



In the picture: Dialogue - mobiles & stables, Milla Vaahtera
Photo: Dialogue Editorial, Hannakaisa Pekkala, 2019

Is the future of Finnish glass art female?

Artists **Milla Vaahtera**, **Viivi Lehto** and **Paula Pääkkönen** are representing the new, contemporary generation of Finnish glass art. In their works you can find some common features: the style is strong and playful, but still honoring the fragile and sensitive nature of glass as a material. However, the strongest feature is, that they share a vision together.

“Now is the time for bold, intuitive and shameless female artists”, says Milla Vaahtera.

The artist group continues the long tradition in Finland, but also creates the new evolution into the Finnish style. Finnish design is well known of its purity and simple forms. For a contemporary artist the celebrated history can also sometimes be a burden. “I think it is necessary to break the rules to create something new, like all of us three are doing in our own way. In my thinking process, it was especially important to let go of the modest and simple form language often seen as a trademark of Finnish design.”, says Viivi Lehto.

Finland has a long line of talented glass artist, many of them female, like Aino Aalto, Gunnel Nyman and Saara Hopea. Still, the most mentioned as masters of glass art, are the men like Alvar Aalto, Timo Sarpaneva and Tapio Wirkkala. “On our behalf we want to strengthen the evenly great feminine line of history and work in the continuum of that tradition”, says Milla Vaahtera.

Inquiries, UU market:

Hannakaisa Pekkala
+358 41 548 3572
hannakaisa@uumarket.fi
www.uumarket.fi

Inquiries, Artists:

Milla Vaahtera
+358 400 494 014
milla.vaahtera@gmail.com
www.millavaahtera.com

Viivi Lehto
+358 50 340 7725
viivi@viivilehto.com
www.viivilehto.com

Paula Pääkkönen
+358 40 841 7137
paula.paakkonen@gmail.com
www.cargocollective.com/pau_ladesign

**Press Release: Milla Vaahtera, Viivi Lehto, Paula Pääkkönen
Chart Art Fair 2019**



In the picture:
Assorted Flavours Glass Sculpture, Paula Pääkkönen
Photo: Assorted Flavours Editorial,
Hannakaisa Pekkala, 2019



In the picture:
Joy Glass Sculpture, Garden -series, Viivi Lehto
Photo: Garden Studio,
Hannakaisa Pekkala, 2019

All of the glass works by Vaahtera, Lehto and Pääkkönen are made in Nuutajärvi Glass Village, Finland, where Pääkkönen works also as a glass blower. Nuutajärvi has a long tradition as a one of the home bases of Finnish glass art and a place for the many interpretations of the glass material. During the history, there have been space also for some refreshing rebels in the Finnish tradition, like glass artist and professor Oiva Toikka's colorful and expressive art works have shown.

"As a glassblower I love that our profession is starting to get recognition as an integral part of creating glass art. Already Gunnel Nyman started to mention the names of the glassblowers in her exhibitions, as she understood how invaluable the team is in creating her pieces. In this new era, I'm excited to see it starting to become the new standard.", tells Paula Pääkkönen.

The glass sculptures by the artists are presented by UU Market at the Chart Art Fair, Aug 30 – Sep 1, 2019, Copenhagen. UU Market exhibits selected works from eleven emerging Finnish artists and designers as a part of the Studio section.

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Hannakaisa Pekkala
+358 41 548 3572
hannakaisa@uumarket.fi
www.uumarket.fi

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Milla Vaahtera
+358 400 494 014
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www.millavaahtera.com

Viivi Lehto
+358 50 340 7725
viivi@viivilehto.com
www.viivilehto.com

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+358 40 841 7137
paula.paakkonen@gmail.com
www.cargocollective.com/pau_ladesign



Milla Vaahtera
+358 400 494 014
milla.vaahtera@gmail.com
www.millavaahtera.com

Milla Vaahtera (born 1981) is a Helsinki-based artist and furniture designer. She is working as a sculptor and a designer. The themes of her works extend from corporeality and sexuality to intuition and dialogues. Her scale of materials is wide: wood, foam rubber, glass and metal. She is most known of her Dialogue series, mobiles and stabiles, in which she combines bold glass parts with delicate brass. The process of making Dialogue pieces is based on dialogue and intuition. For Vaahtera it is especially important to revive the Finnish heritage of glassblowing and give young generation of makers new opportunities to deepen their skills. Vaahtera has graduated as a Master of Arts in 2010 from Aalto University, the School of Arts, Design and Architecture. She did her BA studies in Lahti Institute of Design in 2008.



Viivi Lehto
+358 50 340 7725
viivi@viivilehto.com
www.viivilehto.com

Viivi Lehto (born 1983) is an artist and designer, living and working in Helsinki. As an artist she wants to create new, playful, often a bit twisted or humorous, versions of reality. Lehto believes that art is a powerful tool to open new viewpoints by tickling the imagination. Lehto is especially interested to work with projects related to growth, illusions, feelings and rhythm. Currently she is working with a Garden series consisting of colorful and multi-dimensional glass sculptures. The garden represents for her unruliness, playful growth and freedom of spirit. Lehto graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design from Lahti Institute of Design, University of Applied Sciences 2009. Currently she is finalizing her Master studies in Aalto University, Visual Culture, Curating & Contemporary Art Programme.



Paula Pääkkönen
+358 40 841 7137
paula.paakkonen@gmail.com
www.cargocollective.com/pau_ladesign

Paula Pääkkönen (born 1990) is a glassblower and a glass designer. She works in the famous glass village of Nuutajärvi, Finland. Glass is her main material because it's such a challenging element – the glassblowing techniques are an endless source of inspiration for her. As a designer, she is currently working with the theme of childhood and imagination. In her works she is chasing the moment, when common things still have a hint of magic and the proportions of the world may vary. Pääkkönen did her BA studies in Savonia University of Applied Sciences, in Design Programme 2014. She continued her studies concentrating on glass as a material in Tavastia Vocational College graduating as a Glass Artisan 2016. Pääkkönen finalized her studies as a Glass Blower in Nuutajärvi Glass School 2017.