



Participating artists at *Cittadini Creativi / Creative Citizens* Exhibition

Kristina Tort (1985) grew up on the island of Hiiumaa and received a degree in graphic design from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She has illustrated and designed children's books and collaborated with magazines, including *Täheke*, *Hea Laps*, *Pere & Kodu*, and *Mesimumm*. Tort designs posters, postcards, educational materials, brochures, large-scale illustrations, and more. She has taught illustration at the Estonian Academy of Arts since 2019, and works as a freelance illustrator.

Katrin Ehrlich (1969) is an illustrator, printmaker, book designer, and graphic designer. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in printmaking and studied silk printing at the Danish Design School in Copenhagen. Ehrlich has illustrated more than 40 children's books and received numerous awards. Ornamentation is tightly bound to rich fantasy in her cheerful-toned illustrations. Her works are held in the collections of the Estonian National Library and the Estonian Children's Literature Centre, as well in private collections. Ehrlich is a member of the Estonian Graphic Designers' Association.

Heiki Ernits (1953) graduated from the Tallinn Pedagogical Institute as a teacher of arts and crafts. He has worked as a photographer, art teacher, art director, and film director. Ernits has made 19 animated films, produced commercials, designed book covers and layouts, and illustrated more than 30 children's books. Highly popular among Estonian children, he has received six Nukits Awards to date.

Kristi Kangilaski (1982) is an illustrator, book and graphic designer, author of children's books, and art teacher. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in graphic design in 2013, and is member of the Estonian Graphic Designers Association.

Kangilaski regularly collaborates with the Estonian magazine *Ema*. She has received numerous awards for the books she has written and/or illustrated, and was included in the 2015 White Ravens catalogue.

Tiiu Kitsik (1981) is a visual artist, illustrator, and children's author. She graduated from Tallinn University in advertising and media and has worked in advertising. Kitsik co-founded the Estonian crowdfunding platform Hooandja, where she has worked for several years. She has written seven children's books and contributed to the children's magazines *Hea Laps*, *Täheke*, and *Mesimumm*. She lives and works as a freelance artist in Berlin.

Karel Korp (1967) graduated in art education and drawing from the Tallinn Pedagogical Institute in 1993. He is a head of the Estonian Graphic Designers' Association and the member of the board for its creative committee. Since 1997 Korp is an owner of the graphic design company Disainikorp. In addition to illustrating children's books, Karel Korp has created illustrations for Eesti Pank, the Estonian Financial Supervision and Resolution Authority, the Chancellor of Justice, the Estonian Employer's Confederation, the Estonian Cooperation Assembly, and many other organizations and companies.

Liisa Kruusmägi (1988) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts with a bachelor's degree in painting in 2010 and a master's degree in drawing in 2013, in 2011. She has been a member of the Estonian Artists' Union since 2013. Kruusmägi is known more as a painter, though she has also worked extensively in illustration. She has collaborated with newspapers and magazines in Estonia and abroad, including the children's magazines *Täheke* and *Hea Laps*.

Kadri-Maria Külaots (1983) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts with a bachelor's degree in graphic design in 2005 and a master's degree in human-computer interaction from Tallinn University in 2016. She has worked in her co-owned graphic design studio Polaar since 2010. She has done different illustration projects in different techniques for clients, and in 2004 published a children's book *Maie ja Mummi* which she wrote, illustrated and designed herself.

Madli Lavin (1988) is an Estonian artist and illustrator residing in Pärnu, whose works are characterized by bright colors, playfulness, and a boldly different approach. Her creations draw inspiration from nature, everyday details, and fantasy, weaving them into a unique whole. Madli is known for her masterful use of color and her ability to create images that tell stories without words. She has graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts with a degree in painting and from the Tartu Higher Art School Pallas with a degree in painting and restoration.

Anu Kalm (1960) is a graphic artist, illustrator, and art teacher. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts as a printmaker and illustrator, and now teaches at the Tallinn Art School. Kalm has illustrated textbooks and more than 20 children's books, and has collaborated with various Estonian children's magazines. Her works have been included in the White Ravens catalogue twice. A strong sense for graphic art and classic drawing techniques are apparent in her works, which have a pleasant, childlike simplicity.

Regina Lukk-Toompere (1953) graduated in 1981 from the Estonian State Art Institute's Graphic Art Department in illustration and book design. She is a member of the Estonian Artists Association, the Estonian Graphic Designers Association and the Estonian Section of IBBY. She has illustrated and designed more than 90 books and textbooks, as well as posters, record covers, postcards, magazines and packaging. Lukk-Toompere was on the 2014 IBBY Honour List and has received several awards in annual Estonian book design and illustration competitions.

Lukk-Toompere is masterful at a wide range of traditional drawing, graphic, and painting techniques. Collage adds an element of realism to her works, but also gives them a dream-like quality. Her works are held in the collections of the Estonian Museum of Art, the Estonian National Library, and the Estonian Children's Literature Centre, as well as private collections in Estonia, Lithuania, France, Sweden, Finland, Ukraine, and Russia.

Lumimari (1976) is an Estonian illustrator and designer with a degree in Photography and Film and a BA in Visual Communication (cum laude) from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She is currently pursuing an MA in Interaction Design, exploring how digital media and user experience can enhance storytelling. With over 10 years of experience as an illustrator, she has also worked on various animation projects, bringing visuals to life in dynamic ways. Specializing in book illustration and layout design, she has contributed to books for both children and adults, earning awards like *White Ravens* and *Best Estonian Children's Book*. She values illustration as a subtle yet powerful way to explore and

communicate difficult and challenging topics.

Viive Noor (1955) is an illustrator and curator. She works as a curator at the Estonian Children's Literature Centre. Noor is the founder and organiser of the Tallinn Illustrations Triennial "The Power of Pictures" (2003, 2006, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2023). She graduated *cum laude* in fashion design and graphic art from the State Art Institute of the Estonian SSR (Estonian Academy of Arts) in 1981. Noor is the Vice President of the Estonian Section of IBBY and a member of the Estonian Artists' Association, Estonian Graphic Designers' Association (Head of Book Design Section), Associazione Italia Estonia, International Laboratory of Art, and Mega Art in Italy. Her works are held in the art collections of the National Library of Estonia, the Estonian Children's Literature Centre, the Hiroko Mori & Stasys Museum in Japan, and the Marstal Maritime Museum in Denmark, as well as in many private collections in Estonia, Japan, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Germany, Russia etc.

Sirly Oder (1983) is an illustrator, content creator for social media and visual merchandiser for a book store. She graduated in scenography from the Estonian Academy of Arts and has been an artist for a wealth of Estonian theatre productions, TV commercials and short films. She currently works for the Rahva Raamat book store and manages their visual solutions as well as illustrating children's books as a freelancer. She has illustrated several children's books and has been awarded in the 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books competition. Her style features the personalisation of modern design combined with cuteness, darkness and humour.

Eiko Ojala (1982) is an internationally renowned illustrator. He works mostly digitally and draws everything by hand. Within his work process Eiko likes to study the forms of shapes and to work closely with light and shadow. He likes to keep his illustrations minimal and well-advised and combines consummate craftsmanship with a healthy sprinkling of wit. He has won several international well-known design and illustration awards and his works have been exhibited all around the world. Eiko Ojala has done works for clients such as Apple, Air France, Finnair, Guardian, National Geographic, New Yorker, Washington Post, Le Monde, Wired, among others.

Triin Paumer (1982) is an artist and a set designer for Nukufilm. She studied at Toila Gymnasium from 1988 to 2000, textile art at the Tartu Higher Art School from 2002 to 2006, art education at the Estonian Academy of Arts from 2007 to 2008, and print

technology at Tallinn Polytechnic School from 2017 to 2018. She has also attended courses in graphic design and digital illustration at the EKA Open Academy and an introductory screenwriting course at the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School (BFM) of Tallinn University. From 2011 to 2016, she worked at Nukufilm as a puppet maker and set designer. Since 2016, she has been working as a freelance film artist, puppet maker, and set designer. In 2020, she was awarded the EFTA Best Production Design Award for the animated feature “*The Old Man Movie*” (2019), together with Sven-Tõnis Puskar. Since 2023 she has made illustrations for Estonian children's magazines *Täheke* and *Hea Laps*.

Anne Pikkov (b. 1974) is an Estonian children's book illustrator and graphic designer. She has illustrated and designed books, posters, and graphic identities, and contributed to various magazines. Anne graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts with a major in graphic design. Afterward, she worked in an advertising agency and at the Estonian Academy of Arts. She has received several awards in annual Estonian book design and illustration competitions, in 2019 she won Edgar Valter Illustration Award and in 2024 was nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Many of her works are part of the collection at the Estonian National Library and the art collection of the Estonian Children's Literature Center, as well as several private collections and exhibitions in various countries.

Marja-Liisa Plats is an illustrator, graphic designer, photographer, and singer. She graduated from Tartu Art College in photography and is a member of the Young Authors' Association in Tartu and the Tartu Artists' Union. Plats has illustrated more than 50 children's books and regularly contributes to the children's magazine *Täheke*. She has designed posters, postcards, logos and board games. Also has designed exhibitions and worked as theater designer. She has received extensive recognition for her works and has been listed in the White Ravens catalogue three times. Her illustrations are inquisitive and experiment with a broad range of visual techniques. Collaboration with fashion designer Triinu Pungits has given her opportunity to express her love for clothes by designing patterns for 2020 and 2021 collections.

Priit Pärn (1946) is a world-famous animated filmmaker, caricaturist, and illustrator. He graduated from the University of Tartu in biology, after which he worked as an art and animated film director at the Tallinnfilm and Eesti Joonisfilm studios. Pärn has taught animation at the Turku University of Applied Sciences in Finland, and currently teaches at the Estonian Academy of Arts. He has illustrated more than 20 children's books and

has a long history of collaboration with the children's magazine *Täheke*.

Piret Raud (1971) is the most successful contemporary Estonian children's writer and illustrator. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in graphic arts, and initially set off on the same path. After trying her hand at writing, Raud has since become the most renowned and widely-translated children's author in Estonia. She has written 21 titles (eight of which were commissioned by Japanese, French, and British publishers), has been translated into 20 different languages, and has illustrated more than 50 titles. Her writing has received spectacular recognition both at home and abroad. She was included on the 2012 IBBY Honour List as writer and in 2018 as illustrator; in the 2010 and 2013 White Ravens catalogue; and was awarded the Estonian Order of the White Star, IV Class in 2016.

Jaan Rõõmus (Rõõmus for short) is an illustrator who has a hard time sticking to one style. He enjoys trying different techniques and discovering intriguing new angles for his fondest subjects, which include architecture, machines, nature, everyday life, old toys, children's playhouses, and more. He uses ordinary quills and ink alongside Cintiq pens in his art. Rõõmus holds a bachelor's degree in graphic design from the Estonian Academy of Arts.

Ulla Saar (1975) is an illustrator and graphic artist. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in product design. Her first illustrated book *Lift* achieved immediate widespread recognition and was listed in the 2014 White Ravens catalogue. Since then, every one of her books has received international attention. Saar practices a contemporary, design-like approach to book illustration: her spirited and playful art is often more a part of the work's overall design than free-standing pictures.

Pamela Samel (b. 1985) is a freelance illustrator. She studied textile design at the Estonian Academy of Arts, received a bachelor's degree in art education from Tallinn University, and has participated in several other illustration courses. Samel works as a costume designer for film and television. She has collaborated with several Estonian publications including the children's magazines *Täheke* and *Hea Laps*. Her style is novel and trend-conscious in the context of Estonian children's literature: naively laconic illustrations dominated by elegant color combinations on surfaces, all of which inspire fun and enjoyment. Her characters are pleasantly peculiar and highly relatable in their sincerity. Several of Samel's illustrated books have been awarded in both Estonia and

abroad.

Elina Sildre (1980) is an illustrator and comic artist who graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in graphic design. She has illustrated over 30 children's books and contributed to the children's magazines *Täheke* and *Mesimumm*. Sildre has also created illustrations and comics for anthologies, textbooks, and activity books. The artist has been awarded in the 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books and the Knee-High Book competitions.

Joonas Sildre (1980) is a comic artist, illustrator, and graphic designer. He graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in graphic design and works as a freelance artist. Sildre has illustrated close to 30 children's books and published the graphic novel *Between Two Sounds* – a biography of the composer Arvo Pärt. Sildre teaches comic drawing in workshops and art schools, has compiled anthologies, and organises Estonian comics exhibitions. In 2013, he became a co-founder of the Estonian Comics Society.

Kertu Sillaste (1973) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in textile design in 1996, studied tapestry at the *École Supérieure des Arts Appliqués Duperré* (Paris) in 1997, and participated in Viive Noor's illustration course at the Open Academy of the Estonian Academy of Arts in 2009. She graduated from the Tallinn University's in Master of Arts in Education in 2017. Sillaste has worked as a graphic designer at the Tallinn Central Library, and now teaches the Estonian Children's Literature Centre Art Chamber. Kertu Sillaste is a member of the Estonian Graphic Designers Association and the Estonian Section of IBBY. She has illustrated books and textbooks; written five picture books; designed books, posters, fliers, and more; and has collaborated with children's magazine *Täheke*. Her signature style comprises thick, vibrant India-ink brush strokes combined with acrylics or collage.

Marju Tammik (1972) is a fashion artist and illustrator. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in fashion design. Tammik's illustrations can be found on posters and packaging, as well as in magazines and books. She is a two-time winner of the Estonian Design Awards Prize. Tammik has illustrated four children's books and has been awarded in the 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books and the Knee-High Book competitions.

Reda Tomingas (1979) is an illustrator, author, and animated film director. She graduated from Vilnius Academy of Arts in animation. Tomingas has illustrated more than 30 children's books and novel covers in Lithuania and Estonia. She has collaborated with children's magazines like *Hea laps* and *Täheke*, and with different museums and advertising agencies. On 2023 she was among one of the winners of the Art of Book competition in Lithuania.

Kristina Tort (1985) grew up on the island of Hiiumaa and received a degree in graphic design from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She has illustrated and designed children's books and collaborated with magazines, including *Täheke*, *Hea Laps*, *Pere & Kodu*, and *Mesimumm*. Tort designs posters, postcards, educational materials, brochures, large-scale illustrations, and more. She has taught illustration at the Estonian Academy of Arts since 2019, and works as a freelance illustrator.

Catherine Zarip (1966) is an illustrator and graphic designer. She graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in ceramics 1995, after which she worked at the publisher Avita as a book designer and art director. She is currently a freelance artist. Zarip has illustrated dozens of textbooks, more than 30 children's books, and has designed about 200 works in total. She is a member of the Estonian Graphic Designers Association and the Estonian Section of IBBY. Zarip has been awarded twice at the Tallinn Illustrations Triennial and ten times in the 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books competition. Her works are held in the collections of the Estonian National Library and the Estonian Children's Literature Centre. Her art is fresh and elegant – simultaneously animated and restrained, detail-rich and simplified.