Finnish Art

Eero Järnefelt: *Under the Yoke (Burning the Brushwood)*, 1893
art: the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.
Barnett Newman: *Onement VI, 1953*
Robin Lindqvist: *The Birth and Death of Snakes (Ode to the Lesbian)*, 1979
Hugo Simberg: *The Wounded Angel*, 1903
Finnish Art

A History of Finnish Art

The Development of Modern Finnish Art

Contemporary Art

Characteristics of Art in Finland
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Characteristics of Art in Finland
Prehistoric Art

Prehistoric rock paintings.

Themes of the elk (symbols, myths) and humans.

Painting onto steep granite walls.
Astuvansalmi Rock Paintings

Oldest paintings made about 3000 to 2500BC.

Other archaeological artefacts were also found in the same area.

Themes: elks, humans, boats, as well as geometrical figures.
Saraakallio Rock Paintings

Two art areas: Saraakallio I and Saraakallio II.

The biggest rock art area in Finland.

Themes: deer, human, and boat figures. The paintings were painted using red paint.
Connecting the Dots

From rock painting to medieval wall paintings in churches (historiography).

Documentation, identification, and attribution were poor.

The development of modern Finnish art in Finland.
Finnish Art

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Characteristics of Art in Finland
The Golden Age

Naturalism in Finnish art: epic landscapes and scenes of every-day life.

Landscapes as themes.

The “Kalevala”.

The Finnish Pavilion, World’s Fair in Paris (1900), by Eliel Saarinen.

Pekka Halonen: The Short Cut, 1892
Akseli Gallen-Kallela

The “National Artist”.

Prominence after the 1900 World Fair.

Designed the flags, official decorations, and uniforms for independent Finland.

Realism.

Akseli Gallen-Kallela: *Démasquée*, 1888
Askeli Gallen-Kallela: *The Aino Triptych*, 1891
Albert Edelfelt

Cosmopolitan who spent years in Paris.

Journeys to the French and Italian riverias and the Finnish lakes saw him shift from naturalism to impressionism.

“Painter of his own Age”.

Albert Edelfelt:  *Queen Blanka*, 1877
Albert Edelfelt: *Duke Karl Abusing the Corpse of Klaus Fleming*, 1878
Albert Edelfelt: *Children Playing on the Shore*, 1884
Modernism

Breaking away from naturalism.

The Septem group: Magnus Enckell, Yrjö Ollila, Ellen Thesleff, and Verner Thomé

The November group of German expressionism: Tyko Sallinen, Marcus Collin, and Alwar Cawén.
Tove Jansson

Originality.

Artist, illustrator, political caricaturist, author and creator of the Moomin characters and stories.

Landscapes.

Portraits.

Monumental paintings.
Tove Jansson: 
**Self-Portraits**, 1940, 41, 42, 75
Consumption art: to tell a story, decorate, entertain.

Monumental, fantastical painting of festivities and idyllic, imaginary landscapes.

Intended to bring joy and comfort after the war.
Prominent Female Artists

Fanny Churberg (1845-92)

Elin Danielson-Gambogi (1861-1919)

Maria Wiik (1853-1928)

Helene Schjerfbeck (1862-1946)

Ellen Thesleff (1869-1954)
Finnish Art

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Contemporary Art

Characteristics of Art in Finland
Kiasma

Art works from the 1960s to the present.

Demonstrates art of today, and also reinterprets the past.
Kiasma

More than just the sense of sight.

Contemporary art: engage senses. holistic experiences. self-interpretation.
kiasma HITS

Kokoelmat Samlingarna Collections Коллекции


Abendland

Two animations; soundscape from double bass and electronics; work has no beginning and end.

Change is gradual.

A future when humanity ceases to exist.

Max SaviKangas, Juho Martikainen, and Pekka Mikael Laine: *Abendland*, 2013
The World of Abstraction

Thousands of colourful silk ribbons that reach from the ceiling to the floor.

Appears like a painting or sculpture from afar.

Experiential: viewers can be immersed in artwork.

Jacob Dahlgren: *The Wonderful World of Abstraction*, 2009
The Expander

Metallic spherical structure with protruding strikes which attach to the walls.

Considers the nature of the site, and the artwork is always different depending on where it is installed.

Kimmo Schroderus: The Expander, 2004
Finnish Art

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Characteristics of Art in Finland
Common Influences

Nature and natural landscapes.

The “Kalevala”.
“When modern artists utilise the Kalevala, they are not merely re-telling or re-illustrating the Kalevala’s stories, rather, they wish to address, through the mystical world of the Kalevala, the eternal questions facing humanity: life, death, love, and survival.”
The “Kalevala”

Work of epic poetry

Finnish oral folklore and mythology.

22,795 verses, 50 songs.
Artists Inspired by the “Kalevala”

Akseli Gallen-Kallela: the “National Artist” of Finland.


Lauri Leppänen: sculptor and professor.
Finnish Art

Eero Järnefelt: *Under the Yoke (Burning the Brushwood)*, 1893