

Outimajja Hakala



Ants, ink drawing and sound, 2021



Ants, sound and ink drawing 2021 ([Link to video on conference Vimeo site!](#))



Egg, plaster cast, patina, 2021



Grave of Pollinators, mixed media, 2021

Critical animal studies and conceptual arts mix in my work as an artist and researcher. Justice in society between humans and between humans and non-humans are important items for me – art is the way to take part in social and political conversation.

Through artistic research, I look for ways to develop visual art that touches other species to be more animal-friendly by means of the ethical, ecological and aesthetic choices encountered in the work process. Taking other species and their habitats into account creates a response to my artistic work, a question that challenges me to develop better ways of working. With the help of artistic research, I open up the contradictions inherent in making works about animals. I look at the interfaces between the human and the non-human in the visual arts and consider the ethics of artistic work. My research perspective emphasizes the consideration of the individuality and rights of other species in contemporary art and its material processes with the help of critical animal studies and posthumanist theories and deep ecology.

Recent years I have been working on a multidisciplinary research project with questions: "Can we disclose other animals? The challenges of conceptualizing animals in sciences and arts" and "Voiceless in life cycle and speaking for: the impact of language on feelings and attitudes towards non-human animal species". Artworks in (Un)common worlds discuss the questions that have arisen from those projects. The works depict small animals that often get stuck in people's feet.

Biography

Outimajja Hakala is a visual artist (sculptor) and art historian from the University of Lapland and the University of Jyväskylä. Currently they are a doctoral candidate in Aalto ARKIS – University of Arts and Design. They question how to consider non-human animals in visual art through their artistic research.

ARTIST LIST