

BULLETIN – FREE OF PUBLICATION 3 FEBRUARY 2022, AT 10 AM

Portraits on display at the Library of Parliament 8 February – 1 April 2022

MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF ART STUDENTS

In autumn 2019, the Finnish Association of Art Schools invited the art schools for children and young people throughout Finland to join an exhibition challenge: the idea was to implement portraits of all 200 of Finland's MPs. The challenge was joined by 26 art schools, and the exhibition was implemented in cooperation with the Library of Parliament, originally intended for spring 2020. The exhibition has been postponed several times due to the ongoing pandemic, but now it will finally be realised.

For each participating art school, 7–8 MPs were selected at random. The children and young people created the portraits based on the official photos published by the Parliament. Some schools also invited the MPs to visit them personally as models. During their visits, MPs also learned about the activities of art schools and talked to the students about the Parliament and their duties.

The exhibition project supports the inclusion and influencing opportunities of children and young people while highlighting their creative expression. Art is a way to build interaction and to be seen and heard, which is why it is essential that children and young people get to participate and influence things. Art education is a key to children's and young people's wellbeing: studies show that art activities do increase wellbeing and inclusion. Art education also supports children's and young people's growth, self-knowledge, identity formation, cultural competencies and readiness for creative expression and action. The Finnish Association of Art Schools views that art education will also play a role in the future in strengthening sustainability, civic activities and democracy throughout Finnish society. Young people will carry the effects of their early relationship with art extensively to various areas of society in their future careers.

The exhibition will include one portrait of each MP. The creators of the portraits are aged 3–20. The art schools themselves have selected the works to be sent to the exhibition. Since there was a wide range of works created, an extensive online gallery has also been compiled to display them:

www.kansanedustajatkuvataidekouluistaistensilmin.com

The portraits will be on display at the Library of Parliament from 8 February to 1 April 2022. Free admission. The library is open on weekdays 9.00–18.00, according to the COVID-19 restrictions. Visitors of the library need to undergo a security check at the entrance. Address: Aurorankatu 6, Helsinki.

You are invited to the exhibition!

Finnish Association of Art Schools and the Library of Parliament

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ART SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE EXHIBITION:

Arkkitehtuuri- ja ympäristökulttuurikoulu Lastu, Lapinlahti; Espoon kuvataidekoulu; Forssan lasten ja nuorten kuvataidekoulu; Heinolan kuvataidekoulu; Helsingin taiteilijaseuran kuvataidekoulu; Karkkilan kuvataidekoulu; Kauniaisten kuvataidekoulu; Keravan kuvataidekoulu; KONSTa Turun Seudun Kuvataidekoulu; Koskelan kuvataidekoulu, Äänekoski; Kuvataide- ja käsityökoulu Emil, Valkeakoski; Lappeenrannan kuvataidekoulu; Lapuan taidekoulu; Linnalan kuvataidekoulu, Savonlinna; Lohjanseudun kuvataidekoulu; Nurmijärven kuvataidekoulu; Pirkan opisto; Pohjois-Helsingin kuvataidekoulu; Porvoon taidekoulu; Riihimäen taidekoulu; Sara Hildén -akatemia, Tampere; TaiKon, Vaasa; Tuusulan kuvataidekoulu; Vantaan kuvataidekoulu; Vihdin kuvataidekoulu; Visuaalisten taiteiden koulu Aimo, Hämeenlinna

Finnish Association of Art Schools | Kuvataidekoulujen liitto ry | Förbundet för konstskolor i Finland rf.

The Finnish Association of Art Schools represents basic education in the visual arts and the art education provided by the schools. It is a national umbrella organisation founded in 1982. The Association has 63 member communities that provide basic education in the arts based on the national curriculum, focusing on visual arts, crafts, architecture and media arts. They also offer leisure activities to children, young people and adults. In 2019–2020 the member schools had **17,707** students attending basic education in the arts. The art education activities of the member schools reached **52,786** students, and all of the operations were attended **820,688** times in total.