

PATRON PROGRAM

The FCINY annual Patron Trip to Helsinki celebrates the Institute's 33 year history of cross-cultural exchange, creating connections, opportunities, and partnerships in the visual arts for Finnish and American artists and audiences. Built into our Patron Circle membership, the event series is an exclusive opportunity to personally experience the histories and futures of the full spectrum of Finnish art, architecture, and design, led by local experts in Helsinki.

The Finnish Cultural Institute offers Aalto and Ahti Patron Circles for membership at differing levels, detailed below.

“An unforgettable chance to experience the people, places, and ideas that make Finland so unique.”

How to Secure Your Patron Membership

The Finnish Cultural Institute's **Aalto Circle** membership is limited to no more than six Patrons per year, and includes access to the Institute's Patron Trip in September. Our Development Director will follow up with travel plans, confirmations, and next steps for processing payment and securing your travel arrangements. All Aalto Patrons are invited to a pre-event dinner in August 2023 to discuss the final itinerary and hear from past Patrons.

Ahti Circle membership events begin in late Spring, early Summer 2023, and run annually through Winter. While you are welcome to join the Ahti Circle at any point, you get the most out of your membership by securing your place early. Ahti Patrons are mailed and emailed a full itinerary of Patron events, and receive invitations two-three weeks prior to any scheduled event. Group Ahti membership is available upon request.

To secure Aalto or Ahti Circle membership, please reach out to Executive Director Kati Laakso at laakso@fciny.



Amos Rex - JKMM Architects, photo: Mika Huisman

PATRON CIRCLES

AALTO CIRCLE

Aalto Circle membership is limited to a select number of Patrons each year and is available at \$3,800. Group Aalto Circle membership is available if secured prior to Summer 2023. Please reach out to our team by June 15th, 2023 for more information.

As Aalto Circle Patrons, you receive:

- Inclusion in annual Patron Trip to Helsinki, hosted by the FCINY and International Advisory Board.
 - The five day trip includes guided experiences at leading Finnish galleries, museums, and architecture/design marvels. Patrons are hosted at Hotel St. George in downtown Helsinki and invited to daily meals at leading Finnish restaurants in the company of local artists, architects, designers, and leaders in the visual arts scene.
- Curated explorations of Finnish art, architecture, and design in NYC, including invitation to FCINY events, studio visits, early access programming with FCINY Executive Director, and Finnish music/food experiences within NYC.
 - Aalto Circle Patrons are invited as the Institute's guest, accessing an eclectic mix of cross-cultural Finnish art with a community of supporters and experts to provide behind-the-scenes history, conversation, and opportunities to learn more.

Past events have included Bartók's Concerto for Two Pianos and Percussion, with Finnish conductor **Hannu Lintu** at the New York Philharmonic, traditional Finnish dinner and artist talk with artist **Tuomas A. Laitinen**, private tour of ceramic artist **Kristina Riska**'s exhibition at HB381 Gallery in TriBeCa, Patron dinner with celebrated Finnish chef and lead at Ateljé Finne, Putte's and Pontus in Helsinki **Antto Melasniemi**, and the annual FCINY Holiday Party.

AHTI CIRCLE

The FCINY offers an annual Ahti Circle Patron level for supporters of the Institute, priced at \$700. As a member of the Ahti Circle, you're supporting key programming at the FCINY, making it possible for the Institute to launch timely programming and fuel support for emerging Finnish artists, architects, designers, and curators. Ahti Circle members are invited to join the FCINY's curated explorations of Finnish art, architecture, and design in NYC, for a select portion of the event series annually.



Patron Trip 2022, photo: Sara Martinsen



Oodi - ALA Architects, photo: Tuomas Uusheimo



Kiasma, photo: Kansalliskallio / Susanna Kesänen

PATRON EVENTS



Patron Trip 2022, photo: Sara Martinsen

Spring 2023: Beginning of 2023 Patron Season

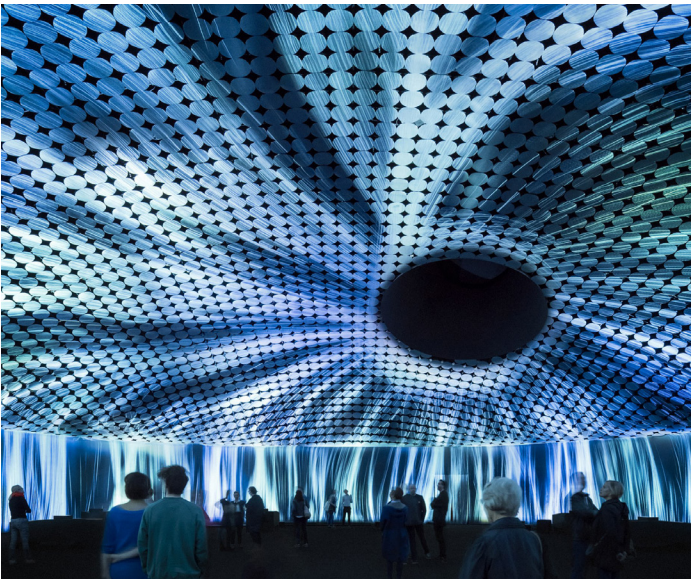
May/June 2023: Guided tour of Iiu Susiraja at MoMA PS1: For the last 15 years, Iiu Susiraja (b. 1975, Turku, Finland) has taken photographs of herself in domestic settings, most often in her home in Turku, Finland. MoMA PS1 presents the first solo museum exhibition of Susiraja's work in the US, bringing together a focused selection of photographs and videos that highlight the trajectory of her practice since 2007. Join the FCINY, sponsors of the exhibition, in a guided tour of Iiu's work with curator Jody Graf, offering insight into Iiu's practice alongside conversations on "a style called a dead fish."

July/August 2023: Patron Dinner and Artist Presentation: New and alumni Patrons are invited to a Patron dinner to celebrate the upcoming trip. Past Patrons share their experiences, and FCINY staff outline what's to come during the 5 day event. FCINY artists in residence share their work, and offer insights into what not to miss in Helsinki.

September 13 - 17th, Annual Patron Trip: Overlapping with Helsinki Design Week and the Helsinki Biennial, this year's Patron Trip blends guided tours at Aalto Home and Studio in Munkkiniemi, private visits to local galleries and museums, and behind the scenes entrance to select private residences and studios alongside industry experts, with the best in Finnish dining and all that Helsinki has to offer.

November 2023: Invitation and Tickets to FCINY's Finnish Pavilion at Performa Biennial, including expert introduction and walkthrough of the series. Performa Biennial transforms the city of New York into the "world capital of artists' performance" every other November. According to ARTNET, Performa is the first Biennial to give special attention to the remarkable history of performance in art history. This year, the FCINY is proud to launch the Finnish Pavilion, and invites our Patrons for a private entrance into the work.

December 2023: Holiday Party at FCINY office on Bowery. Join supporters, artists-in-residence, our Advisory Board, and FCINY leadership and staff members to celebrate Finnish Independence Day and the holiday season. Our annual event offers an intimate space to connect, hear about the Institute's work in 2023, and plan for the future.



Amos Rex - JKMM Architects, photo: Tuomas Uusheimo



Aalto House, photo: Alvar Aalto Foundation / Maija Holma

PATRON TRIP

Helsinki 2023
September 13 - 17

Wednesday, September 13. Day One: Arrival

Finnair arrivals to Helsinki at 2:00 pm, departing from NYC the prior evening at 10:55 pm. Patrons are welcomed at the historic St George Hotel in the heart of Helsinki, with time to rest and experience the city before we begin the trip on Thursday.

Thursday, September 14. Day Two: Cross-Cultural Impacts of Finnish Art, Architecture, and Design Today

Our first day examines the international impact of Finnish art, from leading artists and design collaborations that have reverberated through our cultures. Our day starts with a private tour to the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma in the center of Helsinki. At Kiasma, we're treated to an exploration of contemporary Finnish art as part of the Finnish National Gallery, including the current Tom of Finland exhibition, led by Director Leevi Haapala.

From the Museum, Patrons have lunch at the intimate neighborhood restaurant EGO, followed by an exclusive tour to Rafaela Seppälä's private home collection. That evening, we experience restaurant Atelje Finne, built within the studio of sculptor Gunnar Finne, and specializing in new Finnish creations.

Friday, September 15. Day Three: The Thriving Creators of Contemporary Finnish Art and Design

Patrons are introduced to Helsinki's leading artists, with a private trip to Helsinki Contemporary Gallery and introduction to Contemporary Finnish art by Director Olli Piippo. After lunch, Patrons are treated to a tour of the celebrated design house Marimekko, at their Marikulma Flagship location, led by the design firm's creative staff.

Afterwards we will join a guided tour to EMMA Museum in Espoo, and their Tapio Wirkkala and Rut Bryk Foundation Collection, hosted by Museum Director Pilvi Takala. That evening, we meet at Elm Restaurant located in the beautiful Kaivopuisto, and connect with some of the Finnish designers and artists featured during our visits to the galleries and museums.

Saturday, September 16. Day Four: Reflecting on the Roots of Finnish Design and Architecture - Alvar Aalto in Helsinki

We will start our Saturday with a visit to the Desing Museum and their new main exhibition by Kustaa Saksi, a renowned textile designer. Then we take a short drive to Aalto House and Studio in Munkkiniemi for an intimate lunch followed by a guided tour on the history and architecture of Aalto's unique home and workspace. Hear from experts

over dinner at historic Savoy Restaurant, located in the Aino and Alvar Aalto-designed 1937 building, overlooking the Esplanade Park in the heart of Helsinki.

Sunday, September 17. Day Five: Departure

For our last morning together, Patrons are invited to an optional walking tour, with visits to the Railway Station and National Museum, including an overview of Eliel Saarinen's works within Helsinki. Our walking tour will include a visit to the internationally acclaimed Oodi Library, designed by ALA Architects. We'll also have the opportunity to visit Design District Helsinki with its streets filled with design shops, galleries, showrooms, museums, and restaurants, before departure.

Patrons are invited to extend their stay in Helsinki to participate in Helsinki Design Week, the Helsinki Biennial and the Helsinki Film Festival. Flights depart from Helsinki on Sunday at 5:20 pm and arrive in NYC the same day at 7:05 pm.

Included in Your Aalto Circle Membership

Your Aalto Circle membership is priced at \$3,800 and includes:

- Admission fees to all museums and visited spaces, including Aalto House, Kiasma, Helsinki Contemporary Gallery, and Marimekko
- Lunch and Dinners on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the trip, along with cocktails and scheduled breaks throughout the trip. While Patrons are invited to extend their stay if they wish, the FCINY cannot schedule or pay for events outside of the scheduled dates.
- Travel to and from museums, galleries, and restaurants during the trip
- Curation and tour costs
- Curated events in NYC throughout the year, including dinners and private events

*Air tickets are purchased separately by each Patron to accommodate an international audience. Getting to the city from the airport is possible by train, airport bus, taxi, or a rental car, secured by the Patron. The train ride to the city center takes about 30 minutes. All other costs, including lodging, food/drink, admission into Aalto House and private exhibitions, and in-town transportation, are included in the Patron Trip.

**Scheduled events are subject to change depending on artist and restaurant availability

EXPERTISE

Our Patron Trip is led on the ground by experts in visual arts, architecture, and design in Helsinki, including:

Kati Laakso, Executive Director of the FCINY

Prior to her role as the Executive Director of the FCINY, Kati served at the Finnish Cultural Institute for the Benelux as its Director, working on a multitude of contemporary art and design exhibitions and societal projects spanning throughout Europe. Kati has a solid background in visual arts with over 15 years of experience from programming and curating for art and culture organizations and nonprofits, and fostering collaborations between the private and public sector in the U.S., Japan, and Europe. She is an active speaker at industry events and has been part of several international art juries and nonprofit boards. Laakso studied economics and art history in Stockholm and Helsinki, graduating with a Master of Science degree in Business Administration and Economics.



Nina Kurth, Co-Chair of the FCINY Advisory Board

Nina is a global business and strategy advisor in Amazon advising global businesses in leveraging Amazon's technology and services. She is based in New York City. Prior to joining Amazon, Nina held various leadership positions in IBM, in Europe, Asia Pacific and North America. She was a member of the Global Executive Committee for IBM Consulting. Nina is an Advisory Board Member of the Women@Amazon. She is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher focusing on foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries. She holds a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from the University of Adelaide, Australia, and Bachelors of Business Administration (B.B.A.) from Acadia University, Canada. In 2020, she completed leadership courses at Harvard University.

Mirkku Kullberg, CEO of Paimio Sanatorium and Founder of Glasshouse Helsinki

Mirkku is a cross-disciplinary thinker on business and cultural phenomena. She is a design executive with a strong track record in strategy processes, branding, consumer foresight, and restructuring management. Her past experience includes roles as the CEO of the iconic Finnish furniture company Artek, Creative Director for Hotel St. George Helsinki, Head of the Home Department at Swiss company Vitra, and VP President of Poltrona Frau for the Americas. Prior to this, she revamped Finnish design standouts in fashion, such as Nanso and Grünstein. She holds the position of Chair for the Alvar Aalto Foundation and has served as a board member for Finnish and international companies across different sectors.

