

Press release 1 April 2020

## The opening date of the contemporary art event Helsinki Biennial to be postponed

Due to the exceptional global situation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19), the construction and production of Helsinki Biennial 2020 are behind the original schedule. Because of this, the biennial cannot be opened to the public on 12 June, as originally intended. The final estimate of whether the event can at all be organised in the upcoming summer will be made in April.

*"We have two options, either to open Helsinki Biennial at the beginning of August, or to postpone it until summer 2021. With our decision, we want to ensure the health and safety of the public and our artists, partners and employees,"* says **Jan Vapaavuori**, Mayor of Helsinki.

Helsinki Biennial is an international contemporary art event taking place for the first time both on the island of Vallisaari and on the mainland. The event, situated in maritime Helsinki, is an eagerly awaited addition to the city's cultural landscape.

Helsinki Biennial follows the developments of the coronavirus situation and acts in accordance with the instructions and recommendations of international, national and local officials. More detailed plans and practical issues concerning the biennial will be announced in May at the latest.

### Further information

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*Helsinki Biennial is an international contemporary art biennial. The biennial is a joint project for the whole City of Helsinki, and it is curated and produced by HAM Helsinki Art Museum. The biennial is a part of the Helsinki City Strategy, whose objectives include, among others, strengthening the city's international appeal and making the most of its maritime characteristics. Helsinki Biennial emphasises the importance of responsible values and is organised in a sustainable manner.*

*The main partners of Helsinki Biennial 2020 include Metsähallitus and Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation, and it is also supported by Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, Svenska Kulturfonden, and Pro Artibus Foundation.*

*The main corporate partner of Helsinki Biennial 2020 is Clear Channel. Other partners include Helen and Artek. The Helsinki Biennial programme is supported by Facebook Art Department.*

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