



**Open Up and Shape Helsinki Symposium is free and being held as part of the Open Up, a project that has been co-funded by the European Commission under the Creative Europe Programme. Frame Contemporary Art Finland joins the collaboration by co-hosting one session in the context of Rehearsing Hospitalities public program.**

## 9 June Publics

10:00 Coffee and Introduction by Paul O'Neill

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10:30 Keynote by Carolina Rito, with Joasia Krysa

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12:00 Lunch

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13:00 Rants & Raves  
Kohta, Pengerkatu 7 – Työhuone, Trojan Horse, Pixelache, Alkovi

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13:30 Keynote by Bassam El Baroni, with Constantinos Miltiadis

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15:00 Closing notes, reflection by Dahlia El Broul

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Followed by

Screening: *Deep Structure* by Ilona Sagar (28 mins)

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Selected collection of Six Chairs Books is available

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Drinks by Vallilan Panimo & Mingle

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## 10 June Publics

12:00 Introduction by Jussi Koitela

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Rants & Raves  
Rab-Rab Press, PUBLICS, Globe Art Point, PALO art productions,  
Vargas Print Studio

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12:30 Keynote by Cynthia Cruz, with Niko Hallikainen

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14:00 Panel Conversation: Justina Zubaitè-Bundzè, Helen Kaplinsky,  
Maria Mkrtycheva, Irina Mutt and Henri Terho

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16:00 Closing notes, reflection by Henna Harri

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17:00 **Drinks & Mingle**  
Evening Program at Kohta

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# About

Organized by PUBLICS and Kohta, the Open Up and Shape Helsinki Symposium is convened over two days to celebrate the international launch of the new SHAPE ([shape-helsinki.fi](http://shape-helsinki.fi)) online platform.

The Open Up and Shape Helsinki Symposium discusses how equity, labour, money and structures of power are configured globally, while reflecting these questions back onto Helsinki's cultural scene, inviting three position papers and three Helsinki-based respondents:

- [Carolina Rito](#)  
Co-editor of *Institution as Praxis – New Curatorial Directions for Collaborative Research* (Sternberg Press, 2020)  
with: [Joasia Krysa](#)  
Curator of Helsinki Biennial 2023
- [Bassam El Baroni](#)  
Editor of *Between the Material and the Possible: Infrastructural Re-Examination and Speculation in Art* (Sternberg Press and Edith Russ Haus, 2022)  
with: [Constantinos Miltiadis](#)  
Architect and researcher
- [Cynthia Cruz](#)  
Author of *The Melancholia of Class: A Manifesto for the Working Class* (Repeater Books, 2021)  
with: [Niko Hallikainen](#)  
Poet and novelist

Over the course of two days, Helsinki-based art organisations and institutions join in Rants & Raves of four minutes and thirty-three seconds each, inspired by John Cage's composition 4'33". 'Ranting' and 'Raving' are immediate and liberating forms of public expression. They tell about the present, while pointing at long-coming conditions of pressure, uncertainty and search for alternatives. Artist and educator Dahlia El Broul, chair of the board at Catalyti, and Henna Harri, director of the Photographic Gallery Hippolyte, will reflect on the Rants & Raves: a choral, humorous and situated picture of Helsinki's art scene.

On Thursday 9th, after the closing notes, Ilona Sagar's film *Deep Structure* is screened at PUBLICS. *Deep Structure* explores the links between architecture, health and community wellbeing through the lens of Sheffield's Park Hill estate. Troubling the links between buildings, bodies and post-industrial landscapes, the film draws parallels between the unique sprawling structure of the building and the scientifically measured body.

On Friday 10th Justina Zubaitė-Bundzė, Helen Kaplinsky, Maria Mkrtycheva, Irina Mutt and Henri Terho will participate in a public panel discussion around the three focuses of the Symposium:

- Institutional reimagining and future publics
- Infrastructure of power, and (re-)distribution
- Money, class and access

For the symposium, Vilnius-based Six Chairs Books provides a selection of books and publications available for purchase throughout the symposium. Six Chairs Books is an independent art and theory bookstore, a debuting publishing house and a web platform dedicated to the representation of the best examples of artistic, critical and creative ways of making small publications.

# Publics

PUBLICS is a curatorial and commissioning agency with a dedicated research library and event space in Vallila, Helsinki. PUBLICS explores a “work together” institutional model with multiple overlapping objectives, thematic strands and collaborations. PUBLICS’ space is located at the crossroad of Sturenkatu (main street) and Kangasalantie, next to an antique book shop. PUBLICS’ outdoor sign Eat the Rich, produced and donated by Liam Gillick, is visible on Sturenkatu side. Please be kind and respectful to others while visiting, speaking or otherwise occupying the space. No forms of oppression, othering, and discriminations are accepted. Do not make assumptions of ethnicity, sexuality, gender etc. The symposium is documented, please contact the staff in case you do not want to be photographed. Feel free to come in and join during any time of the event, also feel comfortable to use the toilet in the backspace or leave at any time.

## LUNCH OPTIONS NEARBY PUBLICS

Addis, Ethiopian kitchen, Sturenkatu 28, 00510 Helsinki

Roots, Vegan café, Eurantie 8-10, 00550 Helsinki

Plein, Suvannontie 18, 00510 Helsinki

Ketoartesaanit Kahvila, Café, shop and bakery, Sturenkatu 36, 00550 Helsinki

# Kohta

Kohta is an artist-initiated kunsthalle for Helsinki with the mission to feature artistic thinking in its many forms and showcase artists from different generations and media. Kohta will host the evening programme on Friday evening. Kohta is located in the Teurastamo area, a complex of restaurants and bars in the neighborhood of Kalasatama. Enter Teurastamo through the Teurastamo gate (Teurastamon portti), and you will find Kohta on your right when entering the gate.

# Short Bios

## Bassam El Baroni

is associate professor in curating at the School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Aalto University, and editor of *Between the Material and the Possible: Infrastructural Re-Examination and Speculation in Art* published by Sternberg Press.

## Cynthia Cruz

is the author of *The Melancholia of Class: A Manifesto for the Working Class*, and *Disquieting: Essays on Silence* and seven critically acclaimed collections of her poetry, including *Hotel Oblivion* published by Four Way Books.

## Carolina Rito

is Professor of Creative Practice Research, at the Research Centre for Arts, Memory and Communities (CAMC), at Coventry University. Rito coedited *Institution as Praxis – New Curatorial Directions for Collaborative Research* published by Sternberg Press.

## Joasia Krysa

is curator of the 2nd edition of Helsinki Biennial opening summer 2023, and Professor of Exhibition Research and Head of Art and Design at Liverpool John Moores University, with an adjunct position at Liverpool Biennial.

## Constantinos Miltiadis

is a transdisciplinary architect and doctoral researcher in the Departments of Design and of Architecture at the School of ARTS of Aalto University. His work focuses on aesthetic phenomena between technology and culture.

## Niko Hallikainen

teaches creative writing in the dance performance programmes at University of the Arts Helsinki. Niko is currently finishing his second novel, dealing with spectres, libido and bad luck in the landscape of the Nordic class system.

## Justina Zubaitė-Bundzė

is a contemporary art librarian, responsible for the collection and the event's program at the Reading Room of the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), Vilnius and owns an independent art bookshop Six Chairs Books.

## Henri Terho

is the Head of Arts Support in Arts Promotion Centre Finland. He is also the chair of Finnish State Art Commission.

## Helen Kaplinsky

is a curator and writer based in Helsinki and London, researching cyberfeminist legacies, postdigital identity and ownership. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Curating at Liverpool John Moores University, Exhibition Research Lab (UK) and is part of Beyond Matter, a research collaboration across several European galleries.

## Maria Mkrtycheva

is a curator, educator and researcher. She is currently conducting PhD research at the University of Wolverhampton, part of the FEINART network, focusing on the relationships between the art institutions and the public(s) through the notions of situatedness, asymmetrical reciprocity and in-betweenness.

## Irina Mutt

is an in(ter)dependent writer and curator from Barcelona currently based in Helsinki. She has been part of the public program commission at Hangar BCN and for the Catalan Critic Association.

## Dahlia El Broul

is an artist, educator and curator, the chair of Catalysti; an arts association focused on anti-racist work, inclusivity, and equity. Dahlia is currently a PhD student at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg (HFBK).

## Henna Harri

is the director of the Association of Photographic Artists and Photographic Gallery Hippolyte in Helsinki, Finland. She is co-directing Art Fair Suomi, a biennial contemporary art festival in Helsinki.

## Ilona Sagar's

work responds to the social and historic context found in the public and private spaces we inhabit, using a diverse range of media spanning moving-image, text, performance and assemblage. Sagar is the Stanley Picker Arts Fellow 2021 and the Saastamoinen Foundation, Helsinki, artist in residence for 2022.

# Rants & Raves

## Alkovi

is a window art display space in Kallio, Helsinki. The space presents contemporary art exhibitions focused on dealing with urban culture and art events.

## Globe Art Point

advocates cultural equity, diversity and inclusion in the arts and cultural sector in Finland. G.A.P also serves as an information centre and meeting point for foreign-born artists and cultural workers.

## PALO

is a Helsinki-based production platform for multimedia artists from different generations and backgrounds who interrogate society and challenge the status quo.

## Pengerkatu 7 – Työhuone (Massage & Beauty)

is an independent, non-profit, soft, intimate, polymorphic and polyphonic hybrid artspace run by artists and researchers Simo Kellokumpu and Vincent Roumagnac.

## Pixelache

is an association of artists, cultural producers, thinkers and activists involved in the creation of emerging cultural activities, coordinated by the Finnish non-profit cultural association Piknik Frequency.

## Rab-Rab Press

is an independent discursive platform based in Helsinki. It publishes an annual Rab-Rab: journal for political and formal inquiries in art, and special publications advancing non-institutional thought.

## Trojan Horse

is an autonomous educational platform based in Helsinki. Trojan Horse organizes summer schools, live action role-plays, workshops and reading circles in the landscapes of architecture, design and art.

## Vargas Print Studio

aims to support professional artists and creatives to work, research and experiment in a multidisciplinary environment where design, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics and printmaking meets.

# Publics

## ADDRESS

Sturenkatu 37-41 4b  
00550 Helsinki

## Nearest tram stops:

Vallilan Varikko for 6 & 8  
Hattulantie for 1 & 7

## Nearest metro:

Sörnäinen  
connecting with all trams

WWW: [publics.fi](http://publics.fi)

IG: @publicsfi

WIFI: Publics1

PASS: eattherich1

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[openupeu.com](http://openupeu.com)

[frame-finland.fi/en](http://frame-finland.fi/en)

IG: @openupeu

# Kohta

## ADDRESS

Teurastamo inner yard  
Työpajankatu 2 B  
Building 7, 3rd floor  
00580 Helsinki

## Nearest tram stops:

Lautatarhankatu for 6 & 8

## Nearest metro:

Kalasadama

WWW: [kohta.fi](http://kohta.fi)

IG: @kohtataidehalli

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PUBLICS

K O H T A

frame contemporary art  
finland