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
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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

6. Tools 2: Iconclass

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

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
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)

Documentary photographs

City plans

Student’s photographs on contemporary city

Literature quations

Social and political history (texts)

Keywords, Iconclass classification

Contextualisation with other works of art
4. Structure of the web site
- combination of digital archive and scripted routes

"Towns in Time"
(scripted route, linear narrative)

"Search and Find"
(search by word, tree or grid)

"Routes through the Town"
(scripted, associative route)

"Town of My Own"
student’s photograph projects

WANDORA
- Digital media archive: images, texts, sounds, interface texts
- Topic maps data model for content management

www.townandagain.fi

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
5. Wandora
- Media management and publishing environment by Grip Studios Interactive
- Data model based on topic maps
- Wandora administration form - tool to edit topic maps's semantic structure
- Wandora topic map
- Topic Map
- Topic
- Association
- Name
- URI
- Occurrence
- Media Documents
6. Iconclass
   [www.iconclass.nl](http://www.iconclass.nl)

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

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   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. Iconclass and Town and Again

- 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

– Images of Urban Finland

Get to know Finnish towns and their changing histories from the perspective of visual arts. Almost 4,000 art images, hundreds of documentary photographs and hundreds of literary quotations and other texts are presented. Proceed along scripted routes or freely browse the material.

- Towns in Time – The history of Finnish urbanisation from the early 19th century to the present
- Routes through the Town – Eight scripted and compelling journeys through the town
- Search and Find – Search for images and information via three optional search methods
- Town of My Own – How do you see the city?

About this site - Copyrights and literature - Content

Sound: play

- 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

**Towns in Time**

Learn how Finnish towns have changed over time and what happened to the people living in them.

- 1800: The Pre-industrial Town
- 1850 – 1919: The Rise of Industrial Towns
- 1920 – 1938: Windows open towards Europe
- 1939 – 1945: Towns in War
- 1946 – 1959: The Optimism of Reconstruction
- 1960 – 1979: The Great Migration from the Countryside to the Town
- 1980 – 1989: City Culture
- 2000 – : Urban Consumers
- The City of the Future

Johan Isak Sillström: Porin Suurtori, 1801
At the beginning of the 19th century, Finland was a small, remote, agricultural outpost in relation to other places in Europe. The country’s network of towns was built first for the benefit of the Kingdom of Sweden and later for the Russian empire.

The towns were small, and built mainly of low-rise wooden constructions. Their establishment was above all determined by geographical location that was favourable in terms of traffic and natural environment.

1. Everything’s in its Place
2. A Decent Way of Life
3. Grid Design
4. Wooden Towns Burn Down
5. Years of Famine

The change in the Finnish industry structure 1840 – 1960.
In 1867, the great year of crop failure, the lakes were still frozen in June. And as early as in the first days of September, frost destroyed the grain and fodder in a large part of the country. Bread and meat ran out, and people had to resort to nature for any available substitute. The Finns were facing great famine. Hunger drove thousands of men, women and children onto the streets to beg. Many died of hunger, others of diseases brought on by hunger, such as typhoid, dysentery or whooping cough.

Yet before this great catastrophe, the nation’s trade and industry had begun to make progress. The wood processing industry started up with steam-powered sawmills, which were set up in large numbers in the 1860s and 1870s. Rural folk who had suffered from the famine and owned no land decided to go to work in the great sawmills at Kotka, Pori or on the northern coast between Oulu and Turku.
Town and Again: Towns in Time - Routes through the Town - Search and Find

Magnus von Wright: Annankatu on a Cold Winter Morning, 1868
Ateneum Art Museum, oil on canvas, 36 cm x 54 cm

Sound: ❯ ● 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**

**wooden city, wood... (61-70/115)**
- Kügelgen, Carl von: Helsinki
- Lehtovaara, Veikko: Villa Carlo
- Levo, Einar: Old Factory
- Levo, Einar: Wooden Part of Town
- Liljelund, Arvid: Buying National Dresses at Sä...
- Mariankatu street 24
- Mikkonen, Aune: From Kiikeli
- Muukka, Elias: Old Turku (Luostarinmäki)
- My home is my wooden castle
- Nieminen, Antti: Spring on the Räävelinkatu Street

**The building in the courtyard of Mariankatu street 24.**

**Mariankatu street 24, 1907**
Photograph: Signe Brande
Helsingin kaupunginhallitus

**Keywords:**
blanket (5), clothes, costume (85), backyard (16), child (83), wooden city, wood, timber ~ building material (115), urban housing (248)

**Associations:**
- Bauhaus

Sound: ▶️ artworks  ◀️ documentary images  ◀️ literature (in Finnish)  ◀️ persons & orgs  ◀️ city texts  ◀️ others  ◀️ student works
1980 – 1989: City Culture

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 80s 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

1982
Helsinki Metro opens.

1983
Pentti Saarikoski, author, dies on 24 August.

1984
The rock band Dingo makes its breakthrough
Natti Nykänen wins Olympic gold and silver in ski jumping

1986
Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme is assassinated on 28 February

1987
The smallest number of children for a long time is born in Finland

Events of the 1980s.
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 Kausrock

Sound: 🎧
- artworks
- documentary images
- literature (in Finnish)
- persons & orgs
- city texts
- others
- student works
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Jarmo Mäkilä: *Night, 1987*
Oulu City Art Museum, acrylic on canvas, 63.5 cm x 90 cm

Sound: 🎧 artworks 🎨 documentary images 📚 literature (in Finnish) ⚽️ persons & orgs 🌟 city texts 🌠 others 🔍 student works
Pentti Meklin: Dancer, 1982
Kuopio Art Museum, oil on canvas, 180 cm x 140 cm
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-five" 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-five 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 (42), memory (50)
Future: What kind of town would you like?

The town is yours - make it your own

Pasi Kelhonen: Aleksanterinkatu, 2001
Town of My Own
– How do you see the city?

World Wide Web Exhibition for Schools

On these pages you will find instructions for teachers and pupils on participating in the Web exhibition. The instructions and texts relating to student work are only in Finnish. Searches can also be performed in English.

Browse student works
» New student works
» Search student works by words
» Search tree for student works
Routes through the Town
Select your route through the town.
Route: 2
At home in the city

Salvation
Being home-sick
Make yourself at home!
Feeling at home
Marx
Leaving
Beginning
Route 2:
At home in the city

Home starts with very little. Opening a case, a mattress on the floor, an alarm clock within reach.
Town and Again:  Towns in Time  Routes through the Town  Search and Find  Town of My Own

Route 2:
At home in the city

Edelfelt, Albert:
Baroque armchair, without dating

Beginning

Home starts with very little. Opening a case, a mattress on the floor, an alarm clock within reach.
Kurunsaari, Heli: The Most Beautiful Boy in the City, 1998

Home starts with very little. Opening a case, a mattress on the floor, an alarm clock within reach.
Elina Heikka, Central Art Archives / Finnish National Gallery

Louvre, Paris 4-5 May, 2006

Route 2:
At home in the city

Brothers, Elina:
Revenue (from the series Suites françaises), 1999

Leaving

Sound: 

artworks • documentary images • literature (in Finnish) • persons & orgs • city texts • others • student works
A virus passed from mouth to mouth

It's always a surprise. A colleague mentions it at the coffee machine, there it is in your e-mail box or you hear it in passing on the bus. It preys on your mind and you want to tell somebody else. A city legend, an urban tale is spreading like the plague. A virus passed from mouth to mouth.
Select search:

You can search for images and information by three different search methods. You are about to access a collection of 4,000 art images, some 500 documentary photographs, 500 literary quotations and fact files. Each image and text will suggest further links. Go on, have an adventure!
Search by word

Search by artist name, artwork, time or location. Write whichever search term you prefer and see the results.

girl

Search for

- artworks
- documentary photographs
- literature (in Finnish)
- persons
- city texts
- artists
- companies and organizations
- architects
- writers
- photographers
- student works
- students
- schools

Search

Eskola, Katarina: "Maanantaina olimme"
Fanny
Gallen-Kallela, Akseli: First lesson
Hanhijoki, Marjatta: Flower
Harsti, Reino
Harsti, Reino: Flower Girl
Harsti, Reino: Winter in the Backyard
Heikinaho, Minna: Mediocre
Helenius, Ester
Helenius, Ester: Head of a Girl
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<td>student works</td>
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Narrow down your search by increasingly specific themes. Search trees are based on the index terms of the material.
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<td>1950s</td>
<td>1954 - 1955</td>
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Narrow down your search by increasingly specific themes. Search trees are based on the index terms of the material.

- **15th century**
  - 1960s
  - 1955
  - Gröndahl, Tauno: Laulurinne

- 1970s
  - 1956
  - Haavisto, Kyllikki

- 1980s
  - 1957
  - Hannula, Simo: Light and Shadow

- 1990s
  - 1958
  - Hassinen, Pirjo

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Sound: 🎧
- artworks
- documentary images
- literature (in Finnish)
- persons & orgs
- city texts
- others
- student works
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<td>Kuopio</td>
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<td>Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
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<td>Töölö football field</td>
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Sound: 🔊 artworks documentary images literature (in Finnish) persons & orgs city texts others student works
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<td>← Combine one alternative on the left column with one on the top to see art, people and urban life of different times and places.</td>
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<td>1990s</td>
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Sound: ![Sound](#) artworks documentary images literature (in Finnish) persons & orgs city texts others student works
Cris af Enehielm: Blinda Morton goes pregnant, 1987
Oulu City Art Museum, 205 cm x 124 cm x 25 cm
Marjatta Hanhijoki: Flower, 1980
Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, watercolour on paper, 70 cm x 100 cm
**Town and Again**

Get to know Finnish towns and their changing histories from the perspective of visual arts. Almost 4,000 art images, hundreds of documentary photographs and hundreds of literary quotations and other texts are presented. Proceed along scripted routes or freely browse the material.

- **Towns in Time** – The history of Finnish urbanisation from the early 19th century to the present
- **Routes through the Town** – Eight scripted and compelling journeys through the town
- **Search and Find** – Search for images and information via three optional search methods
- **Town of My Own** – How do you see the city?

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