

Art in Contexts. National Digitization and Content Production Project
Town and Again - Images of Urban Finland
www.townandagain.fi

Digital Semantic Content across Cultures, Louvre, Paris 4-5 May, 2006 Elina Heikka, Central Art Archives / Finnish National Gallery elina.heikka@fng.fi



Town and Again – Images of Urban Finland (2002-2005)

- 1. National digitisation and content production - partners and organisation
- 2. Past and present of urbanisation as seen through visual art
- 3. Art in contexts
- 4. Structure of the web site
- 5. Tools 1: Wandora media management and publishing environment - data model based on topic maps
- Tools 2: Iconclass 6.



- 1. National digitisation and content production
- Greatest web project carried out by the Finnish art museum field
- Project headed by Finnish National Gallery:
 Art Museum Development Department KEHYS together with the Central Art Archives
- Project in collaboration between Finnish National Gallery and
 - * Art museums in Oulu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio and Turku, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum (works of art, texts, museum pedagogical projects)
 - * Finnish Museum of Photography, National Board of Antiquities, Finnish Museum of Architecture (photographs)
- Research collaboration
 - * Finnish Semantic Web Ontology Project, FINNonto (Iconclass)
- Educational collaboration
 - * Museums and Design for All lectures, University of Art and Design Helsinki / Media Lab
 - * Text and Museum writer programme for students of Art History (2003–2004), University of Helsinki



2. Past and present of urbanisation as seen through visual art

Rich historical and associative contexts realised with semantic web technology based on Topic Maps: works of art presented with texts, photographs, sounds, maps and other artworks.

Town and Again web site discusses relationship between art and urbanisation in Finland. Processes of urbanisation discussed with history of art;

Town and Again uses works of art as illustration of history (city views, historical events, persons)

Town and Again uses works of art as representations of experiences, ideas, spirit of an age



work of art

3. Art in context

- Contextualisation with mixture of high and low, mixture of personal and popular with facts

Basic information: artist, year,

size, etc. (text)

Art history: artist, period etc. (texts)

Urban soundscape (interface)

Stories about urban life, personal experience (texts)

City plans

Student's photographs on contemporary city

Literature quations

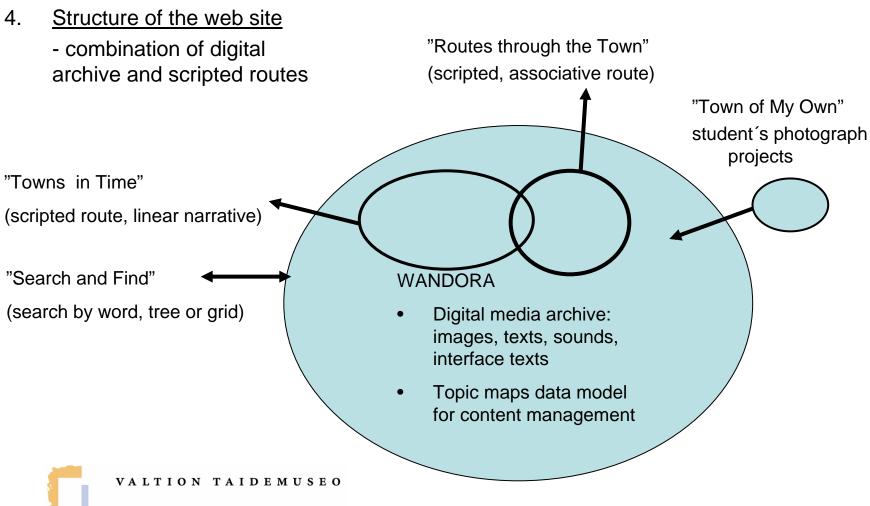
Social and political history (texts)

Keywords, Iconclass classification

Documentary photographs

Contextualisation with other works of art



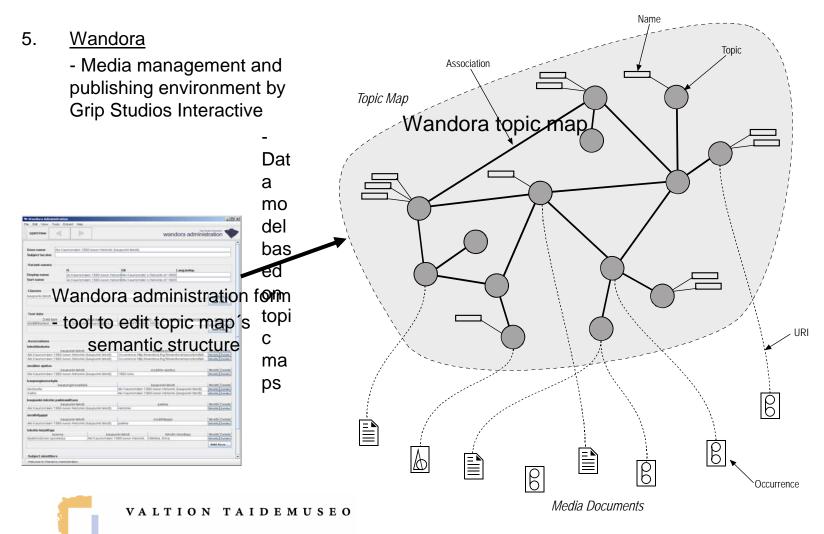


Elina Heikka, Central Art Archives / Finnish National Gallery Louvre, Paris 4-5 May, 2006

4. Structure of the web site

Mixture of order and randomness, control and chaos, like urban experience





6. <u>Iconclass</u>

www.iconclass.nl

- "subject specific international classification system for iconographic research and the documentation of images"
- controlled vocabulary, hierachical structure
- entry consists of a notation and its textual correlate
- 28 000 entries, partly translated in Finnish by Finnish National Gallery
- ontologisation by

10 main divisions:

- 0 Abstract, Non-representational Art
- 1 Religion and Magic
- 2 Nature
- 3 Human being, Man in general
- 4 Society, Civilization, Culture
- 5 Abstract Ideas and Concepts
- 6 History
- 7 Bible
- 8 Literature
- 9 Classical Mythology and Ancient History

Hierarchical structure

7 Bible

- 71 Old Testament
- 71 History of David
- 71H7 David and Bathsheba
- 71H71 David, from the roof (or balcony) of his palace, sees Bathsheba bathing
- 71H713Bathsheba receives a letter from David



- 6. <u>Iconclass and Town and Again</u>
- IC applied to all material. Limited number of notations copied in Wandora (about 1000).
- IC notation and its textual correlate in English > basename in Wandora's topic map (not shown to Web users)
 IC textual correlate translated in everyday Finnish > display name in Wandora (to be shown in Web)
- With topic map technology IC hierarchy easy to revise according to the needs of the project:
 IC hierarchy > "city ontology"
- Art historically valid, controlled, international vocabulary: later use of IC classifications in research databases or other projects

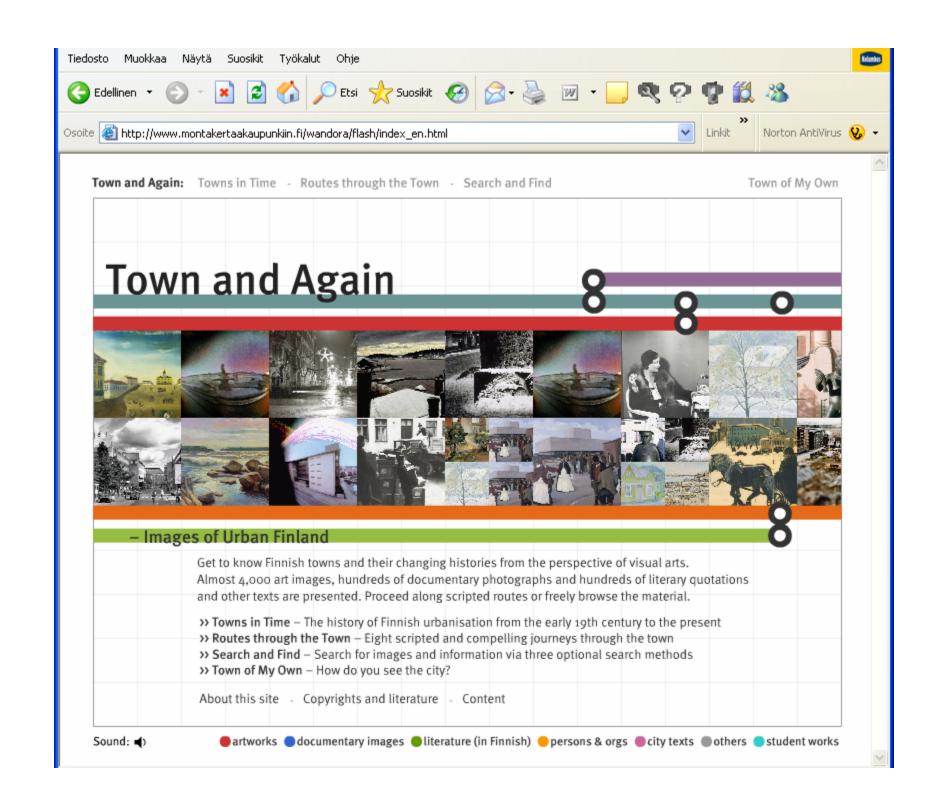
Example:

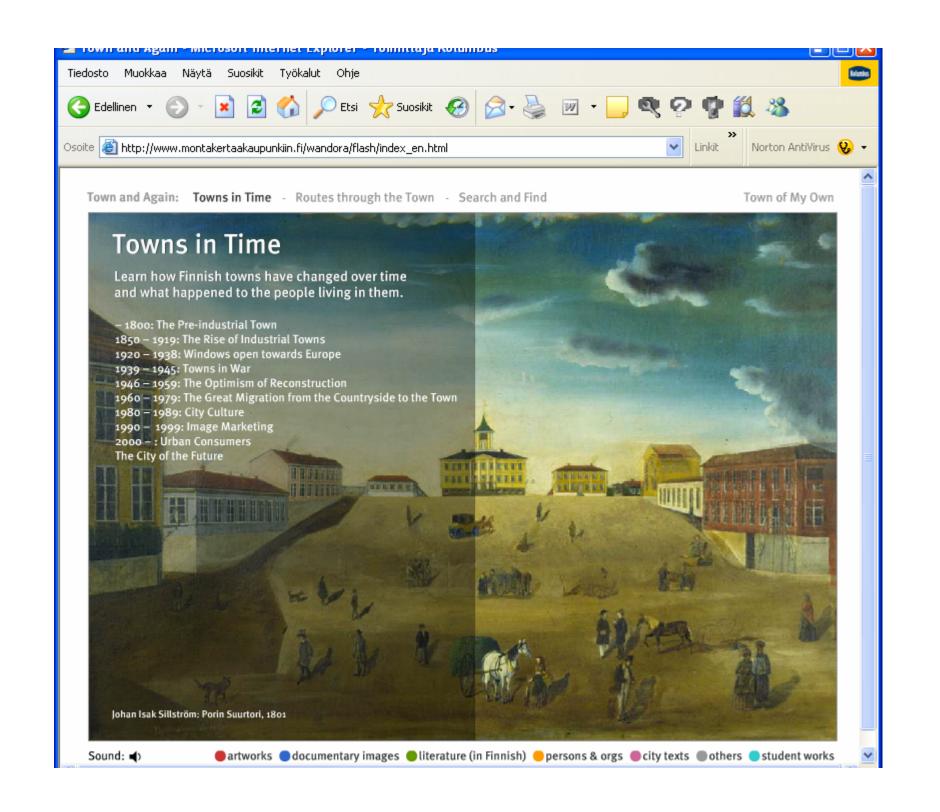
Iconclass:

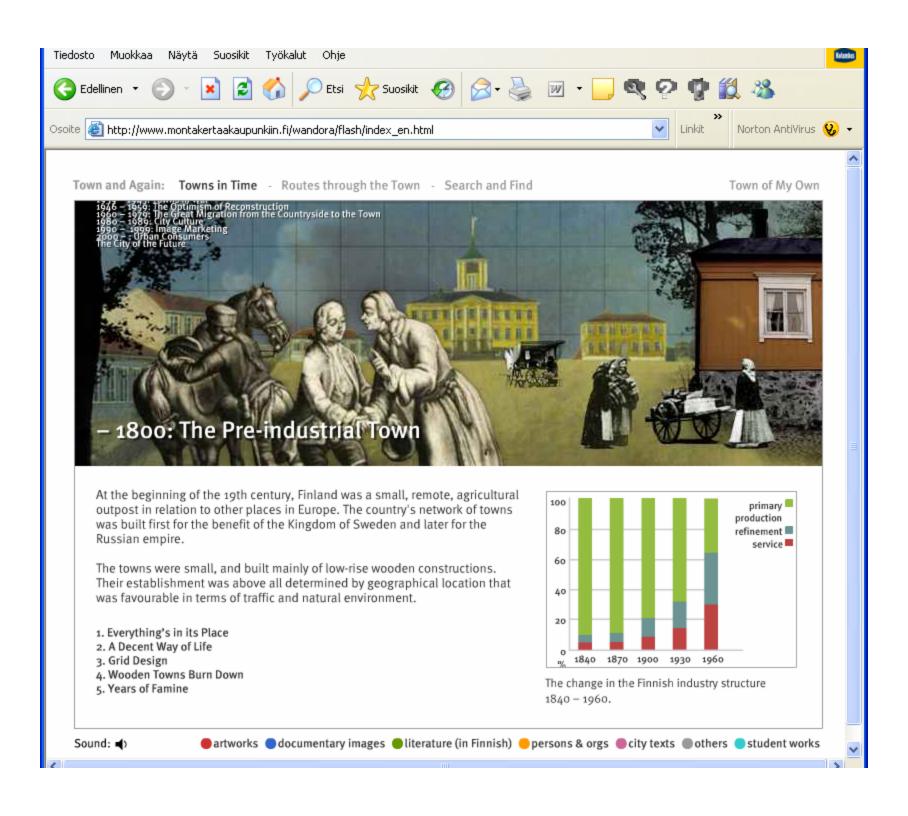
"25I5 landscape with tower or castle" Town and again display name: "landscape with tower"

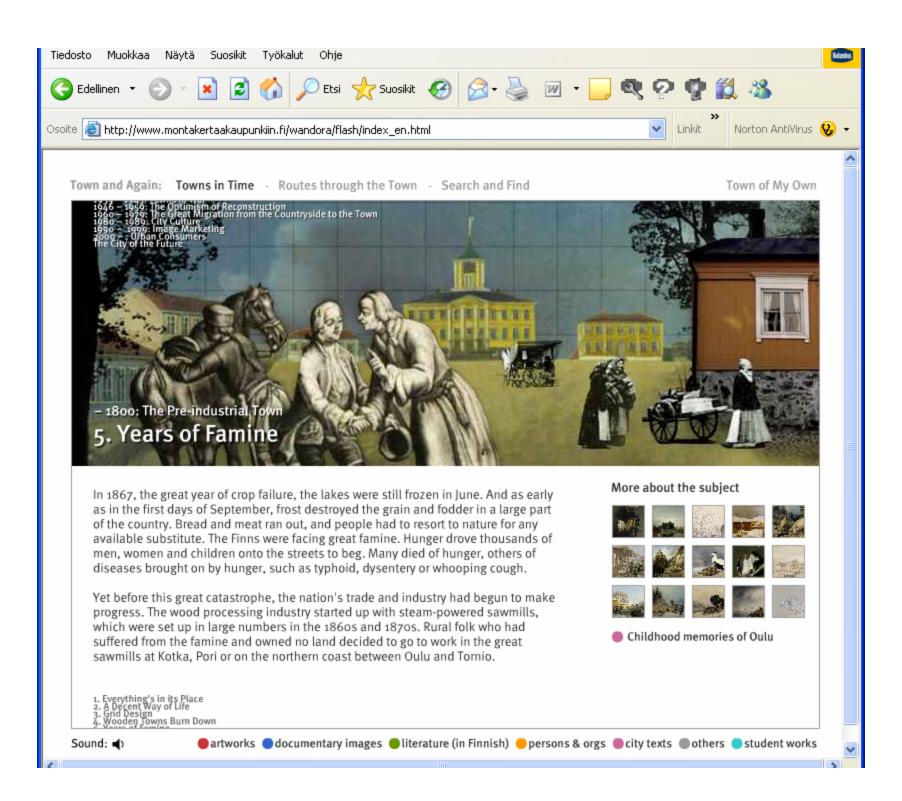
In Finland we have only a few castles. In art towers are almost exclusively church towers. To avoid incorrect search results with word "castle" it was better to revise translation.

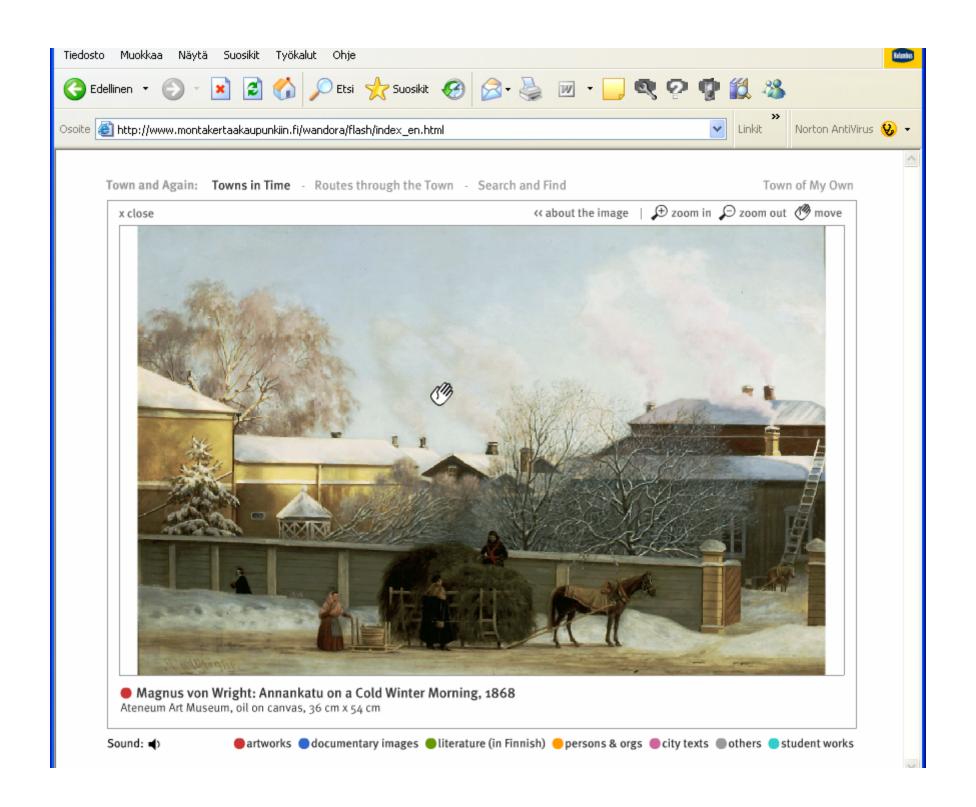


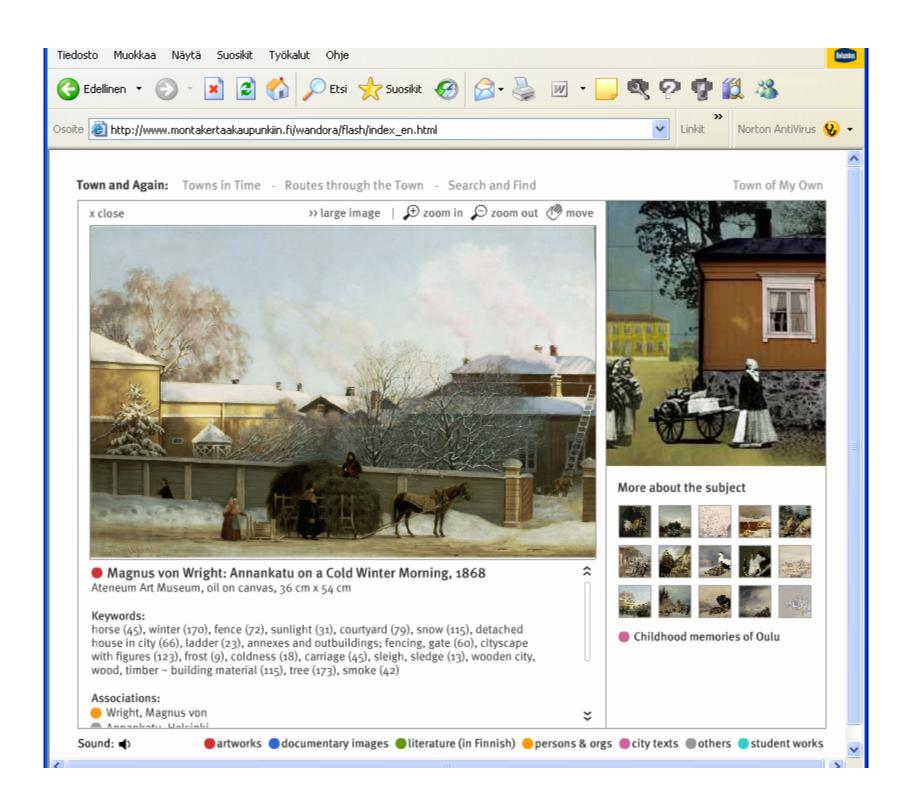


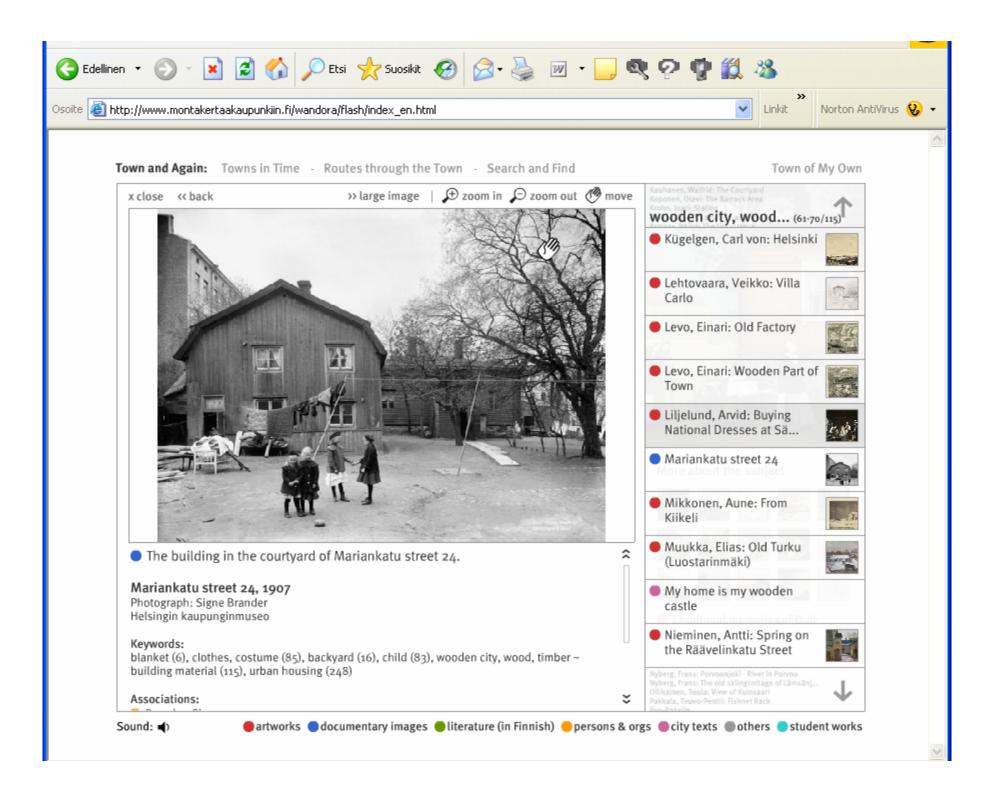














Town and Again: Towns in Time - Routes through the Town - Search and Find

Osoite | image://www.montakertaakaupunkiin.fi/wandora/flash/index_en.html

Town of My Own

Norton AntiVirus 😯

Linkit



Through consumption, an aestheticisation of everyday things came to be part of the urban way. A yuppie culture that worshipped a successful and energetic lifestyle was complemented by various other ways of life and alternative activities. The 8os was the decade of pluralism.

- 1. Helsinki Finds a Soul
- 2. From Rural to Urban
- 3. A New Urban Middle Class
- 4. The Rise of Egocentricity
- 5. Street Sociability
- 6. Urban Nightlife



Events of the 1980s.

Sound: (in Finnish) persons & orgs city texts others student works

























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Town of My Own



In the 1980s, the number of restaurants grew enormously. The 'city that never sleeps' was more interesting, more diverse and safer than one that was dark and deserted in the evenings. Towns started to be used around the clock. 24-hour cafés were opened, discos and nightclubs proliferated. The town only dozed off during the very last small hours.

A change in the alcohol culture had begun with the deregulation of lower-strength beer in 1968. But not until the 80s did the office-like restaurant culture disintegrate, a culture inherited from the previous generation, in which drinks were enjoyed with a tie around the neck and the obligatory herring sandwich. Although you were already allowed to take your own glass from one table to another, drinking was done behind curtains. From the street, you were not allowed to see into a bar.

More about the subject



























- 45 Special
- Freeport Sampo
- Heavy memories of Kuusrock

Sound: 4

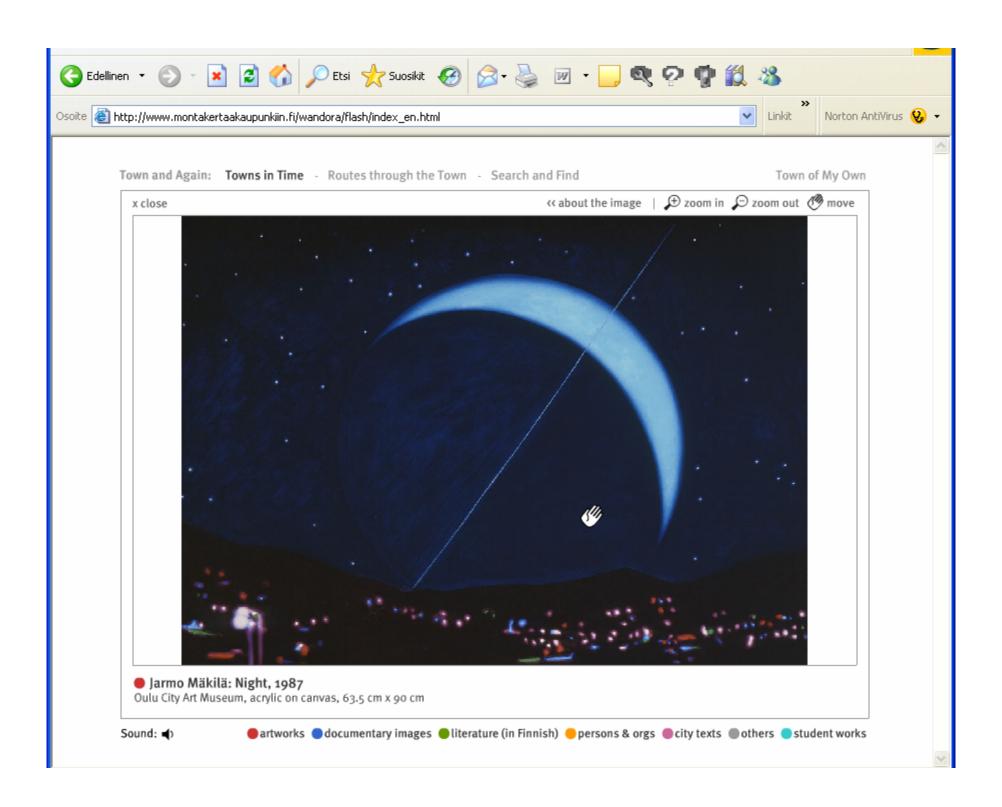
artworks documentary images literature (in Finnish) persons & orgs city texts others student works

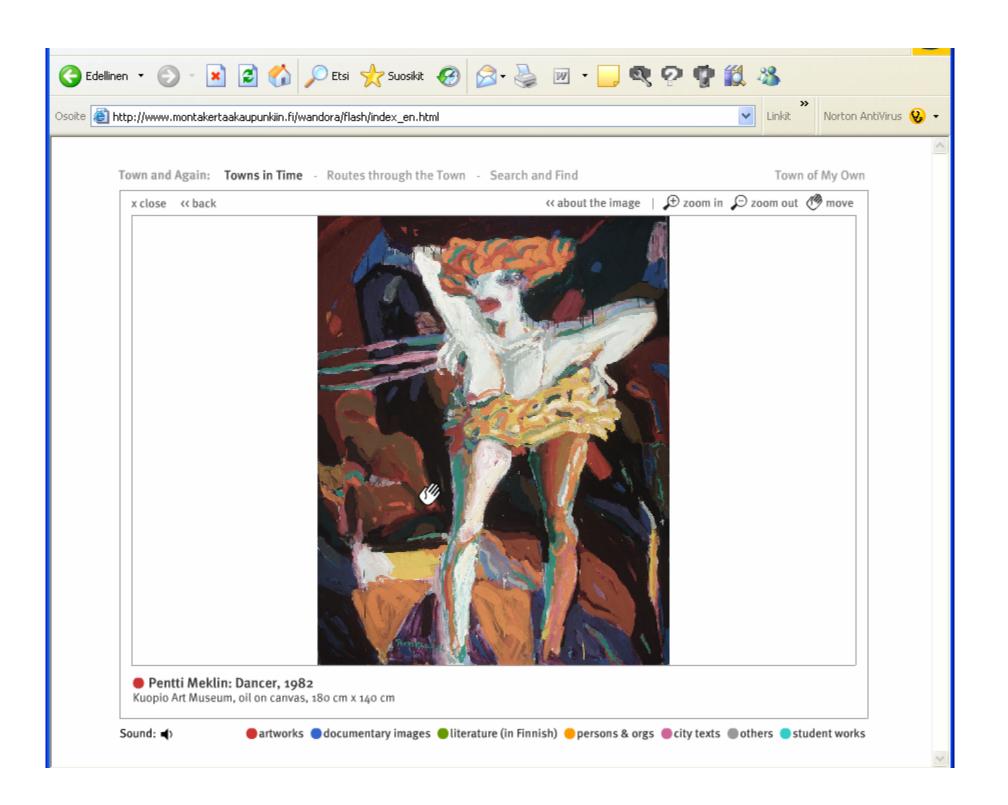














Town and Again: Towns in Time - Routes through the Town - Search and Find

Town of My Own

x close

45 Special

"Way to go, 45's queue!" This tag still repeated by my friends sums up our memories of a club in the centre of Oulu. 45 Special or the "Forty-fiver" as it was commonly known, gathers together people from all walks of life in and around Oulu. Each of the club's three floors has a different character, but they are linked together by the slightly austere jail-like interiors.

My own experiences of the Forty-fiver date from 1996 when I turned 19, which opened the doors of the club for me. At first, being let in by the famously strict bouncer was really exciting. Soon, 45 became a place to which we directed our footsteps on many a weekend, to meet different people and, most of all, to dance. Queuing was part of the game, developed into an art, especially on the freezing winter nights. Faithful patrons were encouraged to stay in the queue by serving hot drinks. We kept each other warm, chatting and gradually heightening the atmosphere. And nothing felt as wonderful as to finally get in to the warm, raucous atmosphere of the club, having stood in the cold for ages.

Since then, most of my Oulu crowd have moved elsewhere. But we still talk about 45. We are convinced that there is no other place in Finland that would have brought together such a varied group of people, regardless of tastes in music. My friends and I, who have moved to all corners of the world, meet at least once a year, and where else if not at the 45 Special's Boxing Day romp!

PM

Keywords:

youth (36), coldness (18), club, meeting place (17), winter (170), coffee house, public house, inn (50), meeting (24), queue (6), restaurant (56), dancing (12), night (69), friend (a) momorios (so)

More about the subject 45 Special Freeport Sampo Heavy memories of Kuusrock ×









