



How to Weave Cities - 15 Years of CreArt!

Welcome to CreArt European Month of Creativity in Oulu, Finland on 4 May – 14 June 2026!

The 125-year-old Market Hall of Culture

4-23 May 2026. Open on Monday to Friday at 8-18 and on Saturday at 8-16. Oulun Kauppahalli, Kauppatori, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Vernissage: Monday 4 May 2026 at 17-18.

The 125-year-old Market Hall of Culture is a multidisciplinary event series that brings art into the heart of an everyday gathering place. The event consists of three parts:

- 1) A joint exhibition by Marianne Kauppila and Henri Honkanen at the Market Hall Café 4-23 May 2026.
- 2) Saturday afternoon events: music, dance performances, literary art, instant portraits and art pop-ups.
 - 9 May 2026: DJ, SwingO and Eelis Saario's poetry workshop at 13-15
 - 16 May 2026: DJ at 13-15, art shop and community painting with Marianne Kauppila at 10-16
 - 23 May 2026: DJ, quick portraits by Aapo & Hanna Kukko at 13-15 and art shop at 10-15
- 3) Marianne Kauppila's 125th-anniversary-themed community art painting.

The event is organised by Manninen Art, Branding & Design and is part of Galleria MABD's Oulu2026 Galleria International programme, a key element of which is to bring art to people.

Marianne Kauppila: Marianne Kauppila is a visual artist from Oulu specialising in murals. Her distinctive style is rooted in graphic forms and strong, clean lines. In her works, nature merges with the human world, creating its own universe in a time without people. Her strongly two-dimensional works offer still, at times even expressionless, depictions of life and the surrounding world

Henri Honkanen: Pareidolia is a psychological phenomenon in which the brain attempts to identify potential dangers or familiar objects, such as faces, from visual observations. Oulu-based visual artist Henri explores

this phenomenon through abstract portraits and seeks to combine them with the rapid movement and rough expression found in the world of graffiti and tags. Look. What do you see?

SwingO ry: SwingO ry is a swing dance club based in Oulu that focuses specifically on lindy hop. The club organises weekly dance classes, as well as short courses in other swing styles, such as blues, balboa, rockabilly, and shag. At the heart of its activities is the preservation and development of swing dance culture, as well as providing accessible opportunities to participate in the Oulu region. In addition to courses, SwingO ry actively organises various dance events and is also prominently involved in local events, enlivening Oulu's cultural life by bringing swing dance into the cityscape year-round.

Eelis Saurio: Eelis Saurio is a musician, singer, and songwriter from Oulu. He has written and performed his songs as a solo artist and, in recent years, with the band Rakas Paheeni.

Aapo & Hanna Kukko: Aapo Kukko is a comic artist, illustrator, and screenwriter originally from Kemi who now lives in Oulu. In his work, he strives for interdisciplinary art. Hanna Kukko is a comic artist and multidisciplinary artist living in Oulu. Her artistic expression oscillates somewhere between pastel-hued cuteness and expressive world-weariness.

Veronika Cherednychenko – Fenced Off (UA)

6–31 May 2026, Open on Wednesday to Friday at 13–18 and on Saturday to Sunday at 12–16. Galleria MABD, Torikatu 4, 90100 Oulu. Free entry.

Vernissage: Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 18–20

Gallery Walk: During the exhibition, the May Gallery Walk will also be held in collaboration with Neliö Galleria and Vox Galleria on Wednesday 20 May 2026.

In the project *Fenced Off*, **Veronika Cherednychenko** explores borders as fragile and often absurd constructions. Set against the backdrop of an endless steppe horizon, these scenes unfold where the line between reality and fiction becomes blurred. The title itself, *Fenced Off*, ironically reflects on our attempts to impose control where it is impossible, suggesting that any barrier is inherently unstable.

Veronika Cherednychenko (b. 1994, Kherson) is a contemporary visual artist based in Lviv. Her practice evolves from surreal drawing into digital sculpture, video, and VR. Using organic and zoomorphic metaphors, Cherednychenko explores themes of transformation, trauma, and the body's resilience.

Gym Ball Opera

13–14 May 2026.

Performances:

Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 18 in Theodor's Park Banquet Hall (Lossikuja 6, 90500 Oulu)

Thursday 14 May 2026 at 18 in Theodor's Park Banquet Hall (Lossikuja 6, 90500 Oulu)

Thursday 14 May 2026 at 11 Ainola park greenhouses (Ainolanpolku 1, 90130 Oulu)

Free entry.

Gym Ball Opera is a performative installation by the interdisciplinary duo **Hilmakollektiivi**, formed by actor and performance artist Outi Vuoriranta and visual artist and poet Silja Kejonen. The work is based on Kejonen's fourth poetry collection, *Versailles*, to be published by Gummerus in August 2026.

Gym Ball Opera is a multidisciplinary work that explores corporeality, aging, power, lightness, and weight.

Situated at the intersection of visual art, poetry, and performance, the work challenges conventional forms and modes of presentation.

The artistic practice of the Hilmakollektiivi is defined not only by its thematic concerns and distinctive aesthetic language, but also by a process-driven approach and a multidisciplinary perspective. Their work is characterized by absurd humor, utopian thinking, and a playful sense of lightness.

Hilmakollektiivi's works have been presented in Helsinki, Berlin, Tampere, Lahti and Oulu.

White Nights Exhibition and Jaakko Myyri's permanent site-specific artwork at AaltoSiilo

3–14 June 2026. Opening hours TBA. AaltoSiilo (Alvar Aallon katu 5, 90520 Oulu). Free entry.

Artists' meeting: 23 May 2026 at 11-12

Vernissage: 3 June 2026 at 18-21

White Nights is a site-specific group exhibition at AaltoSiilo, bringing together artists from Finland and South Korea: **Jaakko Myyri, Jihyoung Han, Dan Kim, Grim Park, Jin Hong** and **Juae Park**. Through sculpture, installation, and digital media, the works explore slow and rapid changes in the urban environment, and the shifting relationship between technology and ecology, foregrounded through non-human perspectives within modernism's material legacy. Oulu-born, now Amsterdam-based artists Jaakko Myyri will create a permanent site-specific work from parts of the machinery of the factory designed by Aino and Alvar Aalto, and will present the process of its making at an artist talk at AaltoSiilo on 23 May at 11.

What I Brought With Me

28 May 2026 at 17-19. Valve's Café Paljetti (Cultural Centre Valve, Hallituskatu 7, 90100 Oulu). Free entry.

What I Brought with Me is a pop-up presentation combining photography and short documentary films, sharing stories of relocation, identity and belonging. The works focus on objects people brought with them when moving to Oulu - objects that carry memory, cultural meaning and personal history. During the event, you can explore the photo works, meet the participants and their objects, watch two short films and join an open conversation about belonging and inclusion. The project is created by Entrecom Enterprise Community (photographer: Arina Lykova), connecting visual storytelling with real-life experiences and diverse perspectives. It is part of the ALWAYSBEENHERE project by the Mobile Futures programme at the University of Oulu.

We dedicate CreArt Oulu's third edition of the European Month of Creativity to celebrate the 15 years of CreArt, an international network of cities woven for citizens, a common space for Art in Europe. More info on Instagram, @creart oulu, and [Facebook](#).