

PUBLICS

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Annual Report

PUBLICS

2025

Year in Numbers

23

Artist commissions

4

Salaried staff:
2 full-time, 2
part-time

6000+

Visitors and
participants in our
events

56+

speakers at
Positioning
Symposium

3

Exhibitions

94

Members of
PUBLICS ry
association

120k

Euros raised in
collaborative
funding streams

150

Days open

9

PUBLICS Youth
Advisory Board
members

70,000

Views on Instagram on
average per month

100+

Projects supported
by SHAPE Art Map

9k

books in
Publics
library

32

Events organised

30

Collaborative
supporters as
part of
Positioning
Symposium

100

People on average
at PUBLICS events,
parahosting,
exhibition previews,
book launches,
artists talks & library
events

8

Board
Members

2

Co-produced
books in 2025

350

visitors
attending
Positioning
symposium
each day

PUBLICS is a curatorial agency with a dedicated library and exhibition space in Vallila. The organisation explores a “work together” institutional model with multiple overlapping objectives, thematic strands and collaborations. The space functions as the main office, as well as a public space with a library of over 8000+ publications. PUBLICS hosts talks, events, exhibitions and performances in collaboration with other partners in the city, nationally and internationally. PUBLICS is an educational platform and a critical agency where artists, students and communities are invited to engage with social issues, as well as gain and share knowledge through various discourses. These initiatives develop in parallel with longer-term curatorial projects.

PUBLICS is a producer of new artistic projects driven by social concerns, and creates connections between diverse groups, as an open, ethically-led platform for critical debate and collaboration. PUBLICS operates under the Artistic Direction of Paul O’Neill together with team members, Program Manager Annabelle Antas, PUBLICS Youth coordinator Bilge Hasdemir and Library assistant and SHAPE coordinator Amanda Ripatti.

PUBLICS YOUTH Advisory Board is a group of young adults working within our organisation. The project is a platform to engage with professional opportunities and learning experiences as part of a year-long paid position for 18-21 year olds. The members actively support both decision-making and implementation of PUBLICS annual program. PUBLICS’ collaborative methodology aims to create an ecology and diversity of thoughts and experiences. In order to function as a multidimensional and multi-purposed organisation, PUBLICS prioritises working with collaborators whose practice supports intersectional dialogue. PUBLICS fills a middle area in-between the small (artist-led) initiatives and bigger institutions, by providing an important link, support and consultation. PUBLICS is dedicated to support dialogue between the local and the international artistic landscapes. PUBLICS pays an equal standard fee for every artist/curator/collaborator in four different categories. Annually, an elected board of professionals approves the mission, vision, and oversees the program policy.

PUBLICS is a constellation of practices which:

- Commissions, produces and curates exemplary public art and events
- Supports new collaborative models within the art world locally and internationally
- Identifies, promotes and advances new local and international networks
- Collaborates with artists and curators emerging from various different socio-cultural backgrounds
- Offers educational, civic and public resource
- Increases intersectional participation and debate urgent issues
- Activates and actualizes diverse publics for art
- Sustains small, flexible, content-driven and discursive platforms

ACTIVITIES

In 2025 the core activities of PUBLICS were: POSITIONING A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond. A four day symposia the first of 4 annual symposia organised by PUBLICS , Co hosted by Amos Rex & Kiasma and PUBLICS. As part of the development of The Centre For Curatorial Thinking; a new centre in the Nordic and Baltic region focusing on the significance of past and present thinking, knowledge, and critique within practices of the curatorial. Other strands of PUBLICS programme focused on PUBLICS Events such as Parahosting and Coupling; SHAPE platform as a means of supporting other local organisations and initiatives and PUBLICS YOUTH, an Advisory Board part of network with PRAKSIS (Oslo) and Index (Stockholm) - three small-to-medium-scale organisations dedicated to collaborating with young people to curate new models, formats and modalities for future publics.

In 2025, PUBLICS worked with its fourth Youth Advisory Board. As part of the Nordic network Future Futures with Index Foundation (Stockholm) and PRAKSIS (Oslo), they published the book *Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and ...*, providing insights into how young practitioners engage with publishing as a field of relationships. In creating the book, PUBLICS Youth collaborated with artists, writers, designers, and publishers to explore questions of authorship, agency, access and visibility. The resulting interviews, reflections, and visual contributions offer strategies for art institutions to connect with broader publics, amplify diverse voices, and reach new audiences.

In 2025, PUBLICS continued to build on the network created in the previous two years as The Centres activities in partnership with The Saastamoinen Foundation.

Alongside PUBLICS Commissions, PUBLICS evolved around five program strands and developed:

- PUBLICS Center For Curatorial Thinking which includes the annual
- POSITIONING Symposia
- PUBLICS Library
- PUBLICS Events
- PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board, and learning from its EU Networks
- SHAPE Art Map and Online Platform

TIMELINE 2025

PUBLICS Commissions and Exhibitions:

28 Nov-28 Feb	AA Bronson, General Idea & Art Metropole exhibition
20 Mar-23 Apr	COUPLING: Inga Meldere & Hanele Zane Putnina
12-13 Sept	24 Hours with Tony Cokes curated by PUBLICS with Bhavisha Panchia, in collaboration with Amos Rex

PUBLICS Events, Parahosting and Exhibitions:

22 Jan	Book Launch Stars at Midday by Noor Abed
6 Feb	GAP goes Galleries with PUBLICS
25 Feb	Annie Fletcher Self Determination: A Global Perspective
23 April	Sound Performance by Natalia Beylis
8 Mar	The Observer Effect: PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board
29 Sept	PUBLICS hosts - POSITIONING A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond
30 Sept-1 Oct	Amos Rex co-hosts - POSITIONING A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond
2 Oct	Kiasma co-hosts -POSITIONING A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond
9-11 Oct	Future Futures Reaching Out - Network Conference
3 Dec	Meet Us Where We're At...Day With(out) Art 2025 Visual Aids
21 Nov	PUBLICS Parahosts Curatorial Matters: On Research Methodologies
16 Dec	Yoichi Kamimura & Olli Aarni : Kōri no ryokō / Jäämatkailu

PUBLICS PROGRAM

PUBLICS COMMISSIONS

- AA Bronson, General Idea & Art Metropole exhibition
Together with artist AA Bronson and Gareth Long, PUBLICS co-curated the first exhibition to focus upon the entangled relationship between AA Bronson, the artist group General Idea's publishing and distribution practice, and one of their most enduring artworks: Art Metropole. The exhibition comprised artworks, publications, rare editions, archival material, and a selection of General Idea films



AA Bronson, General Idea & Art Metropole, photo by Tuukka Kaila



AA Bronson, General Idea & Art Metropole, photo by Tuukka Kaila

from 1977-85: Pilot (1977); Hot Property (1978/80); Test Tube (1979); Cornucopia (1982); Loco (1982) and Shut The Fuck Up (1985). PUBLICS also hosted a satellite pop-up of Art Metropole's bookstore throughout the exhibition.

To celebrate this momentous event, PUBLICS invited pioneering guest artist AA Bronson to the Center for Curatorial Thinking, who joined us on November 29th for a PUBLICS talk with Gareth Long to open the exhibition.

Established in 1974, Art Metropole operates the oldest and longest-running artist-run centre that publishes, promotes, exhibits, archives, and distributes artists' books, multiples, and related media in the world. The exhibition design centred around an installation artwork by Long providing a space for looking, reading and lounging at PUBLICS Library in Helsinki.

AA Bronson (born Michael Tims, 1946) was one of the founding members of artist group General Idea, together with Felix Partz (born Ronald Gabe, 1945–1994), and Jorge Zontal (born Slobodan Saia-Levy, 1944–1994). The three met in Toronto in 1969, drawn to the city's blossoming countercultural scene. General Idea started as an anonymous group before crystallising into an intentional three-part group.

Art Metropole was founded in 1974 by General Idea as a division of Art-Official Inc., (est. 1972). Art-Official's founding mission was to facilitate and document collaboration and exchange of ideas between artists, and served as the non-profit publisher of General Idea's File Magazine (1972–1989). Art Metropole was conceived as a related artist-run centre and collection agency devoted to the documentation, archiving and distribution of all the images.

● **COUPLING: Inga Meldere & Hanele Zane Putniņa**

In spring, PUBLICS commissioned two artists from Latvia – Helsinki-based Inga Meldere and Riga-based Zane Hanele Putniņa – whose works engage in a dialogue of shared themes and artistic exploration. Initiated in 2021, COUPLING is an expanding series of curatorial projects, collaborations, or pairings, where two artists / practitioners are introduced to one another for the first time and exhibit together based on shared concerns within their work.

The arch of the space at PUBLICS became a site for layered storytelling. Inspired by the historic technique of sgraffito – a decorative technique of scratching through a surface to reveal underlying colours – Inga Meldere's in-situ intervention Analogue Mark Making unfolded as both a material and conceptual work of revealing. The work referenced the micro-histories embedded within the building, from its construction in 1922 alongside traces of the present.

Through these overlapping presences – historical, digital, and material – the work explored the impermanence of surfaces: uncovered layers of paint, period-specific color variations, the composition structures of Finnish Ryijy rugs, smileys, and visualizations of emoji text art from 1990s video game aesthetics and early Nokia phones. The painted poodle playfully noded to the legacy of General Idea, bridging this Coupling exhibition with the previous show, while some characters reappeared from the painted game Avium Aquae (Aquatic Bird), nesting on the other side of the exhibition space.

From Under The Bed is a series of eight new linocut prints by Hanele Zane Putniņa. Under the bed – it is a place where linocut printing plates accumulated. Over time, the pile grew larger and became difficult to move. The linocuts left their sticky color prints on the floor. Some of them arrived at PUBLICS, carrying their images, stories and events.

Most of the works referenced two series the artist has previously created. Both

could be fully viewed in two catalogues available in the space during the exhibition. One comes from Hanele Zane Putniņa's solo exhibition Exhibit According to Description. The other – Catalogue – is an artwork printed in book format. Both series share a common principle of interpretation – a practice where someone else's work is perceived and reinterpreted. For Exhibit, the works were created from descriptions found on collection inventory cards at the Latvian National Museum of Art. For Catalogue, the works were inspired by visits to five group exhibitions in the Monumental Café series that took place at the Elephant Hall of the Riga Circus.

A limited edition poster *Avium Aquae* commissioned by PUBLICS was produced as part of the COUPLING exhibition.

● 24 Hours with Tony Cokes curated by PUBLICS with Bhavisha Panchia, in collaboration with Amos Rex

On Friday 12 September 2025 Amos Rex with PUBLICS commissioned a scatter-sited retrospective exhibition featuring video works by American artist, Tony Cokes, scheduled alongside specific responses to these films with live performances by Vladislav Delay (Sasu Ripatti), and Sonic Wilderness, a group of musicians from Finland, including Antye Greie-Ripatti aka "AGF", Islaja, and Cucina Povera.

For a full 24 hours, Cokes's nearly four-decade-long artistic practice was presented across the interior and exterior of Amos Rex. The program transformed the museum's cinema, passageways, facade, and outdoor square into a dynamic arena for screenings, performances, and interventions.

"We are so excited to be working together with PUBLICS and Tony Cokes on what promises to be an extraordinary curatorial event. The idea to take over the whole area around the museum is something that came naturally in this process and Tony's extraordinary works will be like a glitch in the system, a new way of seeing this public space and the digital screens that we all live with and pass by every day. We look forward to amusing, entertaining and provoking passers-by and visitors alike in an intense 24-hour period in September", said Museum Director Kieran Long.

Working closely with the artist, the retrospective brought seminal works to Helsinki for the first time, featuring *Black Celebration* (1988), *Fade to Black* (1990), and *Evil.16 (Torture.Musik)* (2009–2011), to more recent works such as *HS LST WRDZ* (2021), *Some Munich Moments 1937–1972* (2022) and *Testament E: MF.slow.cancel.2014* (2024), amongst others.

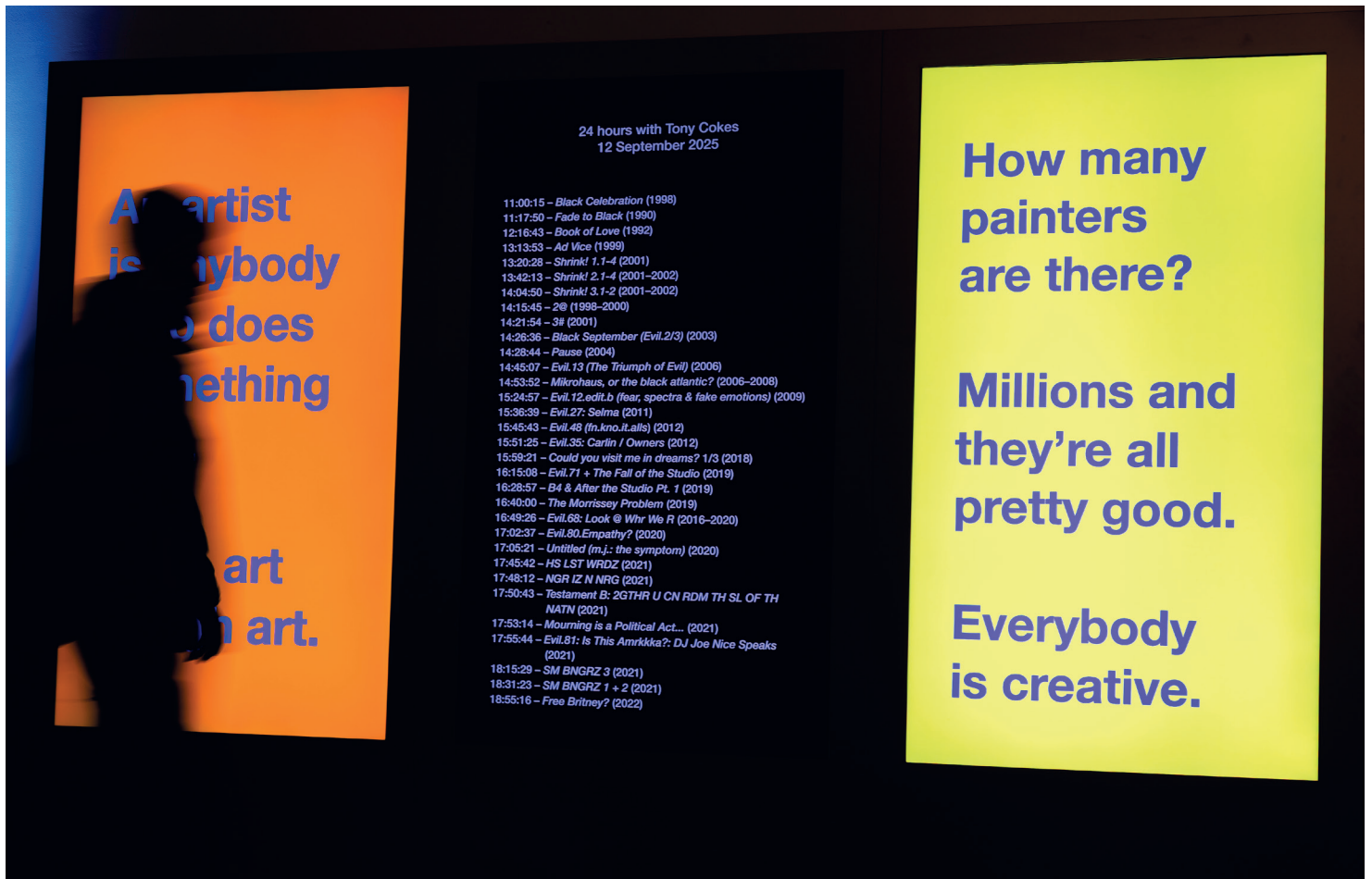
"This singular selection of works is a rare opportunity to experience my practice in spatially, temporally, and sonically diverse contexts. The ensemble extends the implications of the work in highly intensive, specific, and productive ways. I can't wait to feel, see, and hear the results!" – Tony Cokes

Since the late 1980s, Cokes has redefined media by interweaving textual, musical, and visual elements. Through his distinctive process of cutting, assembling, and rearranging fragments of history—archival footage, news broadcasts, political speeches, pop and club culture, theoretical texts, and conversations—Cokes constructs an incisive critique of media, power and anti-Blackness, as well as consumerism and contemporary political discourse.

The program included sloganeering posters, t-shirts and screen-printing workshops using texts, excerpts, and slogans from Cokes' works, alongside a talk with Tony Cokes, Bhavisha Panchia, and Artistic Director of PUBLICS, Paul O'Neill.



24 Hours with Tony Coke. Credit: Noora Nilsén / Amos Rex.



24 Hours with Tony Coke. Credit: Noora Nilsén / Amos Rex.

24 hours with Tony Cokes was curated by PUBLICS with Bhavisha Panchia, in collaboration with Amos Rex.

PUBLICS TALKS,
EVENTS &
PARAHOSTING

● Book Launch Stars at Midday by Noor Abed

PUBLICS launched Noor Abed's Stars at Midday – نجوم الضُّهر and screened Abed's film A Night We Held Between (2024), followed by a conversation with Noor Abed and Paul O'Neill.

Stars at Midday – نجوم الضُّهر is a personal production diary in which the artist and filmmaker Noor Abed compiles visual and poetic notes from the production phase of her film A Night We Held Between, filmed in Palestine in 2023 with family and friends.

Like the film whose production it chronicles, the book interweaves narrative fragments, song and diaristic observations, creating a fusion of natural and composed sequences of movement, of documentary and fictional elements.

Through a choreography of bodies, sites, stories, and temporalities, Abed's work prompts contemplation on the manifestations of social action and resistance in everyday life.

The film A Night We Held Between (2024) centers around Song for The Fighters, which was found at the sonic archive of the Popular Art Center Palestine. Through the layers of the song, in a labyrinth of sounds and sites, the film conjures history as a permanent present tense, a collective and imaginative act.

The film was shot in ancient sites in Palestine – caves, carved holes, underground passages, and wild valleys – the land becomes our main character. It traverses beyond the first layer of visibility to reveal a vast, hidden world similar to the one we know. Throughout the film, scenes intertwine rituals and narratives of community and resistance into everyday representations of social life in Palestine, thus emphasizing the role of collective rhythmic movement and the potential impact that shared feelings can evoke in creating and sustaining a community.

● GAP goes Galleries with PUBLICS

PUBLICS collaborated with Globe Art Point and welcomed visitors to PUBLICS for GAP goes Galleries evening.

The programme included an introduction by Programme Manager Annabelle Antas, alongside Library Assistant Valentina Černiauskaitė and Artistic Director Paul O'Neill. Paul O'Neill led a guided tour of PUBLICS' current exhibition AA Bronson, General Idea & Art Metropole.

The exhibition focused on the creative and publishing legacy of AA Bronson and the artist group General Idea, showcasing artworks, rare editions, archival materials, and films that delve into their enduring influence on artist-run culture. The space also featured a satellite pop-up of Art Metropole's bookstore, offering a unique setting for reading, reflection, and engagement.

● Annie Fletcher Self Determination: A Global Perspective

Annie Fletcher, a noted international curator and the director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) gave a lecture presentation at PUBLICS on February 25.

Fletcher discussed the major exhibition Self-Determination: A Global Perspective.

This exhibition, which travelled from IMMA to several partner museums across the Nordic and Baltic region, is the culmination of a three-year research project. It explores the nation-states that emerged in the aftermath of the First World War and examines the role of art and artists in shaping national identities, nation-building, and statecraft.

The exhibition *Self-Determination: A Global Perspective* explores some of the common cultural strategies that emerged across many of the new nation-states including Finland (1917), Estonia (1918), Latvia (1918), Poland (1918), Ukraine (1917), Turkey (1923), and Egypt (1922), against the backdrop of the international movement towards self-determination, most famously articulated by Woodrow Wilson at the Paris Peace Talks in 1919. How did diverse countries understand the formation of the new state? How did their artists and poets imagine it? How was this situated within an international context? And how do contemporary artists today reckon with the legacies of this period?

Each of the new states produced its own cultural complexities, with its own traditions, histories, and industries to be reimaged in line with the new imperatives of modernity. *Self-Determination: A Global Perspective* explores common strategies and methodologies developed by artists, cultural practitioners, and others invested in the formation of a new state in the first half of the twentieth century.

● Curatorial Matters: on Research Methodologies

As part of PUBLICS parahosting programme we hosted *Curatorial Matters: on Research Methodologies*, a symposium on 21 November 2025, organised by Patrizia Costantin (Lecturer in Curating and MA Art and Media Programme Director, Aalto University) and Marianna Tsionki (Associate Professor & University Curator, Leeds Arts University). The event was supported by the Department of Art and Media, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University.

Curatorial Matters: on Research Methodologies brought together curators and researchers to explore the curatorial, not only as a mode of presentation, but as a site of inquiry and experimentation. The symposium opened space to think and work collectively across ecological, socio-political, and infrastructural terrains, asking what forms of knowledge, solidarities, and futures may emerge when curating is understood as research—situated, relational, and speculative. Contributions engaged methodologies that are embodied, affective, and collaborative, inviting participants to think through critical curatorial imaginaries.

The symposium took the form of 3 panels:

Panel 1: *Water, Extractivism, and Environmental Infrastructures* including papers by; Sara Alberani – *Undercurrents. Poetics and Politics of the Flood*, Yosuke Nakamoto – *Curating Estrangement: Salt, Memory, and the Afterlives of Infrastructure*, Cristina Ramos González – *Tending the Tides: Oceanic Curating as a Practice of Hope*, and Yvonne Billimore – *Field_Notes: Living methodologies*, with a Keynote: Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu – *Against Monocultural Curating: Are Practical Realignments of Curatorial Possible?*

Panel 2 – *Translocal and Decolonial Curatorial Practices* included Micol Curatolo – *Curating Artistic Research as Translocal Laboratory*, Jully Acuña Suarez & Marcelo M. Miranda – *Botamán Juabnán as Curatorial Ethics: Cultural Continuity, Care, and Epistemic Justice*, Danai Giannoglou – *Revisiting the Margins: Independent Spaces as Sites of Curatorial Resistance and Knowledge Production* and Abdullah Qureshi – *Cruising Methodologies: Coalition-Building and Queer Curatorial Research in The Darkroom.*



COUPLING: Inga Meldere & Hanele Zane Putniņa, photo by Aman Askarizad



COUPLING: Inga Meldere & Hanele Zane Putniņa, photo by Aman Askarizad



Sound Performance 'The Clouds Came Out of Their Homes to See Us' by Natalia Beylis, photo by Aman Askarizad.



Sound performance KÖRI NO RYOKŌ / JÄÄMATKAILU by Yoichi Kamimura & Olli Aarni. Photo by PUBLICS.

Panel 3 – Systems, Resistance, and Alternative Archives included papers by Ali T. As'ad – Administrative Antimatter: Curating Palestine and (Re)producing Infrastructures of Possibility, Marina Christodoulidou – Rehearsals towards Place-making, Klara Petrović & Luja Šimunović – The Parasite, the Stranger, and the Trickster: Curatorial Experiments with KUĆĆA, Barbara Mahlkecht – Constellations of Care: Reviving 1970s Feminist Archives.

● Yoichi Kamimura & Olli Aarni : Kōri no ryokō /

On December 16th PUBLICS launched the new album from Yoichi Kamimura and Oli Aarni. They played a live rendition of their new collaborative work Kōri no ryokō / Jäämatkailu, released as a limited-run vinyl record and in digital formats by the Slovakian label mappa.

Water can retain or wash away memory; flowing or freezing. It gives life and shapes earth, while frozen imprints of an ancient past are waiting to melt – back into sound or fluid motion, or simply to dissipate and disappear. For their split album release, Yoichi Kamimura and Olli Aarni offer two distinct reinterpretations of a performance recorded live at the Temppeleaukio Kirkko – a church in Helsinki built directly into solid rock and bathed in natural light – meditating on glacial landscapes and water cycles, using shared field recordings that bifurcate into two sonic visions of “ice journey”.

The concert included recordings from the following bodies of water: Ohōtsukukai (Shiretoko), the Lake Biwa Canal (Kyoto), the Therme Vals baths (Vals), Saint Benedict Chapel (Graubünden); Juutuanjoki (Inari), Vantaanjoki (Vantaa and Helsinki), and Suontee (Joutsa).

THE CENTRE FOR
CURATORIAL
THINKING

●The Centre for Curatorial Thinking

In 2024 PUBLICS piloted and launched The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, a new centre in the Nordic and Baltic region focusing on the significance of past and present thinking, knowledge, and critique within practices of the curatorial.

With The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, PUBLICS provides a critical framework to engage different levels of expertise and local groups in the region and internationally, making visible, developing, and disseminating critical knowledge of curatorial practices with a wide range of institutions and actors.

Through The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, PUBLICS co-curates a program of archival exhibitions, listening sessions, and the Curatorial Reading Group. The aim of the centre is to provide a platform for local curators and art professionals to interact with international colleagues who have contributed to the evolution of innovative curatorial practices of the last sixty years or so. Selected participants from established museums, institutions and small-scale organisations met at PUBLICS to think, discuss, read, engage and listen with each other and with invited international guests who have contributed significantly to curatorial discourse and innovation in curatorial practices, art writing, and exhibition-making of the last decades.

●POSITIONING A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond

Organised by PUBLICS, Co-hosted by Amos Rex & Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma.

In 2025 PUBLICS expanded The Centre For Curatorial Thinking activities with a new annual international symposium, Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial

Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond, focusing on contemporary art's relationship to Curatorial Thinking and Publicness in, across, and in relation to Finland, the Nordic-Baltic region, and beyond.

Positioning is the first symposium in a series of four that considers Curatorial Thinking, Learning, Instituting, Collaborating, and explores the importance of Curatorial Thinking and its public discourse across Finland, the Nordic-Baltic region, and internationally. Employing a 'work-together' methodology, combining and sharing networks and knowledge resources, the symposium series is a collaboration across a dispersed curatorial network of 100+ cultural agencies from the Nordic-Baltic regions actively taking part in The Centre for Curatorial Thinking program since 2023.

Positioning is a globally networked inquiry into current and future curatorial thinking in the Nordic-Baltic region during a time of urgencies, and of radical uncertainty for culture and human rights. We come together to consider how we can think and work together, how to position ourselves with others, and how to bridge the local-regional-global curatorial nexus within and beyond the region. A rethinking of these relations is necessary to expand our comprehension of this factious 'present', with ever-increasing inequalities, political fragilities, increased discrimination, structural violence, conflict, and civic uncertainty.

Through a long-term multi year symposia on Positioning in 2025-2028, we implement, address and impact today's challenges and find ways together to enable change. Positioning provides a critical space for much-needed dialogue between diverse local and regional actors, agencies, and international contemporary art scenes and curatorial thinkers. This first Finnish led Nordic event positions innovative artistic, institutional, educational, and diverse curatorial practices happening in Finland to create visibility in the region, specifically Nordic & Baltic and beyond.

In fall 2025 for its first ever run, the symposium was co-hosted by Amos Rex, Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma and PUBLICS, with a programme of over 50+ speakers, 3 artist commissions co-commissioning altogether 10 artists alongside 30 collaborating institutions coming together to co-host, co-curate and co-commission the content of POSITIONING.

Joining PUBLICS in co-hosting, co-commissioning, and co-curating were: Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland; Amos Rex; The Art Academy of Latvia; PASS – The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Practice-based Art Studies, University of Copenhagen; EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art; Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art (Kaasaegse Kunsti Eesti Keskus), Estonia; Finnish Cultural Institute in New York; Frame Contemporary Art, Finland; Goethe-Institut, Finland; HDK-Valand, University of Gothenburg, Sweden; IHME Helsinki, Finland; Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Sweden; KUMU Art Museum, Estonia; Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Finland; Museum Why network; PALO Art Productions; Pro Artibus Foundation, Finland; RAB RAB Press, Helsinki; School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University, Finland; The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA), Latvia; University of Bergen, Norway.

Position Papers, Dialogues, Responses: Speakers included Nick Aikens, Bassam El Baroni, Ute Meta Bauer, Biljana Ćirić, Catherine David, Mariam Elnozahy, Charles Esche, Giovanna Esposito Yussif, Liisa-Rávná Finbog, Annie Fletcher, Catalin Gheorghe, Max Hannus, Tom Holert, Valentinas Klimašauskas, Maria Lind, Kieran Long, Nkule Mabaso, Marti Manen, Serubiri Moses, Museum Why Network, Paul O'Neill, Antra Priede, Lisa Rosendhal, Paula Toppila, Ann Mirjam Vaikla, and Mi You, among others.

For the Record: Brief Curatorial Positionings and Moderation by Nella Aarne,



Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking, Day 1 at PUBLICS, photo by Aman Askarizad.



Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking, Day 2 at Amos Rex. Credits: Kerttu Penttilä.



Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking, Day 2 at Amos Rex. Credits: Kerttu Penttilä.



Commissioned artist Mia Wennerstrand performing at Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking, Day 3 at Amos Rex. Credits: Kerttu Penttilä.

Anne Julie Arnfred, Mélanie Bouteloup, Ramiro Camelo, Taru Elfving, Marcia Harvey Isaksson, Bilge Hasdemir, Satu Herrala, Miina Hujala, Helen Kaplinsky, Kaisa Karvinen, Anne Szefer Karlsen, Solvita Krese, Irina Mutt, Nontobeko Ntombela, Itha O'Neill, Sten Ojavee, Satu Oksanen, Piia Oksanen, Ingrid Orman, Evelyn Raudsepp, Sunnyside Space, Sakari Tervo, and Eveliina Tuulonen, among others.

Artist Commissions/Interventions by Natalia Beylis (with Marja Ahti, Olli Aarni, Lau Nau, and Cucina Povera) Mia Wennerstrand, and Nari Tea, with film screenings by Noor Abed, Agnė Jokšė, Shubhangi Singh, and Future Futures network / PUBLICS Youth Board 2024.

More than 780 visitors attended Positioning across four days and three institutions.

PUBLICS LIBRARY & LEARNING PROGRAM

At PUBLICS, contemporary art production, and discursive practices are in constant dialogue through its multiple learning strands. Taking the form of PUBLICS Library, and its public programme of Talks, Events and Commissions, these overlapping strands are organised alongside PUBLICS YOUTH program, placing art education, critical research and publicness at the centre of curatorial practice.

●Library

Due to renovations in our space in Vallila, our space including the library was closed for the summer. Despite this, PUBLICS Library grew significantly through gathering new materials related to Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region and Beyond, as well as through donations, book launches and events. This year, we introduced the sixteenth category to encompass the activities of the Centre for Curatorial Reading Group

In 2025, the Library grew and expanded through generous donations by artists, curators and cultural workers of the local and international.

Our open Library days continued every Wednesday from January to May and September to December. We welcomed more than 200 visitors and facilitated 5 Library bookings for groups and individuals. Throughout the year, PUBLICS Library offered the possibility for student groups, classes, visiting guests, artists and curators and research groups to visit our facilities with an in-depth introduction to the materials of our Library collection and PUBLICS program.

PUBLICS Library is a space dedicated to critical social thinking, learning, education, representing concepts, theories and practices of curating contemporary art, education, history of curating, culture and social theory, public art and activism. The library includes 8000+ books, catalogues and other printed matter. The online catalogue holds information on all titles and makes the Library accessible prior to the visit. PUBLICS Library is open once a week on a regular basis with consistent opening hours and by appointment. Visitors are provided with a space to read, learn, discuss and research. To keep the library up-to-date, new titles are bought monthly, incorporated into one of sixteen existing categories.

Throughout the year we acquired and received many new titles, and expanded our bookshelves with donations from both individuals and organisations – the new additions and donations kept the library up-to-date, vibrant and diverse.

As a part of AA BRONSON, GENERAL IDEA & ART METROPOLE with artist AA Bronson and Gareth Long, PUBLICS co-curated the first exhibition to focus upon the entangled relationship between AA Bronson, the artist group General Idea's

publishing and distribution practice, and one of their most enduring artworks: Art Metropole. As a part of the exhibition that ran until 28 Feb 2025, Art Metropole generously donated a large selection of books and catalogues to our library. PUBLICS also hosted a satellite pop-up of Art Metropole's bookstore throughout the exhibition.

Many of the new additions in 2025 were also highlighted in our weekly Library update posts on our social media, and amongst the new additions, following Positioning A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region and Beyond, we also highlighted donations, new titles and writing coming from our speakers and guests.

In 2025, PUBLICS library continued to grow through a number of generous contributions and carefully considered acquisitions. Among these recent additions is a December contribution from artist Becky Beasley with a selection of books expanding on the artist's practice, including: Two Plants in Dip, #3 BECKY BEASLEY & CLAIRE SCANLON, Days of Life, Thomas Bernand Malamud, American Letter, and Our.

LOCAL OUTREACH FOR THE LIBRARY

Outreach of the Library has been made through activation of the collection through The Curatorial Reading Groups, newly published Library Guide, visits to major art institutions, academies and universities in Helsinki and Finland, newly established Library newsletter and hosting various groups of guests and visitors.

In 2024 Publics developed National Outreach for The Centre For Curatorial Thinking and Publics Library Activities and visited amongst others regionally; Titanik, Turku Art Museum, Serlachius Museum, Pori Art Museum, University of the Arts, Anti Festival, Paimio Sanatorium, Amos Rex, Seinäjoki Taidehalli.

International / Nordic and Baltic Outreach for The Centre For the Curatorial Thinking & Library activities Latvian CCA, Estonian CCA, Vilnius Academy of Arts, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway, Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway, PRAKSIS, Oslo, Norway, Maaretta Jaukkuri Foundation, Lofoten, Norway, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden, Index, Swedish Foundation for Contemporary Art, Stockholm, Sweden, HDK-Valand, University of, Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden, Freelands Foundation, London, UK, Simian Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark, KOS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Koge, Denmark, Museum Why Network, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, LCCA Riga, Latvia, Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art, CCA, Tallinn, Estonia, Vilnius Academy of Arts, CAC Vilnius.

PUBLICS YOUTH

In 2025, PUBLICS recruited the fourth Youth Advisory Board: Aino Kaatra, Amran Ahmed, Casper Langenskiöld, Daryna Taushan, Evgeniia Volosnikova, Mariia Zenina, Nea Lähdekorpi, Parinaz Estebansary, Viivi Auerlehto. Bilge Hasdemir was the coordinator of the project.

PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board (PYAB) is a collective of creatives (18-21 year old) working together to implement, question and expand how young people and cultural organisations cooperate in the local and international art scene. The activities of the Youth Advisory Board 2025 were part of the project Reaching Out (2023-2026) with PRAKSIS Teen Advisory Boards (Oslo) and Index Teen Advisory Board (Stockholm). Reaching Out questions and expands how cultural organisations connect with and address new young audiences. The three Boards constituted the Nordic creative youth network Future Futures.

PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board 2025 worked towards a collaborative publication together with the Index Teen Advisory Board 2025 and Praksis Teen Advisory Board 2025. The book is edited by Gerrie van Noord with Bilge Hasdemir, Tony



PUBLICS Youth Group, photo by Bilge Hasdemir.



The Future Futures: Reaching Out Teen Advisory Boards Network Conference, photo by Bilge Hasdemir.

Karlsson Savci, and Kristian Schröder, with PUBLICS, Index, and Praksis, designed by Tuukka Kaila, and published by Rooftop Press with PUBLICS, Index, and Praksis.

The 2025 learning program focused on publishing, printed matter, text culture, and the relationship between editorial and curatorial practices. Publishing was approached as a collaborative process, a means of making public, and a critical and artistic practice shaped by collaborative working methods and processes.

● WORKSHOPS & VISITS

The Youth Board participated in PUBLICS' newly launched Centre For Curatorial Thinking by attending the reading groups and events programmed for the Centre, being introduced to local and international curators. In August, they hosted the space to welcome curators Maria Lind and Marti Manen.

PYAB 2025 participated in a series of workshops and visits in Helsinki, and also online, led by art workers, writers, editors, publishers, printmakers.

● Talk with Paul O'Neill at PUBLICS

An introduction to publishing as a relational practice, discussing publicness, shared authorship, and collaborative modes of working.

● Workshop with Sezgin Boynik at Rab-Rab Press

A session on transformative potential of dissident and independent publishing as a politically engaged, committed practice that creates space for voices and ideas often excluded from mainstream discourse and importance of building counter-narratives

● Visit to Kalasataman Seripaja with Jan Konsin

An introduction to the significance of artist-run printmaking infrastructures and their role in the local cultural ecosystem.

● Publishing workshop with Multipöly, Arja Karhumaa and Maarit Bäu Mustonen

A hands-on workshop where PUBLICS Youth explored experimental publishing together and collectively created a small publication, titled “?”, built around the questions that connect them. The visit to Multipöly also involved an introduction to Eurantie Window Publication, an experimental format that brings writing into everyday public space.

● Visit to Tekstin Talo

Introduction to the Text Laboratory Residency and its role in cultivating text based culture and experimental, cross-disciplinary approaches to the text as artistic inquiry.

● Exhibition Visits to Sinne Gallery, Myymälä2 and Oksasenkatu 11

During exhibition visits, conversations with artist Baran Çaginli, curator Eveliina Tuulonen, and artist and director Timo Tuhkanen offered insights into both artistic contents and curatorial frameworks as well as the operational and institutional frameworks that shape each space.

● Printmaking workshop with Ilkka Kärkkäinen at SO-Helsinki

PUBLICS Youth was introduced to various printmaking techniques and processes and designed and printed posters using letterpress printing. The posters were later presented at the book launch of *Reaching Out: A Book About Agency, Care, Identity ...* at PUBLICS.

● Workshops with Gerrie van Noord

As managing editor of the publication, Gerrie van Noord, met several times with Teen Advisory Boards of PUBLICS, PRAKSIS and Index to guide them within the

collective process of developing their contributions to the book, while inviting the boards to collectively reflect on and decide the book's purpose, audiences, and the responsibilities involved in making something public.

● Workshops with Tuukka Kaila

As designer and publisher of the publication, Tuukka Kaila met with the boards multiple times to introduce the book concept, to share the evolving design process, while inviting the boards to consider what the book could become, who it could address, how its form could shape its circulation, accessibility, and the kinds of encounters it could enable.

● FUTURE FUTURES: REACHING OUT NETWORK CONFERENCE 2025

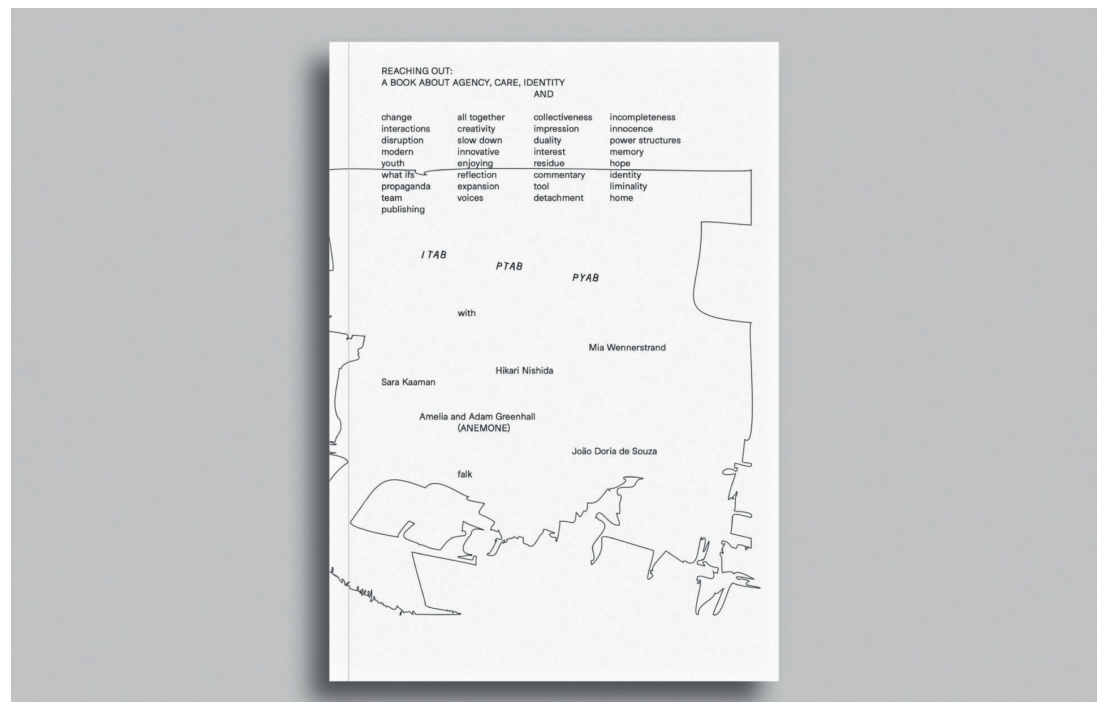
The Future Futures: Reaching Out Teen Advisory Boards Network Conference, held from 9–11 October 2025 in Helsinki and hosted by the PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board, brought together the Youth Advisory Boards of PUBLICS, Praksis, and Index for three intensive days of collective thinking, writing, and un/learning across borders.

Marking a pivotal stage in the co-production of their collaborative publication, the conference centered publishing as a shared and transformative practice, with each day combining internal workshops and site visits to Helsinki-based artworkers, cultural institutions and artist-run spaces.

Workshops and meetings were led by invited artists and curators, including Paul O'Neill, Sara Kaaman and Tony Karlsson Savci, Marit Silsand, Michaela Yarmol-Matusiak, and Tuukka Kaila, as well as Iona Roisin, Minna Henriksson, Saara Hacklin, and Jan Konsin.

● REACHING OUT: A BOOK ABOUT AGENCY, CARE, IDENTITY AND...

PUBLICS launched *Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and ...* on February 23rd 2026. The joint book event included contributions from PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board 2025, Index Teen Advisory Board 2025 and Praksis Teen Advisory Board 2025, Bilge Hasdemir, Tuukka Kaila, Hikari Nishida, Mia Wennerstrand, and Gerrie van Noord, alongside the book presentation of *Configurations of Time: Imagining Other Temporalities in the Artist Residency* by Angela Serino followed by a conversation with Taru Elfving.



Reaching Out: A Book about Agency, Care, Identity and...

SHAPE Art Map, a website resource for Helsinki's contemporary art landscape, a mapping of art spaces and public events across the city, bringing together established art institutions, commercial galleries, artist-run spaces as well as smaller initiatives and support structures has been run and maintained by PUBLICS throughout the year.

The platform has been updated manually once per week, gathering data on events and exhibitions from various websites and platforms and inputting it. Alongside the website, selected entries of SHAPE have been featured weekly on Instagram and Facebook platforms. Members of SHAPE are given stickers & posters on request as needed. We did one round of paid monthly Instagram & Facebook campaigns for SHAPE Art Map in January 2025.

From January 2025, SHAPE has continued to be an annual subscription-based platform with varying subscription plans, depending on the type and capacity of the institutions listed in the directory. Annual subscription plans have been adjusted according to the scale of each organisation, starting with museums and large scale institutions and following with commercial galleries, non-commercial galleries and middle-scale institutions and artist-run spaces. Each plan offers features such as weekly updating events and exhibitions to the platform, featuring and profiling of each institution on social media channels, receiving ongoing promotion of SHAPE Art Map visible through other platforms, including paid and sponsored advertisements nationally and internationally. PUBLICS continued to maintain the platform and manage subscriptions case by case in 2025.

Shape Art Map directory consistently features 100+ organisations in Helsinki city and is updated monthly by offering a possibility for new spaces to join the platform. We continue to spread the word about SHAPE via our ongoing campaigns and various communication channels.

New spaces joined in 2025 were Art School Maa, Nordic Culture Point (Suomenlinna), SWAMP, Sports Hall Window, Luonnos-ikkuna, amongst others.

STATISTICS

Throughout 2025 PUBLICS developed and commissioned in total large scale new 4 commissioned works, held 35 events and produced a four day international symposia POSITIONING A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region & Beyond, Organised by Publics, Co-hosted by Amos Rex & Kiasma hosting 56 speakers at 3 different institutions with 30 collaborating supporting institutions as part of The Centre for Curatorial Thinking. During the 4 days we had over 350 participants every day.

PUBLICS collaborated with individual cultural workers, artists and professionals. In 2025 PUBLICS employed 4 salaried members of staff, 9 PUBLICS Youth Advisory Board Members who met 12 times over the year and 8 Board Members who attended 6 Board Meetings. We had consistently between 60-100 people attend our events including the parahosting events, commissioned exhibition openings, parahosting events, book launches and artists talks and library events. Our library opened its doors every Wednesday (except between May-August when closed for renovation) and attracted visitors on average between 5-15 per session. 5 group and individual bookings to libraries from the academies and art schools as well as abroad in such cases the numbers were 15-20 per session. During months when PUBLICS was open for commissions and exhibitions events and the AA Bronson, General Idea and Art Metropole exhibition and the Coupling exhibition we had on average 20 people per day week.

Our social media channels are steadily growing with our PUBLICS Instagram

followers by the end of 2024 over 8000 and by the end of 2025 9435 followers. Our PUBLICS instagram channel on average reaches views of 70k views every month and engages 20,000 accounts.

On Facebook PUBLICS has 5700 followers and on average 18,000 views reached per quarter, approximately between 200-800 views via each post and post engagement is 10. We sent a monthly newsletter in 2025 to over approximately 1300 subscribers and our mailing list has over 3000 active subscribers in total. In November of 2024 we began a bi-monthly library newsletter focusing on all things related to The Library and The Centre for Curatorial Thinking activities, this continued in 2025 (except during renovation) and will continue in 2026. SHAPE Art Map platform had over 30,000 page views and over 22,000 sessions per January-December, with 78% desktop and 21% mobile version viewers. Top referrals to SHAPE website were Instagram, Facebook App, PUBLICS, ChatGPT, Linktree, Toinen Silma, Suomen Taidegraafikot and MyHelsinki. Top countries were Finland, China, Singapore, United States, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Ireland, and France.

SHAPE Art Map profile on Instagram had over 49,000 views over a 90 day period in 2025-2026 with 62.7% followers and 37.3% non-followers. Top locations of followers and interacting profiles are Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, New York and Turku. The profile has grown to more than 3480 followers by early 2026.

FUNDING

PUBLICS confirms a long term partnership with Saastamoinen Foundation to further develop The Centre For Curatorial Thinking as a networked institution in the making, and through its public activities to include a series of four new large scale annual symposia 2025-2028, along with the future expansion of PUBLICS Library in a strategic long term partnership with Saastamoinen Foundation. PUBLICS also received the third year of Erasmus + 3 year funding 2023-2026 for PUBLICS Youth TAB network project and continued local funding for operations from Taike and Helsinki City. PUBLICS received 50k Funding from Taike for 2025 and 30K from Helsinki City.

PUBLICS received collaboration support from over 30 institutions across our network and steering group for POSITIONING. This support was in kind, and in donation from 300€ to 8000€ per institution. With Co-hosting institutions giving support in kind up to 30,000 € in 2025.

PARTNERSHIPS

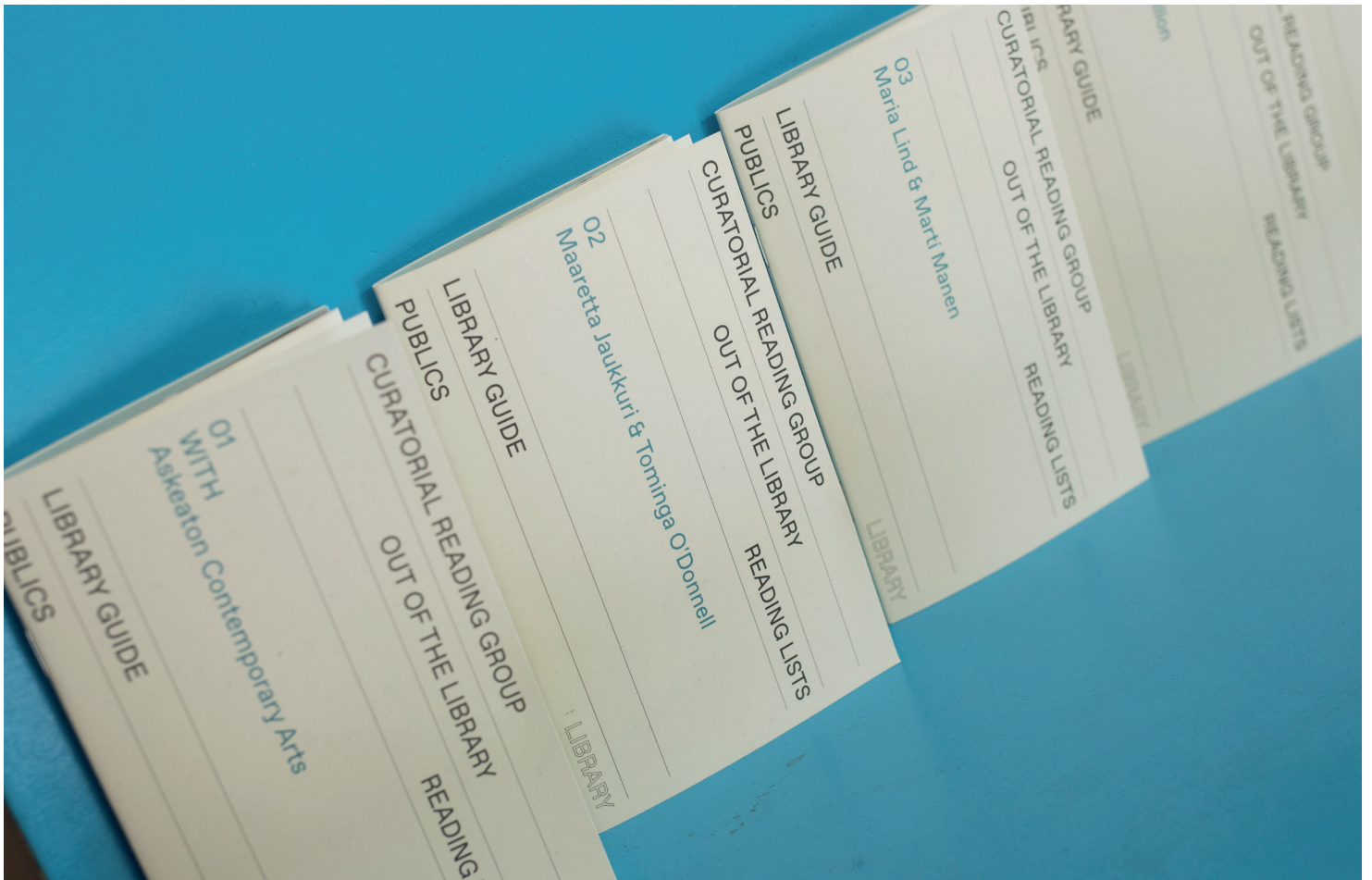
● Positioning Collaborating Supporters 2025

Amos Rex, Kiasma, Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland, IHME Helsinki, Pro Artibus Foundation, Finland, EMMA - Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Impossible Forms, IMMA - The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Ireland, PASS - The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Practice-based Art Studies, University of Copenhagen, Frame Contemporary Art, Finland, RAB RAB Press, Helsinki, Goethe-Institut, Finland, KUMU Art Museum, Estonia, CAC Contemporary Art Centre Vilnius, Museum Why network, PALO Art Productions, The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA), Latvia, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University, Finland, Index - The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Sweden, Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art (Kaasaegse Kunsti Eesti Keskus), Estonia, The Art Academy of Latvia, HDK-Valand, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, The Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, Helsinki City, Taike, Finland.

The series of Curatorial Reading Groups and The Centre for Curatorial Thinking also pilots and expands in collaboration with a network of Local and International collaborations, museum institutions, local organisations and actors in Helsinki and the curatorial network of 100+ cultural actors in the Nordic- Baltic regions actively taking part in the Centres programme already since 2023- venues such



PUBLICS Library, photo by Aman Askarizad



Library Guides, design by Valerio Di Lucente. Photo by Yelyzaveta Babaieva.

as and not exclusively: Finland - M-CULT, MIF, BioArts, Pitted Dates, Anti Festival, Kenno Films, Palo Productions, Rab-Rab Press, Rooftop Press, KHAOS, Saastamoinen Foundation, Emma Museum, Amos Rex, Kiasma, Titanik, Aalto University, UniArts - Helsinki, Pori Museum and The Serlachius Museum, Denmark - The Museum Why network, Simian gallery, KOS museum, Sweden - HDK Valand University, Index - Contemporary Art, Moderna Museet, Malmö Konstmuseum Norway - University of Bergen, Norway, Munch Museum-Oslo, Praxis, Baltic regions; LCCA - Latvia, Academy of Fine Arts, RUPERT, Estonia, CCA - Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art, CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania; UK - Freelands Foundation.

● Consortium Steering group for The Centre for Curatorial Thinking
Pilvi Kalhama, Executive Director, CEO Architecture and Design Museum, Helsinki; Prof Mick Wilson, HDK-Valand, University of Gothenburg; Prof Bassam El Baroni, Department of Art and Media, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University; Marti Manen, Director, Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Stockholm; Antra Priede, Vice-rector for Academic Affairs, Art Academy of Latvia; Kati Laakso, Executive Director, Finnish Culture Institute in New York ; Anne Szefer Karlsen, Professor Curatorial Practice, University of Bergen, Norway; Maria Arusoo, Director, Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art (Kaasaegse Kunsti East Keskus) and Solvita Krese, Director, The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA).

● PUBLICS board members
Adelaide Bannerman, Bassam El Baroni (vice chair), Taru Elfving, Saara Hacklin, (Chair), Pilvi Kalhama, Kati Laakso, Pilvi Takala, Elina Vainio.

ADMINISTRATION

The supporting association behind PUBLICS is Checkpoint Helsingin Tukiyhdistys, born in 2013 in a moment where the political imagination was open to envisioning the economic and cultural benefits of making a grand investment in the arts. Instead of putting the energy into criticising, the association has taken this momentum seriously and worked towards the most interesting roadmap enabling the local cultural field to develop in dialogue with the international scene. In 2024 the association changed its name to PUBLICS ry and in 2025 board members were Adelaide Bannerman, Taru Elfving, Bassam El Baroni (vice chair), Saara Hacklin (chair), Pilvi Kalhama, Kati Laakso, Pilvi Takala and Elina Vainio.

In 2025 we employed 9 Publics Youth Advisory Board Members, 8 Board Members, 4 salaried staff.

In 2025 the board met 5 times. The Spring meeting was held on 30th May at Publics and online. The Annual General meeting was held on 16th December, the board met at PUBLICS. PUBLICS had two full-time employees, artistic director Paul O'Neill (1/1–31/12/2025), program manager Annabelle (1/1–31/12/2025). The organisation employed Amanda Ripatti part time from August 2025 until May 2026 as coordinator of the library and SHAPE Helsinki Art Map. Bilge Hasdemir was employed 3 days a week as coordinator of the PUBLICS Youth advisory board from April 2025 until March 2026. Valerio Di Lucente has been our visual designer and consultant ongoing since PUBLICS began and finishes his contract at the end of December 2025.

PUBLICS commenced the first year of an extended partnership agreement with The Saastamoinen Foundation from 2025-2028. Support also came from Erasmus+ Youth in Action program of the European Union (Future Futures project developed in partnership with Index and PRAKSIS 2023-2026), Arts Promotion Centre Finland, The City of Helsinki, and Nordic Culture Point.

Sturenkatu 37-41 4b
00550 Helsinki

publics.fi
@publicsfi