

Merja Ranki  
sculptress  
ceramist  
b.1955



## CV

Sculptress and ceramist Merja Ranki graduated from the AALTO University of Art and Design in Helsinki 1998. The active artistic career with exhibitions of sculptures and installations in different materials started in 1981. Mastering several materials and being inspired by them the artist entitles herself as a material adventurer. In her works she combines the reality and dreams and the conflict between them. The visual characteristics of her works could be described as a smiling surrealism where conceptual art is served with laughter. At the present she is working within public art and managing artist studios in Helsinki and Kerava, Finland.



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### education

2011	Self portrait -methods, Arts Academy of Turku University, Finland
2009	Vocational Teacher Education, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland
2003	Art education, Lahti Polytechnic, Finland
1998	Master of Arts, The University of Art and Design AALTO Finland
1996	Sculpture, ceramics, Escola Massana, Barcelona, Spain
	Sculpture, The National Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Finland
1980-1988	Experimental sculpture, drawing, painting Kerava Art School Finland
1976	Free Art School, Helsinki, Finland
1980	The Commercial College of Malmi, Helsinki, Finland
1978	The Marketing Institution, Helsinki, Finland
1975	Matriculation Examination, Helsinki, Finland

## commissions, public art

### Art4

The members of the artist group Art4 have been working together since the 1990's in exhibitions and public art. The public art of Tikkurila center, Vantaa, created by Art4, as part of renewal of Tikkurila center has received the following awards: Honorary award in Kehäkukka architecture awards 2017, Landscape structure of 2017 by Finnish Association of Landscape Industries, Accomplishment in municipal technology 2017.

1995-2017 Curated public art projects and community art projects in Vantaa, Tuusula, Espoo, Järvenpää and Helsinki Finland

### workshops and community art projects

2011 The Wishing Well, FBD Järvenpää training center, Järvenpää, Finland  
2008-2010 SAVISALKKU-workshops for the children, Helsinki, Finland  
2008 On the Bridge, exhibition workshops for children, The Art Museum of Kerava Finland  
2006-2007 Code A4, workshops for adults, children and special groups, The Art Museums of Lappeenranta, Rovaniemi and Vantaa, Finland  
2005-2006 The Wall, community art workshops, Tuusula, Finland  
2005 AJ'A – The Fish Trap, community art project, Benin, Africa  
2004 The Knots, community art project workshops, Espoo, Finland

### solo exhibitions

2016 *Body, Death and Laughter* Rantakasarmi, Suomenlinna, Finland  
2016 *Body, Death and Laughter* Galleria Uusi Kipinä Lahti, Finland  
2015 Keho, Kuolema ja Nauru *Body, Death and Laughter* O Gallery Helsinki  
2010 ON THE ROOTS, together with Jaana Brinck, The Art Museum of Lapinlahti, Finland  
2008 Sillalla, On the Bridge, The Art Museum of Kerava, Finland  
2006 Pilvipaimen ja muita tarinoita, Tuusula Art Center, Finland  
2009 PILVISTÄ, sculptures, Gallery 5, Oulu, Finland  
2005 Pilvipaimen, sculptures, Gallery Pirkko-Liisa Topelius, Helsinki, Finland  
2003 Isän maasta, isän kädestä, Gallery ALLI, Kerava, Finland  
2002 Solmuja, Knots, Gallery ALLI, Kerava, Keravan Kartano, The Art Factory, Porvoo; Galleria TOUKOKUU, Helsinki  
2000 Pyykkipoika ja 7 prinsessaa, Gallery JANGVA, Helsinki, Finland  
Pyykkipoikia, Galleria ALLI, Kerava, Finland  
1999 Äidin Pyykkipoika, Gallery Naistenhuone, Helsinki, Finland  
1998 Mielen Tilat, sculptures, ATSKI-gallery, UIAH; Helsinki, Finland  
1996 Roll Up, ceramic sculptures, ESCOLA MASSANA, Barcelona, Spain

### selected group exhibitions

2014 VOTLAND ceramics Nordic House Reykjavik Iceland  
2013 Art4 sculptures AHJO Art Center Joensuu Finland  
2012 Master Class, paintings Grosstadt St Petersburg **Russia**  
2012 Pares i Filles, Centro Cultural La Casa Elizalde, sculptures, video, Barcelona, Spain  
2011 Isät ja tyttäret, Pares i Filles, Pihatto Gallery, sculptures, video Lappeenranta, Finland  
2011 4+4, Northern Ceramics, Helsinki, Finland  
2009 The CLOUD, sculptures, The Gallen-Kallela Museum, Espoo, Finland  
2008 MATERIALISTS 2, Uppskera og hantverk, ceramics, Akureyri **Iceland**  
2007-2006 KoodiA4, installations, The Art Museum of Vantaa, The Art Museum of Rovaniemi  
South Karelia Art Museum, Lappeenranta, Finland  
2001 AIKAVIILA, installations, video, The Art Museum of Vantaa City, Vantaa, Finland

### curated shared exhibitions

#### international

2018 BELA Cable Factory, Helsinki  
2013 From Pottery to Plastics, conference Museo di Tolfa, **Italy**  
2013 PORTRAIT NOW Frederiksborg Castle, Copenhagen **Denmark, Sweden**  
2012 Master Class, paintings, St Petersburg, **Russia**  
2007 Tuusula Art, 30th anniversary exhibition, sculptures  
Kontour Galerie, Celle, **Germany**  
2000 K 2000 conference, ceramics, Lappeenranta, Finland  
1998 Stockholm Art Fair, ceramic sculptures, Sollentuna, Stockholm, **Sweden**  
1996 Networks in ceramics, international conference, ceramic sculptures, Helsinki, Finland

#### national

2016 Kehossa, Keholla, Kehotta Lapinlahti Gallery Helsinki  
 2015 Konst& Form Gumbostrand Gallery Sipoo Finland  
 2015 Keramiikka tilassa *Ceramics in space* Design Museum Helsinki  
 2013 Pyhäniemi Mansion summer exhibition Hollola Finland  
 2013 Union of Finnish Art Organisations The Art Museum of Hyvinkää, Finland  
 2003 A Century of Finnish Ceramics, The Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland  
 Knots, installation, South Karelia Art Museum, Lappeenranta, Finland  
 VIRTAA, district show, installations, Porvoo, Finland  
 2008 Todella Siistiä, Really Neat, sculptures, The Art Museum of Rauma-city, Finland  
 2007 KUUMA region exhibition, sculptures, The Art Museum of Kerava-city Finland  
 2002 Finndesignnow-02, sculptures, Fiskars, Finland  
 2002 Union of Finnish Art Associations, The Art Museum of Savonlinna, Finland  
 2009-1975 Exhibitions in Finland

### awards and grants

2017-2000 awards from The Arts Council of Finland, Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Frame, The Finnish Cultural Foundation, The Wihuri Foundation of Finland, Pohjola-Norden Arts Arts Promotion Center Finland, Tuusula county

### works in collections

Vantaa City, Finland, Master Class Gallery St Petersburg, Russia, FBD Järvenpää training center, Tuusula Commune, The Finnish Art Association, Lapinlahti Hospital, Helsinki, LIFIM, Institute of Business Management, Porvoo, Villa LYHDE, Activity Center, private collectors

### art organizations

2013- **Art4** group (Brinck, Latva-Somppi, Ranki, Turpeinen)  
 2012 Artists O ORNAMO  
 2011 ÖY ry (The Unit) artist studios, the president 2012-2018, Kerava, Finland  
 2010 Studio METSO, artist studios, executive director Helsinki Finland  
 2007- Art Association SAVEA, Finland the president 2007-2015  
 2007-2018 KUUMArt, fine art association, Finland vice president  
 2006-2011 Artist's Associations of Uusimaa, Finland the president 2007-2010  
 1999- The Sculptors Union Finland  
 1982- The Fine Art Association of Kerava, Finland the president 2002-2006

### artist residences

2016 ACC Arctic Ceramic Center Posio Finland  
 2013 Oaxaca Mexico  
 2011 Grassina Florence Italy  
 2004 Villa Karo, Grand Popo Benin, Africa

### publications

2014 **Ceramics & Space**, The Finnish Association of Designers Ornamo  
 2012 **Sinkka**, Kerava Art Museum 1/2012 The Block Opera -exhibition  
 2012 **Pares i Filles**, exhibition catalogue Centro Cultural La Casa Elizalde  
 2010 **Suomalaisia Nykytaiteilijoita Lähikuvassa** Finnish Contemporary Artists, Pirkko Vekkele, Ilpo Vainionpää WSOY  
 2009 **PILVI, taiteellisia sääilmiöitä** THE CLOUD, artistic weather phenomena, exhibition catalogue, The Museum of Axel Gallen-Kallela, Espoo, Finland  
 1998 **REUNALLA, Peripheries** exhibition catalogue, Finnish Academy of Fine Arts  
 1998 **11 x 98 taik**, catalogue, The Stockholm Art Fair