



A TRIP TO KORU5

International jewellery triennial, Imatra, Finland

What does the word KORU mean, it simply means jewellery in Finnish language and it is a tradition that the KORU triennial consists of workshops, a seminar and an international exhibition, sometimes there has been also parallel exhibitions. This format has always been alike to all KORU events, which started in 1997, the first editions named Alchemy, the stone of wisdom and Midsummer workshops were modest. The workshops vary according to the themes to be treated, some are material based and others rather conceptual. The seminar contents talks from art theorists and artists presentations. The event has been always international, speakers and artists coming from several countries. All these together makes a forum for new approaches and views on contemporary jewellery. Connections and connecting people could be one purpose of the event and a great opportunity for museum visitors to make a trip to the fantastic world of contemporary jewellery.

The organizer of this triennial is The Finnish Jewellery Art Association (www.korutaideyhdistys.fi) cooperating among others with the art museum and with Saimaa University of Applied Sciences.

The association was founded in 2005 to promote jewellery and to provide Finnish jewellers a sense of belonging to a greater community.

By Antonio ALTARRIBA

THE CURATION OF THE EXHIBITION OF KORU 5

The exhibition of the KORU5 displays the work of 51 artists coming from 21 countries. The show was opened in Imatra Art Museum on Friday 7th of August and it will remain open until 12.9.2015, then it will travel to Vaasa Art Hall 3.10.-29.11.2015 and finally the show will end next year at Kuopio art museum 10.6.-10.9.2016. A full colour catalogue has been printed. This is the first triennial that the exhibition is itinerant, it is a challenge for the organizers, because they have to pack all the pieces, exhibition tables etc. but it is an excellent opportunity for the promotion of international contemporary jewellery around Finland especially in this artistic context.

This exhibition is the selection of an open call to jewellers. The organizers received 363 proposals, and the jury was composed by Helena Lehtinen, jeweller artist, Jyrki Siukonen, Doctor in Fine Arts and Katarina Siltavuori, Master in Art History. The jury studied carefully proposals and made the selection of participants for the exhibition. An open call is always a big risk to take for the organizer, because you may not receive enough entries, but KORU event is already old enough, the amount of applications was huge.

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THE WORKSHOPS OF KORU 5

There were three workshops from Monday to Thursday and the leaders were **Terhi Tolvanen**, (Fi/Fra), **Landscapes in stone**. A landscape can be cultural, architectural and urban... imaginary, musical or poetic... The workshop was a walk together in rocky landscapes while making imaginary landscapes. Working with stone, discussing about stone and getting surprised about stone! **Edgar Mosa** (Por/ USA) **Creative Patriotisms**. Utilizing the conventions of the bench and metalwork, this workshop proposed to gather an international group of makers and thinkers out of their home and studio to work, think, and nurture a hands-on conversation of "why we are how we are and do how we do". **Monika Brugger** (FR) **Heimat**. Nomads, travellers, backpackers, globetrotters, vagabonds, immigrant, exile, expatriate, being away from home, being elsewhere. Many of us have changed countries for pleasure, curiosity, desire for change, rarely by economic or political necessity. Many of us reconstruct what is called "Heimat" in German, build, find or invent new or other roots. Jewellery connects homelands.

THE SEMINAR

The seminar of KORU 5 on Friday and Saturday presented several talks and artist presentations among them Karen

Pontoppidan, professor and jewel artist, Jyrki Siukonen, Ph and sculptor, Hannah Joris, Ph and jewell artist, Edgar Mosa, jewell artist and designer, Ulla Ahola, jewell artist, Shu-Lin Wu, jewell artist, Daniela Hedman, jewell artist.

I quote now some sentences from the lectures. Edgar Mosa who lives and works in New York issue was about "Commercial jewellery and art jewellery" every jeweller should think how to make its living. Hannah Joris talked about doctorates and artists. Should an artist concentrate in exploring and making art or in making doctoral thesis. Shu-Lin Wu presented the contemporary spectrum of jewellery in Taiwan and she talked about the lack of contemporary jewellery galleries in her country and all the efforts the young generation is making to open new spaces for it. All the lecturers were interesting and did not left anybody cool.

In the seminar premises there were several OFF exhibitions from students and different groups, so during the lunch time or coffee breaks the seminar participants could pop in.

THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition is large and well displayed. The Baltic Jewellery News readers will appreciate it in the images accompanied, but the best is to see it at its site. ■