

PHOTO: TIMO SYRJÄNEN



THE EARTHLY PARADISE

MARKKU PIRI

HÄMEENLINNA ART MUSEUM

Viipurintie 2, 13200 Hämeenlinna, +358 (0)3 621 2669, www.hameenlinna.fi/taidemuseo

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Thu 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Fri–Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

VERKATEHDAS

INFO: WWW.PIRI-PIRI.FI

MARKKU PIRIN MUOTOILUA JA TAIDETTA HÄMEENLINNAN TAIDEMUSEO 23.11.2013 – 2.2.2014
THE EARTHLY PARADISE – MARKKU PIRI'S DESIGN AND ART HÄMEENLINNA ART MUSEUM 23 NOV. 2013 – 2 FEB. 2014



BOWL "KING", VASES "NEFERTITI" (HEIGHT 35 cm) AND "TUTANKHAMON" (HEIGHT 37,5 cm), MOUTH-BLOWN, SIGNED. PHOTO: TERHO AALTO

HÄMEENLINNA ART MUSEUM 23 NOV. 2013 – 2 FEB. 2014

The ground floor of the Engel building at Hämeenlinna Art Museum hosts an exhibition by Markku Piri, whose interartistic design career of more than 30 years is characterized by a masterful command of a variety of materials. The exhibition toured the world with great success in 2011–2012 and showcases Piri's most recent work, focusing on printed textiles and art glass.

What we now see is a representative sample of Piri's current work, his world of form and colour as well as the philosophy and sources of inspiration behind his artistic work. Now on display, his sumptuous printed textiles from the last few years are a feast for the eye, and the glass objects, sparkling with colour, are extraordinary in the variety of combinations they allow. An example of Piri's skill in costume design is the evening dress and jewellery designed for the opera singer Karita Mattila. Piri's art photography reveals the way he looks at the world.

The exhibition received an enthusiastic reception and large numbers of visitors in Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Berlin and Washington. As the exhibition architect, Piri fine-tunes the set-up with confidence and sensitivity to create a harmony between his pieces and the architecture of the building. For example, the set-up in Felleshus, the cultural house of the Nordic embassies, was one of the best ever in the premises, and the more than 15,000 visitors were well deserved.

During the Madrid exhibition, Piri delivered a lecture in a design seminar. Manuel Estrada, the legendary president of DIMAD, Madrid Designers' Association, describes Piri's exhibition:

“THE EXHIBITION DEMONSTRATED MARKKU PIRI'S ALL-ENCOMPASSING COMMITMENT TO BEAUTY. SPECTACULAR USE OF COLOUR IN HIS GLASS WORK AND ESPECIALLY IN THE STRONG TEXTILE PRINTING. ORGANIC EXPLOSIONS STRAIGHT OUT OF GAUGUIN PAINTINGS OR AN IVORY COAST MARKET. – AN EXPERT HAND, A SHARP BRAIN AND A SENSITIVE HEART... THE UNITY OF CREATIVE WISDOM AND CRAFTSMANSHIP IN THE COLOURED GLASS WORKS..”

Upstairs at Hämeenlinna Art Museum, the retrospective sections intermingle with brand-new art glass, created together with the Lasismi glass co-operative, and the large-scale lazure paintings made especially for this exhibition. The topics of the paintings reflect Piri's passions: architecture, ornament art, light and the wonders of nature.





Markku Piri enjoys his work, and for him, showing the beauty of the world and the joy of life is as natural as breathing.

Characteristically, he wants to bring the aesthetic dimension into our everyday life as much as possible. He is an astute and intuitive observer of form and colour – both in the urban setting and in nature. His eyes examine the world both with analytical sharpness and the joy and curiosity of a child. He is fascinated by the details that pass unnoticed by many. This is demonstrated in the countless photos he has taken both in Finland and on his trips abroad.

Piri's visual idiom alternates from exuberant baroque style to graphic, geometrical lines. Both elements can also coexist in one product. The excellent, sensitive eye for colour he was born with is one of the cornerstones of Piri's work, and colours really mean the world to him. In his work, he uses bold colour combinations and strong contrasts, but also sophisticated plays with shades of a single colour. Markku Piri is a lone wolf and a man with solid expertise and boundless appetite for creativity. His innovative and refreshingly abundant production is a remarkable contribution to the overall picture of Finnish design.

I am exhilarated to see Markku Piri in the Hämeenlinna Art Museum exhibition come forth also as a painter – modestly, yet with gusto.

RITVA RÖMINGER-CZAKO
art historian, curator, Bonn

"KING", "NEFERTITI" AND "TUTANKHAMON" ART GLASS,
BACKGROUND: DETAIL FROM LAZURE PAINTING
"SILVER FIELD". MARKKU PIRI 2013;
ART GLASS MADE BY: LASISMI CO-OPERATIVE.
PHOTO: TERHO AALTO



"TUTANKHAMON" VASES, BACKGROUND: DETAIL FROM LAZURE PAINTING "SILVER FIELD". MARKKU PIRI 2013; ART GLASS MADE BY: LASISMI CO-OPERATIVE.



PHOTO: TERHO AALTO

BOWLS "KING", MOUTH-BLOWN, SIGNED (Ø 13,5 cm).
PHOTO: TERHO AALTO



BOWLS "KING" (Ø 13,5 cm) AND "KONG" (Ø 26,5 cm);
MOUTH-BLOWN, SIGNED. PHOTO: TERHO AALTO

BOWLS "KING" (BOTTOM AND TOP), ONE "NEFERTITI" VASE
AND THREE "TUTANKHAMON" VASES;
MOUTH-BLOWN, SIGNED. PHOTO: TERHO AALTO





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– MARKKU PIRI'S
DESIGN AND ART**

HÄMEENLINNA ART MUSEUM
23 NOVEMBER 2013–2 FEBRUARY 2014

**MAANPÄÄLLINEN PARATIISI
– MARKKU PIRIN
MUOTOILUA JA TAIDETTA**

HÄMEENLINNAN TAIDEMUSEO 23.11.2013–2.2.2014

MAIN PARTNERS

Zeeland – The Lasismi Co-operative – Puustelli