

Anu Tuominen: Forester

Art-U room is pleased to present the second solo show in Tokyo by a Finnish artist, Anu Tuominen.

Anu Tuominen turns her attention to materials and tools, with which everyone is familiar, such as kitchen utensils and stationery, and appropriates them through simple acts of knitting, cutting or arranging. Her works often involve aspects of craft; making a necklace by threading bead-like shortened pieces of pencils, or transforming old gloves into vessels or little animals by sewing them together. Although they all originate in concepts, they carry a sense of warmth, often concealing humor for which one cannot help bursting into a laugh. The artist carefully observes and analyses each object's form and function, and the quality and colors inherent in materials. While maintaining the original state of an object, she gives a second life to it, triggering an endless chain of imagination for a viewer as in a word-association game.

Tuominen shifts her focus from the kitchen themes of her previous exhibition to outdoor nature for this exhibition, presenting works dealing with materials and subject matter associated with forests. Seventy percent of the artist's home country, Finland, is covered with forest. Although an increasing number of people leave the forest to live in cities these days, the forest is and will remain the heart and soul of many Finns. Tuominen also spent her childhood in a remote rural area surrounded by forest, and grew up experiencing the bounty of the forest, leading to numerous little discoveries and giving her a sense of peace and a bit of awe. For the artist, however, forest and nature are perfect, transcending their role as inspirations for her creativity. It is conceivable to interpret the works for this show as Tuominen's way of showing her dedication to the forest that gives us quiet revelations.

We are also pleased to announce a launch of "Thinkables", Anu Tuominen's new monograph in English. Categorized by 61 terms, such as 'Colour', 'Crocheting', 'Shoes', 'Squared paper,' this worth-a-look book consists of artist's memorandum-style writings, recording creative ideas and images of outputs based on these ideas.

■ Anu TUOMINEN brief biography

Born 1961, in Finland, Tuominen studied furniture design at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki, and specialized in Media Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. In 1989, during her university study, she began presenting her works in solo and group shows. In 2003, she won the Grand prize at Ars Fennica, the most respected annual award given to an outstanding Finnish artist in the field of visual art. Lately, she has been participating in solo and group shows in and out of Finland, especially in Europe, receiving attention from the fields of design and craft, in addition to art.

Exhibition details:

Anu Tuominen: Forester

April 12 - 27, 2008

Tue.-Sat. 12:00-19:00. Sun.12:00-17:00. closed Mon. and national holidays

Opening reception with the artist: April 11th, 18:00 - 20:00.

Supported by The Finnish Institute in Japan

Art-U room

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'In the evening, strip off the dotted dress, cut out the beads.' 2001-2008



'Fill winter shoes, spring shoes, willow- wood clogs with catkins and make silk slippers, woollen socks.' 2000



'Mittens with thumb ears. Elks, foxes, mice' 2002-2008

Above three images from "Thinkables"
Published by Anu Tuominen, Art-U room
and Galerie Anhava, 2008

For further information and images, please inquire by phone or e-mail