

Lahti Viiskulma Art Competition, free for release 13 October 2020 at 6:30 pm

From 1 April to 14 August 2020, the City of Lahti held an open competition for a new artwork in Lahti's Viiskulma Square at the intersection of Päijänteentkatu, Vesijärvenkatu and Kirkkokatu. All of the competition proposals, which include three prizewinners and an honourable mention, will be on display both at an exhibition in Lahden Palvelutori and on the competition website from 13 October to 27 November 2020.

The award ceremony and exhibition opening will be held on 13 October 2020. The judging committee is pleased to announce that *Kylän portti* by Akseli Leinonen has won first prize. Joint second place went to: *Löytöretki* by Matti Vesanen and *Silmu* by Atte Mattila. Tuija Asta Järvenpää's *Natura Pentagon* received an honourable mention.

The competition sought a high-quality artwork that would provide an excellent artistic experience, give Viiskulma Square a clear identity, and also guide people towards Malski and Lahti's new art, poster and design museum. It was also hoped that the piece would take environmental perspectives into consideration. The competition was very demanding in its scope and the judging committee was delighted by the inventive and diverse nature of the proposals.

The judging committee was interested to note how the themes of gates and signposts were repeated in many proposals. As a place, Viiskulma has clearly inspired many artists to approach the square as the gateway to Malski and the museum. The judging committee also noted that many proposals had primarily taken environmental perspectives into account in their choice of materials. Fewer proposals explored ecological questions in terms of their artistic content. This was interpreted as an indication of the challenging nature of the topic.

Many proposals were based on the contents of the new art, poster and design museum. Several proposals explored a basic formal element – the line – or otherwise referred to creative tools such as paint, pencils and colours. The proposals also contained variations on classic design and utilised styles familiar from poster art. All in all, many proposals did an excellent job of taking the square's history and context into consideration and infusing it into their artwork.

After the competition has been judged, the City of Lahti will choose which of the prizewinning proposals will be commissioned for Viiskulma. The work is scheduled for completion in spring 2021.

Further information: Anu Miettinen, Art Coordinator, competition secretary, +358 (0)44 4826490, anu.miettinen@lahti.fi

Lahti Palvelutori, Kauppakeskus Trio, Aleksanterinkatu 18, 15140 LAHTI,
open Mon–Fri, 8 am–6 pm.

