

Press release

## **Kaarina Kaikkonen at K11 Art Space**

The exhibition arises from a collaboration between Collezione Maramotti (owner of the works) and K11 Art Space.

It displays two installations by Finnish artist Kaarina Kaikkonen who has exhibited her pieces all over the world and is famous for her creations where the boundaries between sculpture, installation, architecture and nature tend to blur and disappear.

Kaarina Kaikkonen works directly on spaces, interpreting them anew, through the use of everyday objects, such as for example jackets and shirts which are her plastic tools of choice. Installations made of second-hand garments, symbolizing real life and real people, become devices preserving collective and personal memories which should not be lost.

The two titles of the works on display stress the notion of community, relations, and hint at a journey waiting to be made. The monumental features of her pieces are blended in with a soul linked to impermanence and fragility of materials evoking the fragility of humankind.

Said the artist, *"I like creating a dialogue between myself, my work and the surrounding space. I also like the idea of bringing my works closer to people that usually do not visit museums or art galleries... I often pick garments as material, but there is me, in my works, just me: all are self-portraits."*

***Are We Still Going On?*** has been commissioned by Collezione Maramotti and crated by the artist for the former garment manufacturing facilities of Max Mara (now housing the Collection): it was exhibited for one year in the Collezione with a relevant success.

With this work the space is redefined as an inhabited and habitable place recalling the hull of a ship. The simple lines of the hull are divided in two parts that expand from the ceiling to brush the floor with an even semicircular compositional

rhythm given by shirts knotted together evoking a dialogue between male and female, past and present. An evocative work which - although figurative and sculptural in its approach - moves towards the dimension of an “emotional landscape”, through the use of the delicate tones of the shirt fabric and the presence of light inside an airy and suspended composition.

If *Are we still going on?* shows a strong upward tension, as if looking for a future perspective, ***From Generation to Generation*** rests on the ground: it recalls a large skeleton where the plastic sequence of jackets hints clearly at the passing of time.

Men’s jackets have become a central item of Kaarina Kaikkonen’s work since the late Eighties; their choice as means of expression is linked to the death of the artist’s father when she was ten: wearing her father’s clothes was at the time an attempt to feel his presence longer, but over the years, their artistic elaboration has come to represent a sort of catharsis which, starting from a life experience, came to embrace a much wider reflection on separation and loss.

In these works life and death, presence and absence, are inseparably intertwined and recall a feeling of transiency also evoked in the titles of the pieces. *From Generation to Generation* thus becomes a metaphor for life.

We carry inside ourselves the story, the past, our ancestors, so that they become part of us; a relational system between generations enabling us to know who we are, and strengthening our individual and collective identity.

In essence Kaarina Kaikkonen’s sculptural installations represent a concert of voices passing by and dialoguing with social spaces, they are the story of each of us and everyone; a story that openly conveys a universal feeling which everyone can identify with and glean what each of us experiences most strongly.

The exhibition also features a video made in 2012 by Beatrice Marchi, Italian videomaker, during the ten days of the installation of the work at Collezione Maramotti by the artist with the help of a team of young women.  
(Marina Dacci, director Maramotti Collection)

### **Info on the exhibition**

Reception: 8 August 2013

The artist will be present.

The exhibition runs

From 8 August to 7 October 2013

On 8 August 2013 at 5 pm there will be a meeting with Kaarina Kaikkonen titled Memories where the artist will introduce her work and describe her artistic research.

### **Info about Collezione Maramotti**

The works on exhibit belong to Collezione Maramotti, an important Italian private institution of contemporary art – open to the public in 2007 in Reggio Emilia.

The Collezione, consisting in several hundred works from 1950 to the present day, represents a long history of collecting which started in the mid Sixties thanks to the passion of Achille Maramotti, entrepreneur and founder of Max Mara fashion brand. Besides its historical collection, the Collezione still pursues its activity of purchases and commissions to young Italian and international artists, by sharing it with visitors and thus supporting the production and experimentation of artists who are not yet established in the art system.

Collezione Maramotti

Via Fratelli Cervi 66

Reggio Emilia- Italy

[www.collezionemaramotti.org](http://www.collezionemaramotti.org)

## **Bio**

### **Kaarina Kaikkonen**

Born in 1952, Lisalmi, Finland

Lives and works in Helsinki

## **AWARDS**

2008 Honourable Prize, Cairo 11th Biennale, Cairo, Egypt

2005 Finnish Cultural Foundation Grant

2004 The Public Prize, Den Haag Sculptuur 2004, Holland

2001 The Prize of Environmental Art, Finland

Finland Art Reward

2001 Candidate of Ars Fennica Prize

1999 Finnish Cultural Foundation Grant

1998 II price in the art competition in Espoo, Finland

1996 II price in the art competition in Hyvinkää, Finland

1989 State Art Reward, Finland

1985 Price in Nurnberg Drawing Triennale, Germany

1982 I price in the art competition for Finnish Club, Helsinki, Finland

1979 Iisalmi City Art Reward, Finland

## **Selection of solo exhibitions and site specific installations:**

“A Stolen Kiss”, Kotka Fire Station, Kotka, Finland, 1990

“Set for the Sea”, Gallery Titanic, Turku, Finland, 1991

“USA-Finland”, Contrasts and Connections, touring exhibition, USA, 1992

“12 Spaces”, Kerava Art Museum, Finland, 1992

“Nature of Paper”, The Center of Polish Sculpture, Oronsoko, Poland, 1993

“Finnish Contemporary Art”, Mänttä Art Festival, Finland, 1993

“Paper on Paper”, Lappeenranta Art Museum, Finland, 1993

“Secret Garden”, Hämeenlinna Art Museum, Finland, 1994

“Points of View”, Retretti Art Center, Punkaharju, Finland, 1994

“Fair Wind”, Hanko foreshore, Finland, 1995

“River”, Rovaniemi Art Museum, Finland, 1995

“Art Works Work Spaces”, Hyvinkää Art Museum, Finland, 1995

“Ireland and Europe”, Iveagh Gardens, Dublin, 1997

“Echo”, Tallinna Art Hall, Estonia, 1997

“Glass and Light”, Museum for Contemporary Art in Tampere, Finland, 1997

“Fiber”, Fiskars Art Center, Fiskars, Finland, 1997

“Espace Valles”, Grenoble, France, 1998

“Funf Bildhauerinnen aus Finnland”, Kulturbahnhof Eller, Germany, 1998  
“Paper+Finland=Art”, American Craft Museum, New York; The Chicago Athenaeum at Schaumburg, Chicago, 1998  
“Paper Worlds”, Lönnström Art Museum in Rauma, Finland; Jyväskylä Art Museum, Finland, 1998  
“Paper Worlds” Musee de Pully, Lausanne, Switzerland; Galerie im Werkstatt Laden, Winterthur, Switzerland; Aine Art Museum in Tornio, Finland, 1999  
“Paper+Finland=Art”, Mingei International Museum, San Diego, 1999  
“Alkumeri”, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art in Turku, Finland, 1999  
“Sky is the Limit”, Museum for Contemporary Art in Tampere, Finland, 1999  
“Three Women”, Lapinlahti Art Museum, Finland, 1999  
“La Nature du Papier”, Salle des Cordeliers, Annonay, France, 1999  
“Transitions”, Malmö Art Museum, Sweden; Kunsthalle Rostock, Germany, 2000  
“Qui a plante ces grands arbres?”, Galerie La Ferronnerie, Paris; Espace Huit November, Paris, 2000  
“Transformations”, Natural History Museum in Helsinki, 2000  
“Paper+Finland=Art”, The Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada; Triangle Gallery, Calgary, Canada; Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, USA, 2000  
“In Via”, Flemish Ministry, Brussels, 2001  
“Turpahöylä-Metamorphoses in Sculpture”, Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland, 2001  
“The Spirit of The Forest”, Kunsthalle Helsinki, Helsinki, 2001  
“New Paper Art”, Crafts Council, London, 2001  
“Art in Savo - Savo in Art”, Lapinlahti Art Museum, Finland, 2001  
“MIELI”, kuva Mänttä Art Festival, Finland, 2001  
“Première”, Galerie La Ferronnerie, Paris, 2001  
“Paper+Finland=Art”, Galerie Montcalme, Hull, USA; Harbourfront Center, Toronto; Nash Gallery, Minneapolis, 2001  
“In & Out”, Kuopio Art Museum, Kuopio, Finland, 2002  
“Departure”, 8th Havana Biennial, Wifredo Lam Center for Contemporary Art, Havana, 2003  
“Beyond Reach”, Fabrica, Brighton, 2003  
“Loud and proud”, Anttolanhovi, Mikkeli, Finland, 2003  
“Like a Bird of Passage”, Artina Gallery, Helsinki, 2003  
“Night Train”, Kiasma Museum for Contemporary Art, Helsinki, 2003  
“It was Empty”, Omniart, Art Basel-Miami, Miami, 2004

“A Path”, Umedalen Skulptur Umeå, Sweden, 2004  
“In the Darkness”, Den Haag Sculptuur, The Hague, Holland, 2004  
“Den Gyldne”, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, 2004  
“Postcards from Cuba”, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo, 2004  
“Sound and Fury”, Iisalmi Art Hall, Iisalmi, Finland, 2004  
“Fogelfrei”, Stadt Paradies, Darmstadt, 2005  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Helsinki Kunsthalle, 2005  
“Queen of the Night”, Artina Gallery, Helsinki, 2005  
“Une certaine Finland”, atelier340muzeum, Brussels, 2005  
“And It was Empty”, Galleri Stefan Andersson, Umeå, 2005  
“20/20”, Chelsea Galleria, Miami, 2006  
“Like A Bridge Over Troubled Water”, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Niigata, 2006  
“Across the Deep”, Bass Museum of Art, Miami, 2006  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, 2006  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Jyväskylä Art Museum, Jyväskylä, 2006  
“Reaching Far”, Rochester Cathedral, Rochester, 2006  
“The Presence of Absence”, Remy Toledo Gallery, New York, 2006  
“Influenced Identity”, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, 2006  
“Biennale Balticum”, Rauma Art Museum, 2006  
Mänttä Art Festival”, Mänttä, 2006  
“Påskeudstillingen i Tistrup”, Vestjylland Art Museum, Tistrup, Denmark, 2006  
“And It Was Empty”, Art Museum, University of Wyoming, Laramie, 2007  
“Inner Borders”, The State Hermitage Museum, San Pietroburgo, 2007  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Institut Finlandais, Paris, 2007  
“OH MY GOD”, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Oslo, 2007  
“Une certaine Finland”, BWA Contemporary Art Gallery, Katowice, Poland, 2007  
“Maco”, Ashley Gallery, Mexico City, 2007  
“Art Miami”, Chelsea Galleria, Miami, 2007  
“PalmBeach3”, Remy Toledo Gallery, Palm Beach, 2007  
“My Space”, The Palazzo Delle Arti Napoli, Naples, 2008  
“And It Was Empty” XI Cairo Biennale”, Cairo, 2008  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, l’Espal, Le Mans, 2008  
“Borås International Sculpture Festival”, Borås, Sweden, 2008  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Norrtälje Konsthall, Norrtälje, 2008  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Konsthallen Trollhättan, Trollhättan, 2008  
“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, 2008  
“Forget-Me-Not”, Korjaamo Culture Factory, Helsinki, 2008

“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Örebro OpenART 20082, Örebro Konsthall, Örebro, Sweden, 2008

“Pewna Finlandia”, BWA Contemporary Art Gallery, Wrocław, Poland; Oronsko Sculpture Center, Oronsko, Poland; Hoviart, Anttola, Finland, 2008

“Ei saa peittää”, Eskilstuna Art Museum, Eskilstuna, Sweden, 2009

“Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Oulu Art Museum, Oulu, 2009

“Changes of Directions”, Tampere Museum of Contemporary Art, Tampere, 2009

“From Generation to Generation: Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome, 2009

“From Generation to Generation: Kaarina Kaikkonen”, Galleria Sara Zanin, Rome, 2009

“Confections”, Biennale du Lin, Quebec, 2009

“Hanging on to Each Other,” The 6th Liverpool Biennale”, FACT, Liverpool, 2010

“Grooving Connections,” Vancouver Biennale, Vancouver, 2010

“Baltic Biennale II”, St. Petersburg, 2010

“Borås International Sculpture Festival 2010”, Borås, Sweden, 2010

“Kesänäyttely”, Kajaani Art Museum, Kajaani Finland, 2010

Den Gyldne, Vestjylland Art Museum, Tistrup, Denmark, 2010

“Memory Traces”, Ludwig Museum Koblenz, Germany, 2010

“Cosmos”, Silkeborgbad Art Center, Silkeborg, Denmark, 2010

“Etre Ainsi”, Espace culturel Boris Vian, Les Ulis, France", 2010

“Hiding Memories, No Longer Empty “, Colonel’s Row on Governors Island, NY, 2010

“Memory Traces”, Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, 2010

“Cosmos”, Silkeborgbad Art Center, Silkeborg, 2010

“As A Tree I Can Feel The Wind”, Art Miami, Miami, 2011

“A Connection, United States of Europe”, FabrySTREFA , Lodz (Poland), 2011

“The Gate”, (IL CAOS #3- I conflitti, 54 Biennale di Venezia), Isola San Servolo, Venice, 2011

“Is There A Better Future?” Critical Mass, International Public Art Project, St. Petersburg, 2011

“Hiding Memories- Humanscape”, Spazio Museale di Palazzo Tornielli, Ameno, 2011

“Memory – New International Sculpture”, Rosenfeld Porcini, London, 2011

“I Would Have Wanted To Blossom Out”, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, 2011

Kesä – Sommar – Summer 2011,

“Life Paths”, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, 2011

“Having Hope”, Galleria Sara Zanin, Rome, 2012  
“Are We Still Going on?”, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia,  
2012-2013  
“Towards Tomorrow”, MAXXI Rome, 2012  
“Out of Fashion” - Textiles in Contemporary Art, Gl Holtegaard,  
Holte (Copenhagen), 2013  
“We Are The Boat”, USE-Europa, Gare de l’Est, Paris, 2013  
“Nordic Cool”, Kennedy Center, Washington, 2012  
A Connection, USE -Europa, Pharos Arts Foundation, Nicosia,  
Cyprus, 2013  
“Memory – International Contemporary Sculpture”, PAN-Palazzo  
delle Arti, Naples, 2013  
“Where Is My Home,?”, USE-United States of Europa, Plataforma  
das Artes, Guimaraes, 2013  
“Collage”, Hyvinkää Art Museum, Hyvinkää, 2013  
“What A Party!”, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art, Turku, 2013  
“USE-United States of Europe”, International Airport Vilnius,  
2013; Railway Station Helsinki, 2013  
“Ekolandia”, Lahti Art Museum, Lahti, 2013

## **Artwork Captions**

Kaarina Kaikkonen  
*From Generation to Generation*, 2001  
men’s jackets, 78 x 407 x 30 cm  
courtesy Collezione Maramotti, Italy

Kaarina Kaikkonen  
*Are We Still Going On?*, 2012  
second-hand shirts, steel cables, 3 x 27 x 8 mt  
courtesy Collezione Maramotti, Italy