

ARTSCAPE

Contemporary Art Luxembourg

MIIKKA HEINONEN

Finnish born photographer and visual artist,
lives and works in Luxembourg since 1996

After studying at Aberystwyth University Arts Centre and St. David's College at University of Wales, Miikka Heinonen graduated in 1996 in Fine Arts and Art History at the University of Turku, Finland.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

A sense of 'not belonging' has followed me throughout my life and has always been one of the defining inspirations of my work. In the "shadows in the void" series, the sense of alienation is expressed by accentuating a minimalistic, yet dramatic aesthetic: the extreme black, separating the people from the white void, but at the same time swallowing them into undefinable surroundings. Our transient existence and our identity reduced to shapes - passing through time.



WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS:

Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art,
Luxembourg

Museum am Dom, Trier, Germany
Lëtzebuerg City Museum

Ministère des Affaires étrangères,
Luxembourg

Ministère de la Culture, Luxembourg



From 1859, when the photographer Nadar depicted Painting taking Photography by the hand and offering it a place in the fine arts, photography has been taken up by many significant artists, and developed into one of the most varied forms of artistic expression today. Heinonen is one of those visual artists who started as a painter and whose art has become increasingly photographic since 1998, making the most of its wide creative and critical possibilities.

In his new series *Shadows in the Void*, Heinonen uses the newest image-making technologies to create enduring images of our Being-in-the-world, and of our capacity of making sense of things. By focusing on one subject – a man leans against a parapet, a man and a woman hold hands, a man sits below a palm tree – he simplifies the image without stereotyping it, instead creating an openness in which the viewers can bring their own hopes and fears, their emotions and experiences.

Heinonen paints with light; it is the quintessential ingredient of his works. Reducing colour to the stark contrast of white and black while playing with the subtle nuances in between, his carefully framed compositions depict mythical scenes that seem only exist in our imagination. Heinonen conceptualizes the place of the individual in natural and city spaces that are always at least partly familiar to the viewer and imply an ever-strong connection between the local and the global, providing a cultural melting pot for the formation of public and private histories.

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RECENT EXHIBITIONS (selection):

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|------|--|------|--|
| 2016 | Luxembourg Art Week, salon du CAL, Luxembourg | 2011 | CAL Photo, Abbaye Neumunster, Luxembourg |
| 2016 | Art2Cure, Galerie l'Indépendance - Banque Internationale à Luxembourg | 2011 | Angezogen 'n AKT! TUFA Trier, Germany |
| 2015 | Luxembourg Art Week, salon du CAL, Luxembourg | 2010 | Textures In Time - Sixthfloor, Koerich, Luxembourg (with Wouter van der Vlugt) |
| 2015 | Art2Cure, Kulturfabrik, Esch-Alzette | | |
| 2015 | Die Entzauberung Der Welt (with Sali Muller), 21 Artstreet, Kehlen | | |
| 2014 | Shape Dynamics (with Wouter van der Vlugt), 21 Artstreet, Kehlen | | |
| 2014 | Recall 2.0, Kjub, Luxembourg | | |
| 2014 | Constructed Realities, Galerie Bettina von Arnim, Paris | | |
| 2013 | Recall - Kjub, Luxembourg | | |
| 2013 | Salon du CAL, CarréRotondes, Luxembourg | | |
| 2013 | Playlife - Kjub, Luxembourg | | |
| 2013 | Les Lauréats du Prix Grand-Duc Adolphe, Abbaye Neumunster, Luxembourg | | |
| 2012 | euroscript International S.A., Luxembourg | | |
| 2011 | Salon du CAL, Luxembourg | | |
| 2011 | Open Season, BGL BNP-Paribas, Luxembourg (with Thierry Besseling and Wennig&Daubach) | | |
| 2011 | Motional Issues, Fondation de l'Architecture, Luxembourg | | |



DISTINCTIONS:

- 2014 the Finnish Dance Photo of the Year
- 2007 Prix Grand-Duc Adolphe
- 2003 Prix de la Critique, Biennale Internationale des Jeunes Artistes, Esch-Alzette, Luxembourg
- 2002 Prix d'Encouragement du Ministère de la Culture, Concours d'Art Limes