tempera and oil and alkyd on canvas, 150 x 210cm
Photo: Yehia Eweis

Part: Container
Acryl and egg tempera and oil and alkyd on canvas, 70 x 115 cm
Installation, homage-style still lifes based on paintings from the following artists: Heikki Marila, Jukka Rusanen Pekka Kerttula and Akashapushpa, unknown miniature painters from the Ottoman Empire, former Ilona Valkonen and Irmeli Mäkilä, 2010
Installation details from autopsy on miniature paintings by unknown miniature painters from the 17th century Ottoman Empire. Found objects, paint, driftwood, and pigments made of plants.
Installation details from the autopsy on Heikki Marilas Flowers (XXIV Kukat, 2010), Wooden vases formed with chainsaw, parchments, wooden croquet mallets and balls. (left and behind: Jukka Rusanen, Swing, 2008)
Installation, tape on wooden floor and history boards in the balcony, 2007
Karesansui is a Japanese term that means dry garden.
Installation, tape on wooden floor and history boards in the balcony, 2007

Karesansui is a Japanese term that means dry garden.

INDOOR KARESANSUI

WHITE -
TAJ MAHAL, 1632-1654,
Chahar bagh (a type of Persian garden) follows the descriptions of the Islamic paradise, Agra, India

BLUE -
JARDIN DES PLANTES, 1600-2000, geometrical botanical garden, Paris, France

RED -
MONREPOS, 1700-1800, english landscape park with 19th century romantic monuments, ruins, caves, pavillions etc., Viborg, Russia

BLACK -
BAHÁ’Í TERRACES, 1887-2001, classic European geometrical garden that contains the essential ideas of the Bahá’í religion, Carmel-mountain, Haifa, Israel

GOLD -
TOFUKU-JI ZEN GARDEN, 1938, modern interpretation of an old Japanese moss and stone garden tradition, Kyoto, Japan

YELLOW -
ROOF TOP GARDEN PROJECT, 2000- Educational movement about gardening without soil in urban environment or in conditions when the soil is spoiled and polluted, Montreal, Canada (and Dakar Senegal; Tehuacan, Mexico; Casablanca, Marocco etc.)
A working studio for planning a garden was staged in the gallery space. Visitors and the artist co-operated to grow a miniature garden in a germinating box. Plants and vistas were made from a large range of paper materials provided by the artist and also from materials found in the pockets or bags of visitors. Later the process and views from that collective garden were published as a book.

2005, Paulo Foundation exhibition, curator Taru Elfving
2. CV
D.O.B. 8.5.1980, in Espoo, Finland, lives and works in Loviisa

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www.ilonavalkonen.com

STUDIES
1999 - 2006 Academy of Fine Arts in Finland, Painting Department,
BA-03, MA-06
2002 AVU Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, the studio of Milan Knizak

CV
ILONA VALKONEN

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
2014 "Maalauksia ja sidontaa", Forum Box, Helsinki
2013 "Monrepos Loviisa" Huuto Gallery, Jätkäsaari, Helsinki
2010 "Kuvapatologian laitos", Kuuvi Gallery, Helsinki
2005 "Garden for One with No Land", stipendiate exhibition of
the Paulo Foundation, Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts,
Helsinki
2004 "The Dream about Heaven", an installation in a private
apartment, in co-operation with Galleri Leena Kuumola,
Helsinki

SELECTED PERFORMANCES
2016 "Vienen Motors" in Northern Wildernes, Export Camp Berlin
2016 "Vienen Motors" in Odd Bird, littala / Helsinki design week, Espan lava,
Helsinki
2016 "Vienen Motors: Urban Harvest", Helsingin Juhlaviikot, Salainen puutarha,
Helsinki
2016 "Vienen Motors – Wear a Chair", Design Monat Graz, Graz
2016 "Vienen Motors: How to prepare 2.0", curator Satu Oksanen with ISCP
and 9 artists, El Museo de Los Sures, New York
2015 "Vienen Motors: How to prepare 1.0", collaboration concept, HAM Helsinki
Art Museum, Helsinki
2015 "Vienen Motors Goes Ikebana", Angakoq II –festival, SIC Gallery, Helsinki
2014 "Vienen Motors" performance and installation in group show "Nine Lives
Museum", Sinne, Helsinki
2013 "Portrait painting", Lönnströn Art Museum, Rauma
2011 "Garden Caravan", Hämeenlinna
2007 "View-Master – mini spectacle in two parts", Fluxee-klub, Turku
2006 "Do Not Watch – Artist Working", Night of Arts, Helsinki
2005 "Private Collections", Art Contact, Forum Box, Helsinki
2001 "Life stories", with Juniper-group, EXIT-festival, Helsinki
SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015  "From the Box / 9 artists from Helsinki", Czech Centres, Prague
2015  "No Nighting Strikes the Nettle", curated by Niina Lehtonen Braun, HilbertRaum, Berlin
2014  "The Nine Lives Museum" group exhibition curated by Maija Blåfield and Ilona Valkonen, Sinne, Helsinki
2014  "Onko täällä ketään", curated by Kati Rapia, Loviisa, Contemporary / LWT-festival, Loviisa
2013  "Anonymous Artwork", Huuto Gallery Jätkäsaari 1, Helsinki
2012  "AAARGH - 10 years later" Jätkäsaari, Helsinki
2010  "Huomenta Afriiika", Villa Karo 10th Anniversary show, Kunshalle, Helsinki
2009  Mänttä Art Festival, curated by Tuula Karjalainen, "Diamond-idea", group exhibition, the Huuto Gallery, Helsinki
2008  "Roskaviikot", Hyvinkää Art Museum "People in the Meadows", group exhibition, Huuto Gallery, Viiskulma, Helsinki
2007  Mänttä Art Festival, "the 25 Best Artists in Finland", curated by Jani Leinonen
2006  "Kirjahdusia!" Exhibition of artist books, Lönnsström Art Museum, Rauma
2005  "Object Dictionary" co-work with Emma Helle (Kyllönen), Gallery Rajatila, Tampere
2004  with Frida Hultcrantz, Antti Oikarinen, Tuomas Laitinen, Olli Keränen and Maija Luutonen, Gallerie Koch und Kesslau, Berlin
2004  the Final Exhibition of Academy of Fine Arts, Taidehalli, Helsinki
2001-2002  "Memory-project"; -02 Q, Kopenhagen, DE; -02 galleri kit, Trondheim, NO; -01 Suomenlinnan rantakasarmi, Helsinki

OTHER WORKS

Curator of Mänttä Art Festival 2012, Teaching at Vako 2011-1015, Cordinator of Melo-Night –Festival, Loviisa Contemporary

MEMBERSHIPS

Finnish Painters Union, Muu ry, and Kuvasto, Forum Box, Mehiläispesä ry (Huuto gallery) and Loviisa Contemporary

RESIDENCIES

2002 and 2003 Prague, Czech Republic; 2007 Villa Karo, Grand-Popo, Benin, Africa; 2011 Lietsalo-atelier Helsinki, Finland; 2014 Mazzano Romano, Italy

WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

HAM Helsinki Art Museum, EMO Foundation, Aine Art Museum, University of the Arts Helsinki, Finnish Art Society lottery and private collections

GRANTS/ AWARDS/ STIPENDS

2016  FRAME Finnish Fund for Art Exchange
2015  Finnish Cultural Foundation, Arts Promotion Centre Finland
2014  Konstnsamfundet
2014  Kone Foundation
2013  Regional project grant, Uusimaa
2011  Finnish Council for Visual Arts
2011  Finnish Cultural Foundation
2010  Paulo Foundation
2008  Suomen taideyhdistys, grant for young artists
2007  Art Price of the City of Mänttä
2007  Föreningen Konstsamfundet
2006  Artist grant of Udennmaa Art Council
2005  City of Helsinki / Cultural office
2005  Paulo Foundation
2005  Greta and William Lehtinen foundation
2003  KESKO stipend

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE

2004-2008: Participated in three touring productions of an experimental theatre collective called "Toisissa tiloissa" (in english "In Alternate Spaces"). The convener of the group is a philosopher and director Esa Kirkkopelto; "ODRADEK", (2007-) text: Kafka; "ANIARA" (2006- ); text: Martinson and "In Alternate Spaces" –demonstrations, differing variations of metamorphoses (2004-).www.toisissatiloissa.net

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