



## RÄPPÄNÄ – VENT

The exhibition is divided in three narrative concepts:  
**Language and reading, Landscape and Observations.**

**Language and reading** concentrates on the topics of Jussi Heikkilä's interest on books and how to exhibit his studies in artistic way. He has done several libraries – 'the Mt Everest library' has a shape of the mountain and covers the books about the culture history on Mt Everest – 'the Nordic light' has a book by Olaus Magnus from 1645 who was one of the first historian and cartography who enlightened the life of Nordic people.

In Simo Heikkilä's design context this narrative is a story of selves and containers in various needs. It covers also the chair tailored for a very known Finnish novelist (Harri Tapper 1929-2012) and lamps designed for reading. Small letters compare to Simo Heikkilä's small-scale objects like wooden bowls and radios.



Small Bird Library (Aquila sp.) 2011



Comma in a novelist chair, 1999

**Landscape** is related to a summerhouse by the lake Paijanne, the Heikkilä brothers are sharing. The lake and the topography of the place have been acting a catalyst for many art works and designs by both of them including the general attitude toward ecology. Different interpretations of Jussi Heikkilä's sauna path works are good example approaching the topic. Sauna path in Finland is spiritually similar kind of idea than the road in Zen Buddhism – but in a more concrete level – it is the way to purity. The other way of thinking landscape is represented on the works made out of constellations with bird names.

Simo Heikkilä on the other has used the waterfront rock as a mould to some of his seats. The idea of laying on the surface of the warm rock is very much related to a body and a body is giving a shape to his talks of chaise longue. Sauna is in case ideally located always by the waterfront or if not anyway never inside the house. It is separate temple for relaxing and meditation and because of that it needs to follow the certain kind of asceticism also in forms and that is, where Simo Heikkilä is good in.



Sauna path, made of mountain ash, 2001



Hand smithy chaise longue, 2003

**Observations** has been a name for quite many Jussi Heikkilä's exhibitions as his main attitude as an artist is observer. Simo Heikkilä is more an experiment maker by his character but before experimenting one needs observations: How to sit, who is sitting, how the seat is constructed to be reliable, what is the role of material – what means ergonomic.

In this section Simo Heikkilä, who is a known specialist on chair experiments is showing his vision from the early seats to mass production pieces. In abstract level the row of chairs is acting as a seat to observe the birds.

The birds by their look and by their role as bio indicators in our globe are the area of interest by Jussi Heikkilä. He says that whatever he looks he always seems to seek a form of bird. Mainly his attitude is like a researcher who is struggling for animals against human's nature of destroying the globe but who also sees the humour in his own acts.



An attempt to dream of a *common eider*, 2002



Detail of Blok, chair experiment, 1988

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Exhibition is organized by Alvar Aalto Museum and Jyväskylä Art Museum

[http://www.alvaraalto.fi/index\\_en.htm](http://www.alvaraalto.fi/index_en.htm)

<http://www.jyvaskyla.fi/taidemuseo/english>