

【 Bitten By Finland


Three International Takes on Our Nature 】

21.07 - 30.09.2023

Ralph Bakker

Artists | Monika Brugger
Terhi Tolvanen



 Gallery GAO ShAn
Snellmaninkatu 15, 00170 Helsinki

Opening hours:
Tue – Fri 12–18
Sat 12–16



Bitten by Finland - Three International Takes on Our Nature

Gallery GAO ShAn

21. 07. – 30. 09. 2023

Here exhibited experienced European jewelry artists, **Ralph Bakker**, **Monika Brugger**, and **Terhi Tolvanen**, all share a deep, experience based connection to Finnish nature.

So one is keen to ask what does being inspired by nature give birth to or sprout in the expressive hands of a skilled jewelry artist?

Renowned Dutch jewelry artist **Ralph Bakker's** (b.1958) fascination and dedication to Finland is illustrated by more than 20 summer and one Xmas visits to Helsinki.

"I arrived on this small island, Villinki, for the first time in May 1984 during a unique Northern spring. Gusts of wind spread yellow pollen. My friends had started cultivating the land. In Villinki I felt so at home," Bakker recalls his first visit to Finland. This very visit sparked his initial steps as a jewelry artist. "My first beginnings of jewelry design started in Villinki," he recalls. This is the first exhibition that puts Ralph Bakker's works on display in his beloved Finland.

Ralph Bakker's works are on display in various well-known international museum collections such as Victoria & Albert museum in London, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, The Koch Collection in Basel and Newark Museum of Art.

Monika Brugger (b. 1958) had her first visit to Finland in an artist residency in Tammisaari for over a quarter of the year 2006. She has worked as a professor and director of the jewelry art studio at Ensa Limoges school in France since 2007. Insects are an inspiring motif of jewelry for her.

If you were to be reborn as an insect, what would you be? "Flies are unpleasant to think about, and they are a nuisance... that could suit my personality," Brugger humorously answers her own question. Her works have been acquired Musée Des Arts in Paris and the Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim among other places.

On **Helsinki's Night of the Arts**, Thursday 17 August, Monika Brugger is present at the gallery, prepared to embroider a chronobroche brooch with dark red beads onto your favorite garment's seam in exchange for a minute based fee.

Terhi Tolvanen (b. 1968), an internationally recognized artist born in Finland, creates her jewelry art in France having previously lived and worked in Amsterdam for a full 20 years.

Terhi Tolvanen's jewelry is tribute to flora. She drew inspiration from nature as a jewelry theme in her very first solo exhibition in 2000 (at that time, unconventional) and has since further developed and embodied the theme in her works.

"Nature is constructed from light, colors, and rhythms. Landscapes, trees, and plants are in a constant state of change. I observe how climbing plants cover tree trunks, how they infiltrate to claim open spaces in shrubs, or with what mathematical system plants follow," she explains. Nature's differences between Finland, the Netherlands, and France ignite creativity in her.

Tolvanen's works are included in the collections of, among other places, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, Musée Des Arts in Paris, and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.



Ralph Bakker art collection



Name: Chaga-Helsinki

Collier, 2023

Material: gold, silver, argentum gold-leaf tantal



Name: Bonding

Bracelet, 2016

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: A.L.E.X

Ring, 2008

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Revelry 0

Collier, 2019

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Mandala SE Green

Brooch in a book / box, 2011

Material: gold, silver agat and enamel



Ralph Bakker art collection



Name: Spring

Collier, 2017

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: No - Title

Ear - Jewels, 2012

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Mirrorman

Brooch, 2009

Material: gold, silver enamel and mirror



Name: No - Title

Ear - Jewels, 2012

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Ralph Bakker art collection



Name: Dubbelschakel

Collier, 2001

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Leaves 4

Bracelet, 2013

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Scales Big

Ring, 2008

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Scales Big

Ring, 2015

Material: gold, silver and enamel



Name: Lastanze 2

Ear Jewel, 2020

Material: gold and tantal loupe



Ralph Bakker art collection



Name: Bonding 6
Brooch, 2016
Material: gold and
tantal gold - leaf



Name: SharpCross
Ear - Jewels
Material: gold, silver
Niello



Name: Revelry 6
Ring, 2019
Material: gold and
silver loupe



Name: TaiChi
Ear - Jewels
Material: gold and
silver



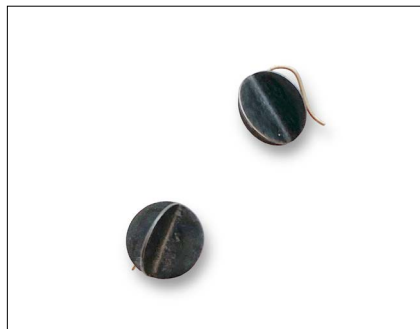
Name: Mirrorman
Brooch, 2021
Material: gold,
silver enamel and
crystal



Name: TaiChi
Ring, 2019
Material: tantalum gold



Name: No - Title
Ring, 2015
Material: gold and
Tantalum



Name: RoundCross
Ring, 2015
Material: gold, silver, Niell

Bitten by Finland
- Three international takes on our nature
21.7.2023 - 30.9.2023

GAo ShAn

Snellmaninkatu 15
00170 Helsinki

Mon by appointment
Tue - Fri 12 - 18
Sat 12 - 16



044-5968888
Email: info@gaoshanhelsinki.com
Instagram: [@gaoshanhelsinki](https://www.instagram.com/gaoshanhelsinki)

www.gaoshanhelsinki.com

Monika Brugger art collection



Name: Flies, mosquitoes and other «éphémères»

Brooches

Material: oxidized silver, shibushi, oxidized copper, brass, enamels, glass pearls

Year: since 2020 - present



Name: Hexapods

Necklaces

Material: silver oxydé, shibushi, matt or polished hematites, red coton thread



Name: We swap our flies

Necklaces

Material: soxidized silver, matte haematites, red coton thread



LEFT

Name: Everything follows one | necklaces |

Necklace

Material: silver, shibushi, copper

RIGHT

Name: The whole mish-mash is in full swing

Necklaces

Material: silver, gold soldering



Stab wound, gift of the seamstress | 2007
| sculpture | linen, garnets, cotton | work
produced with the assistance of a 2005
research grant awarded by the CNAP
(National Centre for Visual Arts), Paris
and the A.i.R programme of ProArtibus
Ekenäs/Tammisaari (FI) in 2006 | made in
the textile workshop of the Yrkesinstitutet
Sydväst Handverk och konstindustri in
Ekenäs/Tammisaari (FI)

Stichwunde, don de la couturière | 2007
| sculpture | taille 38, lin, grenats | travail
réalisé avec le soutien du CNAP (Centre
national des arts plastiques) Paris, dans
le cadre d'une allocation à la recherche
en 2005 et du A.i.R programme de ProAr-
tibus à Ekenäs/Tammisaari (FI) en 2006 |
Fabriqué à l'atelier textile du Yrkesinsti-
tutet Sydväst Handverk och konstindus-
tri à Ekenäs/Tammisaari (FI)



Terhi Tolvonon art collection



Name: Golden Tree in Blossom
Necklace
Material: Laurel wood, white amber, composite (ebony powder), paint, silver
Year: 2012
Size: Diameter 19 cm



Name: Construction for a Branch
Brooch
Material: Hazelnut and cherry wood, graphite, paint, silver
Year: 2022
Size: 17cm x 8 cm x 5 cm



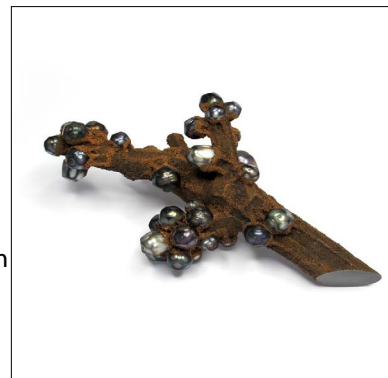
Name: Seeds of Light
Brooch
Material: Labradorite, cherry wood, sand, paint, silver
Year: 2022
Size: 5 cm x 8.5cm x 1.9 cm



Name: Sediment
Ring
Material: Raw diamonds, cherry wood, sand, paint, silver
Year: 2022
Size: Height 3.9cm



Name: Shy Y
Brooch
Material: Heather wood, aquamarine, silver
Year: 2023
Size: 14,5 cm x 5 cm x 2 cm



Name: Rusty Tree
Brooch
Material: Hornbeam wood, faceted pearls, composite, silver
Year: 2022
Size: 13.5 cm x 7 cm x 4.5 cm



Name: Chainettes
Earrings
Material: Heather wood, paint, silver
Year: 2020
Size: Length 5 cm



Name: Curly earrings
Earrings
Material: Hazelnut wood, silver
Year: 2016
Size: Length 6.5 cm



Terhi Tolvanen art collection



Name: Fleurs

Necklace

Material: Heather wood, faceted pearls, cement, paint, silver

Year: 2023

Size: diameter 17 cm



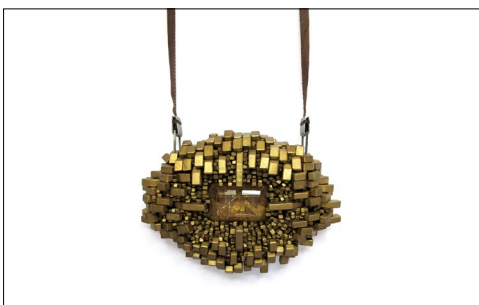
Name: Aqua Minerale

Necklace

Material: Heather wood, paint, aquamarine, silver

Year: 2023

Size: diameter 17 cm



Name: Solar

Pendant

Material: Rutile quartz, cherry wood, paint, textile, silver

Year: 2022

Size: diameter of pendant 9 cm



Name: Blue Weed

Earrings

Material: Hazelnut wood,
aquamarine, paint, silver

Year: 2023

Size: 6 cm x 6,5 cm x 3 cm

GAo ShAn

Snellmaninkatu 15
00170 Helsinki

Mon by appointment
Tue - Fri 12 - 18
Sat 12 - 16

044-5968888
Email: info@gaoshanhelsinki.com
Instagram: [@gaoshanhelsinki](https://www.instagram.com/gaoshanhelsinki)

www.gaoshanhelsinki.com



About gallery GAo ShAn:

GAo ShAn is a Finnish art & design gallery located in Kruunuhaka, the oldest part of downtown Helsinki in Finland. We focus on the great names of Finnish art & design, both past and present. The gallery specialises on Scandinavian contemporary jewelry and interior art & design objects. Finnish contemporary art & design jewelry, from Mid-Century Modern to the current day, are in the heart of what we do and care about.

GAo ShAn

Snellmaninkatu 15
00170 Helsinki

Mon by appointment
Tue - Fri 12 - 18
Sat 12 - 16

044-5968888
Email: info@gaoshanhelsinki.com
Instagram: [@gaoshanhelsinki](https://www.instagram.com/gaoshanhelsinki)

www.gaoshanhelsinki.com

