

SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR A POST-APOCALYPTIC CHILD

LÖNNSTRÖM PROJECT #5 ON SHOW IN RAUMA 22.10.–4.12.2022

Nastja Säde Rönkkö's *Survival Guide for a Post-Apocalyptic Child* will be on view for six weeks at a unique factory environment in Rauma. It is the fifth work in the Lönnström Project series of artworks commissioned by the Lönnström Art Museum. Selected in December 2020 from among 67 applicants, Rönkkö worked on her piece in 2021 and 2022. Funded by the Lönnström Art Museum, the work had a total budget of 100,000 euros.

Survival Guide for a Post-Apocalyptic Child imagines and dreams potential futures. Consisting of 26 individual videos, the work presents various perspectives on life in the middle of some major change: emotional and practical ways to survive catastrophes, upheavals or crises. Viewers are invited to immerse themselves in the themes by projecting them on their own emotions or contemporary global crises. How can we prepare for the unknown? What things would be worth preserving in such a situation? What knowledge and memories would we want to pass on to future generations? What would society be like after such an irreversible turning point?

FORMER FACTORY SETTING STRENGTHENS THE IMPACT

Rönkkö's work is presented in an empty section of the Kaivopuisto industrial area in Rauma. The buildings in the area belonged formerly to the Lönnström Group. The two-storey hall used to serve as staff quarters. Having stood unused for a long time, the space with its old washrooms provides the installation with a unique setting that supports the content of the videos.

All 26 videos are set in unspecified times and places. The lingering imagery reflects Nastja Säde Rönkkö's poetic texts that take their cue from the alphabet. Each video starts with a set of words beginning with a particular letter that lead the viewer into a piece comprised of text, images and sound. The texts range in style from gentle expressions of love to depictions of survival in a post-apocalyptic age, familiar from science fiction films or literature. Filled with longing for past experiences, events and people, the videos also feature concrete survival information, such as advice on nutrition or medicine.



STRONG COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The video installation represents the culmination of a multidisciplinary artistic process that began in summer 2021, when Nastja Säde Rönkkö organised a five-day camp in Rauma for young people aged 13–17. The camp programme consisted of art sessions and assignments through which the participants examined such themes as the future of the planet, emotions raised by threats, coping in crisis situations, and climate hope. The camp included a forest excursion, with a wilderness guide teaching practical survival skills to the participants. They also learned about home emergency supplies and food. The participants' thoughts and feelings during the camp also made their way into the videos.

In autumn 2021, sections of the videos were shot in the Teresia and Rafael Lönnström Home Museum in Rauma and in the factory that serves as the venue for the exhibition. The actors were all young local talents. Footage was also filmed elsewhere in Finland and for a large part in Spain. Nastja Säde Rönkkö worked with many professionals, such as **Aake Kivalo** (cinematography), **Timo Kaukolampi** (music and sound), **Heli Kota** (editing) and Juha **Vehmaanperä** (clothing and styling). Actors include theatre enthusiasts and professionals, with **Elsi Sloan**, **Sall Lam Toro** and **Rosaliina Paavilainen**, among others.

"I am proud that the Lönnström Art Museum can present the largest ever video installation by Nastja Säde Rönkkö in such a special setting. The space elevates the themes of the work onto a new level. The venue is also of historical significance to our foundation as it was formerly part of the founder's business enterprise. It is wonderful that the factory can now serve art and the art public. I have long admired Nastja Säde Rönkkö's skill in conveying hope, love and light in her art. Although the subject of this particular work is the time after a disaster of some kind, it also carries the strong message that certain things endure even in a world shaped by crises." **Silja Lehtonen**, Director of the Lönnström Art Museum

OPEN DAILY WITH FREE ENTRY

The installation is on display from 22 October to 4 December at Kaivopuistontie 33, Rauma. The venue is located in the Kaivopuisto industrial area. Follow the signs to find the entrance to the venue. The exhibition is open daily: from Monday to Friday 15–19, and on Saturdays and Sundays 12–17. Admission is free for all visitors. The videos are in English. The entrance to the venue is not accessible for wheelchairs.

Nastja Säde Rönkkö (b. 1985) is an award-winning visual artist based in Helsinki. She works with a wide range of mediums, including new media, performance, community art, and text. She has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions in Finland and internationally. In 2019 Rönkkö was elected Young Artist of the Year in Finland. In June 2022, she was awarded the Below Zero art prize organised by Beaconsfield Gallery, Serlachius Museums and the Finnish Institute in Britain and Ireland. Rönkkö will use to the prize to create her next moving image installation in 2023.

Lönnström Art Museum sr is a foundation established in accordance with the will of honorary councillor Teresia Lönnström. Since 2015 the foundation has commissioned extensive art projects from artists working in Finland. Lönnström Art Museum finances ambitious art projects and serves as partner for the artists. Lönnström Projects are surprising and unique works of art born of bold artist's plans. The Lönnström Project artist of each year is selected in an annual call for proposals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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