

PRESS RELEASE

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Finnish music, architecture and poetry meet in Susan Philipsz' IHME Project

IHME Project 2010 *When Day Closes* at the Helsinki Central Railway Station
during 12 March - 11 April 2010

The IHME Project 2010 is the new sound installation designed by artist Susan Philipsz for the Helsinki Central Railway Station. In the work the artist performs unaccompanied 'The Song of My Heart' (*Sydämeni laulu*) composed by Jean Sibelius to a poem by Aleksis Kivi. The IHME Project is exhibited in the Central Hall of the Railway Station during 12 March-11 April 2010 and it can be heard from 3 pm to 11 pm every day.

Scottish artist Susan Philipsz (born 1965), who lives in Berlin, is a sculptor by education. She is interested in the spatial and sculpture-like qualities of sound. The psychological effects of song, and how songs can awake direct emotions and memories, are also among the main premises of her artistic work.

Philipsz is interested in the themes of loss and longing in the Finnish 19th century Tuonela lullabies. The song accompanies people from one place and state of mind to another as they pass through the railway station.

"I have chosen *Song of My Heart (Sydämeni laulu)* by Aleksis Kivi, the author of the first novel in the Finnish language, set to music by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. I appropriate this familiar Finnish tune by situating it in the very public context of the South Hall of Helsinki's Central Railway Station, designed by Eliel Saarinen. My rendition of *Song of My Heart* utilises the high vaulted ellipsoid ceiling of the Main Hall of Helsinki's Central Railway Station. By projecting sound upwards, into the domed ceiling the sound travels around the curve, falling on the other side, creating a 'whispering gallery' effect. In this project I want to contrast the intimacy of the lullaby with the bustle and movement of the most traversed public building in Finland, where over 200,000 people pass through every day.", tells Susan Philipsz.

“The artistic team of Pro Arte Foundation Finland chose Susan Philipsz to carry out this year’s IHME Project because Philipsz’ works bring together values that are important in the Foundation’s operations: collective experience and an interest in public space. The elements of her art and the IHME Project in particular are architecture, song and the social activities at the station that all become part of the artwork.”, says Paula Toppila, Project Manager at Pro Arte Foundation Finland.

IHME is an annual festival of contemporary art organized by Pro Arte Foundation Finland. It is made up of the IHME Project, the IHME Days and the IHME Editions. The IHME Project is a work commissioned from an international artist for a public space.

Further Information and interview inquiries

Paula Toppila, Project Manager, Pro Arte Foundation Finland, tel. +358-45-1240096,
paula.toppila@proartefoundation.fi

Kaija Suni, Press and Marketing, Pro Arte Foundation Finland, tel. +358-45-632 6267,
kaija.suni@proartefoundation.fi

Press material

Press material is available at www.ihme2010.fi >Mediapalvelut

Press photos: www.ihme2010.fi > Mediapalvelut

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TAIDESÄÄTIÖ
PRO ARTE
FOUNDATION
FINLAND

Pro Arte Foundation Finland
Kalevankatu 4, 2nd floor
00100 Helsinki, Finland

t: +358-(0)9-42899778
f: +358-(0)9-2783388
e: info@proartefoundation.fi

www.proartefoundation.fi