

Press release 15.1.2024

Exhibition at the Didrichsen Art Museum opens the Nordea Art Foundation Finland's collection to a wider audience

The Didrichsen Art Museum's spring exhibition 2024 *The Collection of Nordea Art Foundation Finland* will showcase the Foundation's significant collection. The selection includes works by Ferdinand von Wright, Helene Schjerfbeck, Akseli Gallen-Kallela, but also modernists such as Rut Bryk, Ahti Lavonen and Sam Vanni. The exhibition is open 10.2.–26.5.2024.

A media event will take place at the Didrichsen Art Museum on Friday, 9 February at 11 am. The event will be attended by Ulrika Romantschuk, Member of the Board of Nordea Art Foundation and Head of Brand, Communications and Marketing at Nordea. Registration: Maria Didrichsen, tel. 0405521000, maria.didrichsen@didrichsenmuseum.fi.

The Collection of Nordea Art Foundation Finland will give a wider audience the opportunity to see the Foundation's collection. The artworks have been limitedly displayed at the Old Banking Hall on Aleksanterinkatu in Helsinki and in joint exhibitions by the Association of Finnish Fine Arts Foundations. The Nordea Art Foundation is a non-profit foundation that works for the benefit of Finnish art, art history and the history of commercial banking. The Foundation's art collection brings together the art collections of more than twenty Finnish commercial banks from over a period of more than 100 years. The collection of over a thousand works is of national importance and includes important works of art from the 19th century and the Golden Age of Finnish Art, as well as a wide range of Finnish art from the 20th century. The exhibition at the Didrichsen Art Museum features a representative selection of works from the Nordea Art Foundation Finland's collection from the early 19th century to the turn of the 21st century.

"Through the Art Foundation, we have wanted to ensure the preservation of a nationally valuable art collection in Finland. It is important to us that we continue the work started by our predecessor banks in supporting art and preserving Finnish cultural heritage. The exhibition at the Didrichsen Art Museum is an important step in opening Nordea Art Foundation Finland's unique collection to a wider audience," says **Ulrika Romantschuk**, Member of the Board of Nordea Art Foundation Finland and Head of Brand, Communications and Marketing at Nordea.

Marie-Louise and **Gunnar Didrichsen** founded the art foundation bearing their name in 1963, and the Didrichsen Art Museum opened its doors to the public in 1965.

"The exhibition is a good example of how private art foundations can improve access to nationally significant collections and maintain a social impact. Preserving art collections and presenting them to the public is a key cultural work for both art foundations," says **Maria Didrichsen**, Museum Director of the Didrichsen Art Museum.

The exhibition includes **Akseli Gallen-Kallela's** well-known works *The Lament of the Boat* (1907) and *C. G. E. Mannerheim* (1929), as well as **Helene Schjerfbeck's** *Boy dressed in Armour* (1894) and *Silence* (1907). The modern part of the Foundation's collection includes **Sam Vanni's** *Window* (1944), **Rut Bryk's** *Three Cactus Flowers* (1950s) and **Juhana Blomstedt's** *Dialogue* (1967).

The exhibition explores the relationship between banks, art collecting and artists, and studies individual works in their art historical context. The selection of works highlights the depiction of the Finnish landscape and people in art, the Modernist turn of the early 20th century and the strong representation of abstract art in the collection from the 1950s onwards. The changes are reflected in the different focuses of collecting in the different decades. Collecting has been regular but not systematic: between 1960s and the 1980s, in particular, contemporary art was bought into the collections, but during the economic growth in the 1980s more and more artworks from the Golden Age of Finnish Art were added to the collection. Often the works were acquired for public space, which imposed conditions on their content.

Nordea Art Foundation Finland has created two video presentations for the exhibition, one of the old bank building designed by **Gustaf Nyström** and built in 1898 on Aleksanterinkatu in Helsinki and the other of the portrait of **C. G. E. Mannerheim** by Gallen-Kallela.

The exhibition is curated by the Didrichsen Art Museum and the Nordea Art Foundation Finland.

Contact

Maria Didrichsen
Museum Director
tel: +358405521000
maria.didrichsen@didrichsenmuseum.fi

Mediabank: www.didrichsenmediabank.com
password: didrichsen2024

The Collection of Nordea Art Foundation Finland **10.2.–26.5.2024**

Didrichsenin taidemuseo

Kuusilahdenkuja 1, 00340 Helsinki
office@didrichsenmuseum.fi / 010 2193 970
Website: didrichsenmuseum.fi
Facebook: didrichsenmuseum
X: DidMuseum
Instagram: didrichsenartmuseum

Opening hours

10.2.–26.5.2024

Tue–Sun 11–18

Mon suljettu

Tickets

16 / 14 / 10 €

Free admission for children under 18

Museum Card

Free admission to the Sculpture Park

Guided tours

In Finnish Sat and Sun 1pm and 3pm, Wed 3pm

In Swedish Sun at 12 noon

In English every first Saturday of the month at 12 noon.

Exhibitions

9.9.2023–28.1.2024 *Rafael Wardi*

10.2.–26.5.2024 *The Collection of Nordea Art Foundation Finland*

8.6.–25.8.2024 *Embassy of EGS*

7.9.2024–26.1.2025 *Carl-Henning Pedersen*