



The Artists' Association of Finland (*Suomen Taiteilijaseura – Konstnärsgillet i Finland* in Finnish and Swedish) is the umbrella organization of professional visual artists in Finland. The Association has six member organisations: the Association of Finnish Printmakers, Association of Finnish Sculptors, Finnish Painters' Union, MUU Artists' Association, Photographic Artists' Association and the Union of Finnish Art Associations. Through our members we represent ca 3 000 professional artists in Finland.

We work to secure policy and legislative change to encourage the growth and development of the sector. We provide services to our members, including training courses and legal advice on, for example, contracts, social security and taxation. We offer up-to-date information on the visual arts field to decision-makers, journalists as well the general public. Our partners include key players in visual art and professional organisations in other fields. Through projects we focus on topical issues such as public art and making a living as a self-employed artist. We run an on-line publication called Taiteilija (Artist) at www.taiteilijalehti.fi.

The association was founded in 1864. Our current chair is Teemu Mäki.

2017–2018

The Association launched a new strategy at the end of 2017, with an even more focused vision and mission. Our current slogan translates into English roughly as *Thriving Artist – Vibrant Visual Arts*. Our mission has been divided into four sectors, namely (1) promotion of the role of the visual arts and artists, (2) an active dialogue in society, (3) communications to media, decision-makers, the general public and artists, and (4) information services and courses to artists.

Below please find a summary of focal points in our work in the past two years:

Lobbying for visual arts

The key task of the Association is lobbying and PR for visual arts. We do this through various channels, e.g. through working with Members of the Parliament and parliamentary committees, issuing statements on current or upcoming legislation and introducing new initiatives to improve the status and livelihood of visual artists.

Our top goals in lobbying include the establishment of the exhibition remuneration, increasing the level and number of grants, improving the pension arrangements for artists, VAT issues and developing better national structures for supporting the work of visual artists throughout the country.

We hold some twenty secured seats in various boards and organisations through which we raise awareness of and aim at improving issues relating to visual arts and artists.

Communications is integral to all our activities, including lobbying. We produce a bi-monthly newsletter for artists and another one for external stakeholders. We have an extensive website at www.artists.fi with information for various interest groups.

Promoting visual artists on-line

During the past 12 months we have revamped our online database of professional visual artists working in Finland (www.kuvataiteilijamatrikkeli.fi) with a new operating system and layout. We are now testing the system and will soon launch both the Finnish and the English versions.

Information services

We provide information to visual artists on all aspects of their work, An electronic bulletin board is updated on a continuous basis and offers information on job opportunities, residencies and studios and alike. We also strive to be the first contact point for

Legal advice

We have an inhouse lawyer whose main task is to advise visual artists on queries such as taxation, social security and contracts.

Our lawyer acts also as the point of contact for the organisers of competitions for public artworks.

Promoting the one per cent rule and public art

An example of an ongoing project with partners is the promotion of the one per cent rule and public art in general. At the moment, the Association looks after the communications of public art through a newsletter (focusing on artists, builders, contractors and decision-makers throughout the country) and a website at www.prosenttiperiaate.fi

Contact details

Iso Roobertinkatu 3–5 A 22, 00120 Helsinki, Finland

www.artists.fi www.taiteilija.fi www.kuvataiteilijamatrikkeli.fi

Kirsi Korhonen, Executive Director, kirsi.korhonen@artists.fi

Teemu Mäki, Chair, teemu.maki@artists.fi