

Press Release



in collaboration with
MyMicroGallery

174 Royal College Street
Camden London NW1 0SP

www.camden-image-gallery.co.uk

Gallery hours: Monday to Sunday 11pm – 6pm

RIITTA NELIMARKKA

HASSUNA

Curated by Stefania Carrozzini



October 21 – October 31, 2021

Opening: October 21st, 2021

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Camden Image Gallery is pleased to announce "Hassuna", a solo exhibition by the Finnish artist Riitta Nelimarkka curated by Stefania Carrozzini and in collaboration with MyMicroGallery Milan. Inspiring Riitta Nelimarkka is HASSUNA, a small town in ancient Mesopotamia around 6,000 years before Christ. The word HASSU in the Finnish language means *funny*, in an extension of highly positive value. The characters in this exhibition were conceived by the artist as inhabitants of the city of Hassuna, which here takes on the significance of a utopian place, where everyone is free to be what they are without any judgment. A place where creativity reigns supreme and art summarizes all the qualities of a disenchanted soul, inclined to beauty and respect.

The entities (characters) of the HASSUNA exhibition obey this ontological reference, and purely wish to BE what they are, and nothing else. Although the works already have titles, they are open to further interpretation and to receive alternative titles produced by the imagination of their viewers. Riitta's world is a colorful world populated by strange creatures, which seem to come out of an enchanted place and narrate the joy of being in its pure state. Everything starts from the drawing, from a stroke reminiscent of childhood drawings, from an energy without mental superstructures.

The Hassuna exhibition presented in Milan in September 2021 arrives in London enriched with new works. The two floors of the gallery host HASSUNA the utopian city of happiness where creativity reigns supreme. It is populated by characters who interpret a vision of life in which the fun and joy are not intended as options but as founding elements of being, like our true nature. Thus, apparently childish creatures come to life speaking to us of our deepest self.

With a few strokes, Riitta defines stories, relationships and emotions that the ironic titles of the works underline well. Multifaceted artist Riitta expresses herself using different media among colorful carpets, photos, video serigraphs and oils on canvas, at the base there is the drawing with which the artist captures the essence of her emotional world and with which she captures her vital spirit.

Her artwork transmits both the immediacy of the artist's markings and the imaginary spaces of their content; the works remain simple in their beauty but full of associative meaning, her language is made of direct straightforward and factual gestures that open a wide imaginative territory. Her narration has something to do with animation and some desire to construct images as necessary fictions for our emotional life.

Riitta's works open a window on a diverse cultural and emotional universe with which the artist illuminates, with passion and profound sensitivity, a complex and constantly changing world. Riitta Nelimarkka's compositions reflect and communicate hope, renewal and regeneration.

The colors acquire a meaning and participate in the graphic rendering of the material, reinforcing its visual impact. Nelimarkka goes beyond the tradition of the craftsmanship of wool, the wool material becomes paint, color material, pictorial relief reaching a complete expressive autonomy. Her art emerges from real life, reflecting joys and sorrows, conflicts and shocks. She uses parallels drawn from literature, film and music, but it is always her personal experience of her that ultimately wins the whole process.

The exhibition consists of wool reliefs, paintings and photomontages and the video *Elise's unmemories*, a documentary film about the artist Riitta Nelimarkka. The "Hassuna" exhibition was hosted in Milan in September 2021.

Riitta Nelimarkka is a distinctive and versatile artist whose repertoire includes graphic art, animated films, paintings, art and poetry books, textile art and vast exhibition entities.

Her versatility makes her one of the most exciting Finnish visual artists. Her timeless art of hers is characterized by a daring use of color and form, by a virtuous skill in drawing which is the basis of her enormous textile images with surprising and semi-figurative characters.

Riitta Nelimarkka has a doctorate in literature (DA at UIAH, Helsinki) and studied painting in Paris, photography, film and art education at Konstfacken, Stockholm Academy of Art and piano at Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

In recent years, her production has focused on complete collections of drawings, photographs, velvet paintings and wool reliefs. She has also been commissioned to many works, including the large woolen carpets "Con Calore" for the official residence of the President of Finland.

Her works, illustrations and animated films have been presented in various international festivals and biennials. In 2016 she was awarded by the Order of France with the distinction of Officer des Arts et Lettres. Her last greatest works are the 13-meter-long glass painting "Without too much thinking" at the 2016 Hietaniemi pavilion, and the same year the display for Debussy's 5 Preludes for the Radio Symphony Orchestra. An exciting Gesamtkunstwerk with her husband Jaakko Seeck, is Bonga Castle, an old patrician house decorated with over 200 works by Nelimarkka.

Riitta Nelimarkka lives and works in Helsinki.

www.nelimarkka.com, www.bonga.fi

RIITTA NELIMARKKA BONGA ART 3D YouTube: <https://youtu.be/r9WZucl8qsY>

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