

INVITATION TO PRESS PREVIEW

## Invitation to THE NEW BEAUTY press preview – 13:00, Tuesday, May 11

THE NEW BEAUTY opens at Hämeenlinna Art Museum on Thursday, May 13. The exhibition shows modernist highlights from the collection of the Norwegian **Nicolai Tangen**. **You are welcome to attend the press preview starting at 13:00 on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.** The event will be held in Hämeenlinna Art Museum's Lohrmann building (Viipurintie 2, Hämeenlinna) and is subject to current restrictions. You can also participate remotely (Hämeenlinna Art Museum's YouTube Channel): <https://youtu.be/8vqouD0nOuc>

Curator **Timo Valjakka** and photographer and video artist **Elina Brotherus** will be present. Nicolai Tangen will take part remotely. Tangen is a Norwegian art collector, philanthropist and, since September 2020, CEO of Norges Bank Investment Management.

Also taking part remotely: Art Historian **Beate Mjaaland (AKO Kunststiftelse)** and CEO **Reidar Fuglestad** and Artistic Director **Trude Gornæs Ugelstad (Sørlandets Kunstmuseum / Kunstsilo)**.

Due to corona-pandemic restrictions only a limited number of people can attend the press preview. Participation requires advance registration and places will be filled in order of registration: [taidemuseo@hameenlinna.fi](mailto:taidemuseo@hameenlinna.fi). For exhibition viewings outside this timetable and interview requests: [soile.ollikainen@hameenlinna.fi](mailto:soile.ollikainen@hameenlinna.fi)

### **TIMETABLE**, times in EET

- 12:15 Doors open (Hämeenlinna Art Museum, Lohrmann)
- 13:00-13:00 Direct transmission and Finnish-language section start: <https://youtu.be/8vqouD0nOuc>  
Welcome address, Director of Hämeenlinna Art Museum **Jenny Valli** (in Finnish)  
Introduction to exhibition, curator Timo Valjakka (in Finnish)
- 13:30-13:35 Section in English begins  
A brief introduction to the exhibition in English, curator of the exhibition Timo Valjakka
- 13:35-13:40 A short video about the exhibition
- 13:40-13:45 The Tangen Collection, Norwegian art collector Nicolai Tangen
- 13:45-13:55 Kunstsilo, CEO Reidar Fuglestad and Artistic Director Trude Gornæs Ugelstad
- 13:55-14:00 AKO Kunststiftelse, Beate Mjaaland
- 14:00-14:30 Photographer and video artist Elina Brotherus introduces the *Seabound* series

PRESS RELEASE 5.5.2021

## THE NEW BEAUTY – Modernist highlights from the Nicolai Tangen Collection Hämeenlinna Art Museum 13.5–17.10.2021

*“The new beauty originated in the Constructivist work, which is the basis of modern life.”*  
— Karel Teige: *The Poetist Manifesto*, 1924

In the Nordic countries, Modernism and abstract expression took their first steps in the 1920s. They reached their highpoint in the decades following the Second World War, when they were boosted by faith in a new and better future, and by the idea of abstract art as a pure, universal, music-like language.

THE NEW BEAUTY presents a selection of Finnish and Nordic Modernist gems from the collection of the Norwegian **Nicolai Tangen**. The exhibition includes important works by classic figures such as **Sam Vanni** and **Birger Carlstedt**, but also lesser-known artists such as **Outi Ikkala** and **Vladimir Kopteff**. In the exhibition they meet Nordic friends and colleagues like **Olle Baertling** and **Otto G. Carlsund**, the Dane **Richard Mortensen**, and the Finnish-born artist who became a major figure in Norway **Irma Salo Jæger**.

Besides the modernists The Tangen Collection also includes new Nordic photographic art. The most recent addition to the collection is **Elina Brotherus’** photographic series *Seabound* (2018–2019), which she made for The Tangen Collection at the invitation of the **AKO Kunststiftelse**. An excerpt from the project is now being exhibited for the first time.

The Tangen Collection of Nordic modernism is the world’s largest in private ownership. Its main focus is on abstract art from after the Second World War, but the arc of the collection extends from the 1920s avantgarde to the final years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is also a consciously subjective, and hence liberating, viewpoint on Nordic modernism. Its scope is unique and allows for new interpretations. The still-growing collection, which already has more than 4500 works, will have a permanent home in Kristiansand, Norway, when the new **Kunstsilo**, opens in 2023.

The exhibition has been curated by **Timo Valjakka** and has been produced in collaboration with the Norwegian AKO Kunststiftelse. The exhibition architect is **Hannele Grönlund**.

The exhibition is accompanied by two books produced in collaboration with the AKO Kunststiftelse. *The New Beauty* (Siltala), presents more than 100 works by 40 Finnish artists in The Tangen Collection, ranging from **Timo Aalto** to Sam Vanni in Finnish and English. This 192-page volume edited by Timo Valjakka also includes a conversation between Elina Brotherus and Nicolai Tangen, which goes into the starting points for the Collection and the principles underlying it. Elina Brotherus’ new monograph *Seabound* (Kehrer) presents the entire project that she carried out in Norway.

Further information about Kunstsilo: [www.skmu.no/kunstsilo/kunstsilo/om-kunstsilo](http://www.skmu.no/kunstsilo/kunstsilo/om-kunstsilo)



**HÄMEENLINNAN  
TAIDEMUSEO**

**Further information about the exhibition and interview requests:**

Soile Ollikainen, Curator, Hämeenlinna Art Museum, +358 40 7229186,  
soile.ollikainen@hameenlinna.fi

Jenny Valli, Director, Hämeenlinna Art Museum, +358 40 5471965, jenny.valli@hameenlinna.fi

Press photos of exhibition works: [www.hameenlinnantaidemuseo.fi/thenewbeautypress](http://www.hameenlinnantaidemuseo.fi/thenewbeautypress)  
Password: 20Lohrmann19

Press Photo:

Birger Carlstedt: *Still Life with Flowers*, 1940s, oil on board, The Tangen Collection. Photo: Jussi Tiainen

**HÄMEENLINNA ART MUSEUM**

Viipurintie 2  
13200 Hämeenlinna  
FINLAND

+358 03 6212669

[www.hameenlinnantaidemuseo.fi](http://www.hameenlinnantaidemuseo.fi)

Open: Tues–Thurs 11–18, Fri–Sun 11–17