by Dutch and Finnish artists established, international art environment in authentic Finnish countryside
This presentation shows an original concept for rural development. It gives an impression and it informs about the vision and value of the new and unique cultural program on Saksalanharju in co-operation with art centre Saksala ArtRadius. In the past 5 years of operating Saksala ArtRadius has proved to create an international significant and exceptional environment for a varied audience.

Isolated and thinly populated rural areas are demanding courage, drive, vision and power to start, to build up and to keep up an unusual combination of art, culture and tourism. With this brand Saksala ArtRadius is a pioneer and shows what can be realized in such region through preserving with the duty.

With the start in 2002 there was no reference, strategy, manual or guideline available. Operating local and regional (public) organizations seem to be limited in effective supporting creative private initiatives which are not fitting in the regular ‘systems’. An art center is not like a usual business, the ‘product’ is often undervalued or wrong interpreted. The missing link is the ability to focus on new and unusual concepts from another perspective and start creating new models.

The experiences of art centre Saksala ArtRadius are the base to explore and develop the innovative concept RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU. With partners from different organizations it will embed different cultural and agricultural activities and develop new models for effective planning and executing rural relate structures. This will increase the well-being obtained by Finns from a renewing countryside, strengthen the cohesion of the countryside and create e.g. new forms of sustainable tourism. It also will be a ‘product’ to export to other rural regions in Finland and abroad.

Marja de Jong
Saksalanharju is in the Eastern part of Finland about 200 km from the Russian border (400 km from St Petersburg and 250 km from Helsinki).

The so called ‘lake district’ has about 87,000 lakes and Haukivuori is situated near Lake Kyyvesi.

The village Haukivuori has 2,300 inhabitants and since January 1st 2007 it is part of the regional capital Mikkeli (40 km South).

Saksalanharju is a ridge on top of the biggest monolith of Europe. The area is fruitful and already early in history people had started to settle.

Saksala area was finally private owned by the Russian officer Hjalmar Bondsdorff, he sold the area in 1913 to the municipal of Haukivuori.

The main building of Saksala is built in 1920 as a rural old people’s home.

In 2003 the Dutch artist Marja de Jong has started the art centre Saksala ArtRadius in the old buildings of Saksala.

Saksalanharju is covered with fields, orchards, forests and the distance to lake is about 4 kilometres.

This rural area has no heavy industry. Agriculture and forestry are the main activities. Mikkeli is the governmental centre and there are universdities, Higher Vocational Education and other education.
The ridge Saksalanharju is situated on the biggest monolith of Europe.

Saksalanharju is together with Haukivuori kirkonkylä an official protected nature heritage, because of the drumlin, the landscape and the historical value.

The area on the monolith and around is full of swamps and still peat cutting is important. The swamp fields are remarkable areas in the landscape. When the roots of old trees are put on piles it gives a mysterious feeling. In the swamps in Tuulimiemi are the annual volleyball games.

Agriculture and forestry are the main activities on Saksalanharju. The hill is one of most fruitfully of the area.
Already of old, art, science and religion are the fields which are investigating and filling in the meaning of life.

Every culture is based on the existential sentence found and developed through art, science and religion.

Societies concerned are building on a vital future, and the real spirit of the future can only be found in the arts.

Visionary managers create conditions to explore and connect the meaning of art in management and government.

sculpture: rumen dimitrov bulgaria 2006
The RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU is an innovative concept and will develop the rural region with new content, structures and activities.

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius will be a partner and represents international artists, art, and projects in different fields on an unexpected location in the country side of South-Eastern Finland.

The Dutch-Finnish background of the art center is an inspiring source to work with.

Through the concept of RURAL ART VILLAGE the regional area gets more social and economic added value and new challenges for young people.

With like-minded partners the potential of the Kyyvesi area will strengthen and expand as an example of valuable, innovative and sustainable investment and development in rural areas.

Future-orientated organizations, companies and persons are welcome to join the new heritage RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU with knowledge, materials, investments and capital.
**ART AND (AGRI)CULTURE**

**IN THE RURAL AREA OF SAKSALANHARJU-KIRKONKYLÄ**

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Art is, like science, a basic quality of human life.

ART IS THE FOOD. YOU CAN’T EAT IT BUT IT FEEDS YOU (Peter Schumann 1984)

The vision of art centre Saksala ArtRadius is based on the idea art is essential for everyone’s welfare.

People have an inherent power to design their environment and express themselves by art.

Every civilization shows its view on reality by creating art; visual art, music, literature, performances, theater, dance etc. and it is possible to see the relation between reality and their view on it by their art.

Children are the future of each society and we have to invest all our quality to give them tools to create their own life in a permanent changing world.

It is important to grow up with art and have contact with art in every day life.

Artists are able to visualize in a personal way new views on everyday reality.

Every civilization needs artists to open eyes and give new points of views.

- Art is fundamental for the quality and welfare of life and society.
- Art enlarges the personal area and view on daily life.
- Art activities, events and projects enlarge the tourist and economic traffic and the value of the area.
Art centre Saksala ArtRadius is an organization with an own typical and unique character. The profitable combination of tourism with a high level of culture, art and education is the result of the development of the business.

The approach of the innovative brand by Saksala ArtRadius is creating a new view on tourist market in Eastern Finland.

The art centre is creating new and original products for tourists and artists. These products are developing the art centre and the local area.

The nature heritage of the cultural and historic area of Saksalanharju, Kirkonkylä, and Kyyvesi Lake is a valuable place to stay, to enjoy, to feel well, and to get inspiring experiences through art in a rural environment.

The development of art centre Saksala ArtRadius, the AllaprimA MuseuM, the FOAM sculpture park and the LABYRINTH is creating an international remarkable artistic area, as a basic part of innovative cultural and creative tourism.

A good network of art institutions with events like Savonlinna Opera festival, Mikkeli ballet and Mikkeli concert festival, exhibitions in Retretti museum in Punkaharju, Mikkeli museums, Anttolan Hovi, Salmela and other local and regional events, exhibitions and activities are completing an interesting and valuable product.

Through Saksala ArtRadius the area is more interesting place for tourists, professional artists and art related organizations to go and a better place for local and regional inhabitants to start new (small) businesses.
The RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU in east Finland is an innovative initiative to bring new activities, people and work to the region. The intention is to create an area (Saksalanharju on the biggest monolith of Europe) where artists, artisans, handicraftsmen and local producers build a community based on quality, expertise, knowledge and involvement. The ateliers, work spaces and small sized enterprises will develop, produce, sell and show their products and specialties.

Art and design, handicraft, traditional products and producing (agriculture and forestry), traditional techniques, music, and literature are the main activities in this upcoming community.
The area of Saksala is extremely suitable for new and original plans to develop an innovative art community – RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU -
There are buildings with enough space to house: studios, ateliers, workspaces, museum, gallery, library, meeting room etc.
There is a nature with many possibilities for tourists, artists, visitors to walk, swim, go on bike.
The nature heritage Saksalanharju on the largest monolith of Europe has the potential to be an exceptional attraction for selected target groups.
Professional expertise and practice in the field of art, art education and rehabilitation with art brings high qualified content to the products, program parts.
The area with fields and forests are very suitable for a sculpture park with contemporary art, nature paths, local products, small entrepreneurs.
Events in the field of art, culture, music, theatre are attractive for national and international tourists.
The government has to be a partner which has an eye for the offered cultural possibilities by the art centre and sculpture park.
The local community is part of the development of SAKSALANHARJU.
The local specialists, like farmers, officials, with an open mind for expertise and cooperation can participate in the development of the ‘RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU’
Different other companies with fishing, canoeing, gift and art shop etc can complete the offer for visitors
Together with others Saksala ArtRadius will be a partner in this concept.
STATEMENTS

When the feet are solid planted on the earth the brain is free to explore the world.

Richard Louv (USA) (chairman of Children & Nature Network) concludes in his book –Last Child in the Woods:
‘Nature makes children are more concentrate and more satisfied. Children need to play, to construct and to find the secrets of nature by going into nature. We do not skimp on nature time for children.’

Peter Schumann states in his 1984 ‘WHY CHEAP ART’ manifesto:
“Art is not a business. Art is food. You can’t eat it but it feeds you.”

CULTURE IS THE EXPRESSION OF CIVILIZATION and art is part of it!

JAN SIERHUIS – Dutch painter
Without art, without architecture, without music, without literature the society is a barbarian wilderness. Without culture there is nothing. It is in every day life. There is no product without a designer. All what is around like cars, furniture, buildings or fashion has been influenced by art and culture. Without that the society is faceless.
projects-plans-programs

• artist-in-residence program
• SYMPOSIUMS
• AllaprimA Museum
• FOAM sculpture park
• forest-LABYRINTH

• VIA • ARS • NATURA the way to art and nature
• ARS • NATURA
• TRIANGLE ROCK
• CROSSROADS SAKSALANHARJU
• SOJOURN IN WHITE
• STUDIO-IN-FIELD project

• ART & BUSINESS
• THEATRE
• PUPPET THEATRE
• CONCERTS & RECITALS
• ARTS & CRAFTS
• LECTURES
• FESTIVALS

• CULTURAL TOURISM
• HISTORICAL EVENTS
• POETRY AND LITERATURE
• TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE
• TRADITIONAL FORESTRY
• DESIGN CARPENTRY

• children’s forest
• children’s LABYRINTH
• OpeArtEdu
• cultural exchange schools

• MASTERCLASSES and RESIDENCIES

• summer events
  • taidekirppujen yö

• trainee post
  • green/forest education
  • employment office
The center is established in 2003 in a former old peoples home on the nature heritage Saksalanharju/Kirkonkylä-Haukivuori-Finland. Saksalanharju is the biggest monolith of Europe (length-5.7 km, width-1.6 km, height-168 m)

The Dutch artist, founder and pioneer Marja de Jong has a vision, a drive, is strong and innovative, and has changed the place and area into an attractive, inviting and inspiring environment with a large potential.

The art center is important for the local and regional development and future of young people.

Art centre Saksala ArtRadius will be embedded in the RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU.
BUSINESS CONCEPT

- The content of Saksala ArtRadius is based on a creative concept. It is combining art, culture and business to a sustainable organization with great social and environmental responsibility. It brings new visions, experiences and international contacts to its rural region. The future directed strategy is a challenge for young people to find qualified jobs.

- ORGANIZATION and OPERATING
  - Saksala ArtRadius is run as an international art organization. It will retain its Finnish and Dutch roots and is based in Finland.
  - Optimal conditions will be maintained to ensure that Saksala ArtRadius continues as an innovative and international art enterprise.
  - Saksala ArtRadius is operating nationally and internationally.
  - The development and innovation is based on increased collaboration concerning marketing, networking, professional skills in the field of art, education, organization, tourism.

- INDEPENDENCY
  - Saksala ArtRadius is a two-sided independent private organization and operates partly on commercial principles and partly on non-profit principles.
  - The financial independence is upheld on the basis of own capital resources, public support, and outside investors and partners.
  - Saksala ArtRadius will also remain independent of any political party policies.

- TARGET GROUP - CUSTOMERS
  - International artists, tourists, teachers, children, all with feeling for experiences with art, nature, and tradition.
Active Cultural Tourism

- The art center is developing a cultural travel program.
- There is a program in the fields of art education, professional art and tourism.
- The art center creates more tourist traffic in the area.

Through these aims the art center is a special organization in tourism.
The way the combination tourism and art is a good example of an innovative project developing cultural and creative tourism.

The art centre is combining art and tourism in a natural way. The artistic attractions like the LABYRINTH, the SCULPTURE PARK, and the AllaprimA MuseuM are offering a range of possibilities for different target groups.

Innovative cultural and creative tourism is looking for original and high qualified products in the field of art and ‘entertaining’. Saksala is focused on SELF-CATERING ACTIVE ART HOLIDAYS with the intention to offer visitors facilities to create and to build up new experiences. The philosophy is that wellness is the result of an active participation. The exiting and value are in having the experience to create an art work, to have interesting discussions, to see the environment in another way. It gives extra value to the personal life of every guest.

The innovative concept RURAL ART VILLAGE SAKSALANHARJU is based on the active participation of the locals and their specific qualities.
Art centre Saksala ArtRadius will be embedded in this concept and share its experiences, contacts and international network.
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art and rural

ART

international
artist-in-residence

artists from:
USA
Cameroon
Thailand
Netherlands
Germany
Austria
Australia
France
Norway
Sweden
Iran
Japan
Singapore
Belgium
Bulgaria
Rumania
Turkey
Poland
Kosovo
Argentina
South Africa
Finland
Latvia
Canada
Spain

support: Arts Council Finland, AllaprimA Foundation
symposiums

less is more 2005

source of art 2008

support: Arts Council Finland, Etelä-Savon Maakuntaliitto, Länsi-Savo
AllaprimA Museum

- exhibitions of artists in the residence
- exhibitions during or after symposiums
- exhibitions with a (local) theme
- exhibitions art-courses
- exhibitions with parts of the collection of children’s paintings of the AllaprimA foundation

support: AllaprimA Foundation, Haukivuoren Aluejohtokunta, European Union
FOAM Sculpture Park

SCULPTURES in the LABYRINTH

collection of contemporary sculptures by international artists

SCULPTURES in the yard

SCULPTURES in the fields

veli blakçori
janina rudnicka
roland de jong-orlando
rumen dimitrov
the LABYRINTH is an experimental environmental art project

a place for unexpected artistic experiences for artists, visitors and children

support: European Union, Suomen Kulttuurirahasto, Arts Council Finland, Länsi-Savo, Lemminkäinen, Mikkel Kaupunki, de Jong Tours
OBJECTIVES

VIA.ARS.NATURA, the way to art and nature is a program to develop new facilities and actions in the countryside and to develop a network of people living near old (historic) routes in the hinterland of the main roads and start a co-operation with professional (international) artists. Through the program, the cultural environment will undergo a development initiative and will also have an influence on (international) visitors and travelers with cultural and ecological interests.

VISION

The program VIA.ARS.NATURA will be an overall and wide-range program of nationally and internationally significant artworks along old (historic) routes and paths in the countryside. These artworks will be grown or made from the ingredients/elements of, or specifically related to the landscape and geology of the area. The use of these different components, like forests, plants, peat, earth, rock(s) and water will visualize the characteristics of nature and authentic roads in South-East Finland. First phase: Taulumäentie is planned for 2010.

Summer in Mikkelipuisto Park in 2009 offers: environmental art that has been especially created for the park, as well as international works of art that are given new depth and meaning by being displayed in nature. Welcome to view and participate in these works of art—and to listen to the thoughts that they inspire in you!

"It was an itsy bitsy teenie weenie yellow polkadot bikini"

LAND ART PROJECT
Lucien den Arend

Collaboration project between Mikkelipuisto, Saksala ArtRadius and Penttilä Gardens.
sponsors: Länsi-Savo, ProAgria, Lemminkäinen, Savon Kuljetus, Viherliitökeskus
TRIANGLE ROCK

MAIN OBJECTIVES
Co-operation with art residency partners from Turkey, Spain and Finland at site specific, rural rock environs.
The final aim is to create a European network to investigate and exchange, collaborate and produce international multidisciplinary dialogue in new forms of art production on exceptional European locations.

TURKEY
The environment of Cappadocia (Central Turkey) is part of the Silk Road and a unique shaped landscape with historical decorated rock churches and pigeon houses cut in volcanic tufa stone.

SPAIN
The natural environment of the high Catalan Pyrenees Mountains - defined by woods with both conifers and deciduous trees, hay fields, steep pastures and craggy rocks - combines with the authenticity of the cultural, architectural and social heritage.

FINLAND
The national heritage SAKSALANHARJU-KIRKONKYLÄ, located on the biggest monolith of Europe, is an ancient settlement site. Saksala is an old neighborhood with tranquil landscape, designed with fields, forests and lake.

http://www.arefs.org/projects/triangle-rock-project.html
The collaboration project –crossroads SAKSALANHARJU– engages international multi-disciplinary dialogue between active arts professionals. Artists from Nordic countries exchange and collaborate with artists from Europe.

In an intense dialogue the arts professionals will communicate verbally and visually. This dialogue takes place during 4-6 weeks on one or more art works, drawings, paintings, installations, side specific art, sculptures, video and a mixed media.

To get involved with the location the artists also need to explore the environment, the nature and the Finnish local rural culture (forestry and agriculture).

funded by:
Nordic Culture Fund
Nordic Culture Point
Arts Council Finland
Etelä-Savo Maakuntallitto
AllaprimA Foundation
Haukivuoren Aluejohtokunta
curator
claire watson australia
artists
behrouz rae iran
ilse van den berk the netherlands

artist-in-residence 2008
accepted into TransCultural Exchange Boston USA

funded by:
TransCultural Exchange
Saksala ArtRadius
AllaprimA Foundation

global project Here, There and Everywhere: Anticipating the Future of Art

sojourn in white
international collaboration project

martti karttunen
director mikkeli museums
kirsimaria törönen-ripatti
chairman regional arts council

shows
1.-31.5.2008
AllaprimA MuseuM
art centre Saksala
ArtRadius
Haukivuori - Finland
1.11.-7.12.2008 Cowwarr
Art Space
Cowwarr – Victoria - Australia
Maffra - Victoria – Australia
April 2009
Trans CulturalExchange
Boston USA
Art gives more quality and depth in someone's life. Living in an area with art activates an open mind and a critical consciousness, also the respect for other views, opinions and ideas.

Art represents the vision of the company and shows the clients, visitors and guests the artistic view and broadly interest of the organization.

Art softens often so hard business image.

**art in business =**
art in progress - taide kehityksessä
art at work - taide työssä
art for the team - taidetta ryhmälle

http://www.saksala.org/business-organizations/index.htm
Art centre Saksala ArtRadius has selected many works of different artists as the base of SAKSALA ARTRADIUS-ART-RENT. The works are from artists, who have been in the art center or have given work in commission.

In 2009 Saksala ArtRadius has started with the possibility for private persons and companies to rent art works available in the art centre. Now it will be easy to build up a personal collection of art.

ART RENTING brings national and international artists into new places.

Renting is an attractive and easy alternative to have original art works at home or company.
idea's from other cultures can inspire children from everywhere to build their own living space
Richard Louv (USA) (chairman of Children & Nature Network) concludes in his book –Last Child in the Woods- ‘Nature makes children are more concentrate and more satisfied. Children need to play, to construct and to find the secrets of nature by going into nature. We do not skimp on nature time for children.’

With the CHILDREN’S LABYRINTH there will be a place to keep living with the forest and with wood alive. There is a long tradition in working with wood and using it in daily life and it.

National and international artists will be invited to develop a permanent, inspiring and inviting environment for children of all ages in cooperation with children and teachers.

The cultural background of the children from different origin and the vision of artists from different parts of the world will be combined in the development of the project to build up an amazing new and artistic world.

The CHILDREN’S LABYRINTH will be a place where (art) teachers can find new ideas and content for the art education curriculum.

It is possible to organize own school projects in the nature of the CHILDREN’S LABYRINTH. During all seasons, with their typical conditions, activities will be planned and organized. The CHILDREN’S LABYRINTH will be a practicing place for students of teacher’s training colleges to develop their skills in art education with children from different cultures.

a creative-magical-mysterious-fantastic place-to play-learn-dream
OpeArtEdu is a project to increase the professional artistic skills of teachers, educators and consultants and to develop the curriculum of art education. In the project are art education symposiums –NATURALLY ART-, a program with teachers of Mikkeli schools and a lecture and workshop program in cooperation with CKV de KUNSTLINIE Almere NL
The innovative program for MASTERCLASSES AND RESIDENCIES ART AND ART EDUCATION will explore the facilities and expertise available for art and art education for students. The keywords are art, creativity, education and civilization. The program will include space and individual guidance and supervising during master classes, seminars and residencies. It is the intention to create programs for art students to work on their thesis, their art production and also to study special subjects in art education. The program will also contribute to the English language skills, what is important to participate in an international network. The idea has the warm support of the Chairman, Kirsimaria Törönen-Ripatti and Secretary-General Riitta Moisander of Etelä-Savon Taidetoimikunta. Both experts are very interested and involved in increasing the quality of this fields in art and art education.

The purpose of the program MASTERCLASSES AND RESIDENCIES ART AND ART EDUCATION is to set up and carry out in art centre Saksala ArtRadius innovative forms of additional education for students and masters. This program will add and develop new, innovative and permanent education projects. The content of the program will be related to relevant parts in the curriculum of art schools, art academies and art education departments of universities.
range of art activities

- art courses and workshops
- workshops and symposiums art education
- vocal workshops
- children’s forest
- music recitals
- puzzle tours, symposiums and events in metsälabyrinth
- taidekirppujen yö
- history of Haukivuori
concerts-recitals-dance

Mikkeli Orchestra

Organ concerts:
Henk de Croon
Adri van der Padt

Singers:
Anne-Mari Salo
Marjan Booy
Marja Mattlar

Marimba:
Fedor Grigoryev

Flute:
Catherine Bull

Bands:
Blue Trane Jazz Band
Ancient Bear Cult

Dance:
Mami Wata
The TAIDEKIRPPUJEN YÖ is an annual art fair in Haukivuori. The program is based on a various offer of artistic presentations in the field of visual art, music, performances and theater for all ages. Artists in the artist-in-residence program can participate in the program.
-education-

• Saksala ArtRadius is social and professional involved in the education of young people and creates trainee posts for different vocational studies.

• Art centre Saksala ArtRadius is an official trainee post of Aequor-NL (certificate number F110). Aequor is a center for vocational education in the sector food and environment. Students from green departments (forests, environment etc) can stay in art center Saksala ArtRadius for a training period.

• The art center has a co-operation agreements with the Federal Vocational School for Traditional Culture, and the Shtiglitz Academy for Design and Art, in St. Petersburg Russia. Students from these institutes can participate in art training periods.

• The art center is also an interesting place for students from cultural studies, tourism, teacher training colleges and art academies.
-work experience-

• Saksala ArtRadius is involved in creating possibilities for unemployed workers. The art center can start special work places for artists.

• Artists can work on special projects, develop a portfolio, even prepare an exhibition.

• Other workers can do office work, garden work or work on special projects.
For summer workers the art center is a special experience. Staying in an art center, contact with artists, guests and children are interesting for those who want to have new and unexpected experiences.

The art center has every year one or more places for all-round summer workers. They can work in the yard, in the building but also do administration work. Special places are for volunteers who want to work with children and youngsters.
From the beginning the art center is preparing new forms of energy saving and green technology for energy, heating, water and waste.

The art center is located on a rock with fields around the buildings. It is a challenge to use the conditions of the place.

It is perfect location for wind mills, earth heating and solar energy. Finally the place can be self-supporting the year round.