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# LÖNNSTRÖMIN TAIDEMUSEO

**Milja Viita's film *Skönärit* (Seafarers) will be screened at an open premiere in Rauma on 20 September 2024.  
Free tickets are now available for order.**

*Skönärit* is the sixth Lönnström Project of contemporary art. The collage movie, based on films shot by sailors, is written and directed by **Milja Viita**. Lönnström Art Museum will hold an open premiere of the film in Rauma Hall on Friday, 20 September 2024, at 18.30. Free tickets to this one-time screening can now be ordered. You can book your ticket online at [lonnstromintaidemuseo.fi/en/skonarit](https://lonnstromintaidemuseo.fi/en/skonarit) or by email at [info@lonnstromintaidemuseo.fi](mailto:info@lonnstromintaidemuseo.fi).

At the premiere, the work will be projected on 35mm film. The screening will be accompanied by a cello piece composed by instrumentalist **Juho Laitinen**, and the **Rauma Youth Band** will improvise tunes to the mood of the film under the direction of music teacher **Kalle Kataja**. The film has a duration of roughly one hour. A discussion will be held after the screening, exploring the themes of the film and how shipping has influenced the worldview of the inhabitants of the port city of Rauma. The discussion will be moderated by film director and curator **Mika Taanila**.

The Finnish title of the film is *Skönäri*, an old maritime slang word meaning seafarer. The film comprises authentic footage made available by seafarers to Milja Viita, with additional material borrowed from archives of the Rauma Maritime Museum. All footage was shot between the 1960s and the 1990s, and many of the people behind the camera sailed originally from the port of Rauma. Depicting voyages on the seven seas, the film showcases hard work in demanding conditions, but also highlights the unique environment and sense of community offered by the seafaring profession.

In addition to images in the footage, the script is based on letters written by a young **Jalmar "Jallu" Yrjänä**, who set sail from Rauma in the early 1900s, as well as ships' diaries, telegrams, newspaper articles, and interviews with seafarers conducted by the artist. Jallu, the narrator of the film, travels around the globe, including northern and southern Africa, China, Arctic Canada, and South America. He finds his place in the close-knit community of sailors, until the adventure at sea turns unexpectedly into a tragedy. Jallu's story also touches on major issues related to cultural encounters, such as colonialism and globalisation..

Milja Viita (b. 1974) graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from the Department of Time and Space Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in 2005. She won the prestigious Risto Jarva Award at the Tampere Film Festival in 2019 for her film *Animal Bridge U-3033*. Milja Viita has been working on the current Lönnström Project since 2022. The working title of the project previously was *Fata Morgana*.

[www.lonnstromintaidemuseo.fi/en](https://www.lonnstromintaidemuseo.fi/en)

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More information about the screening  
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