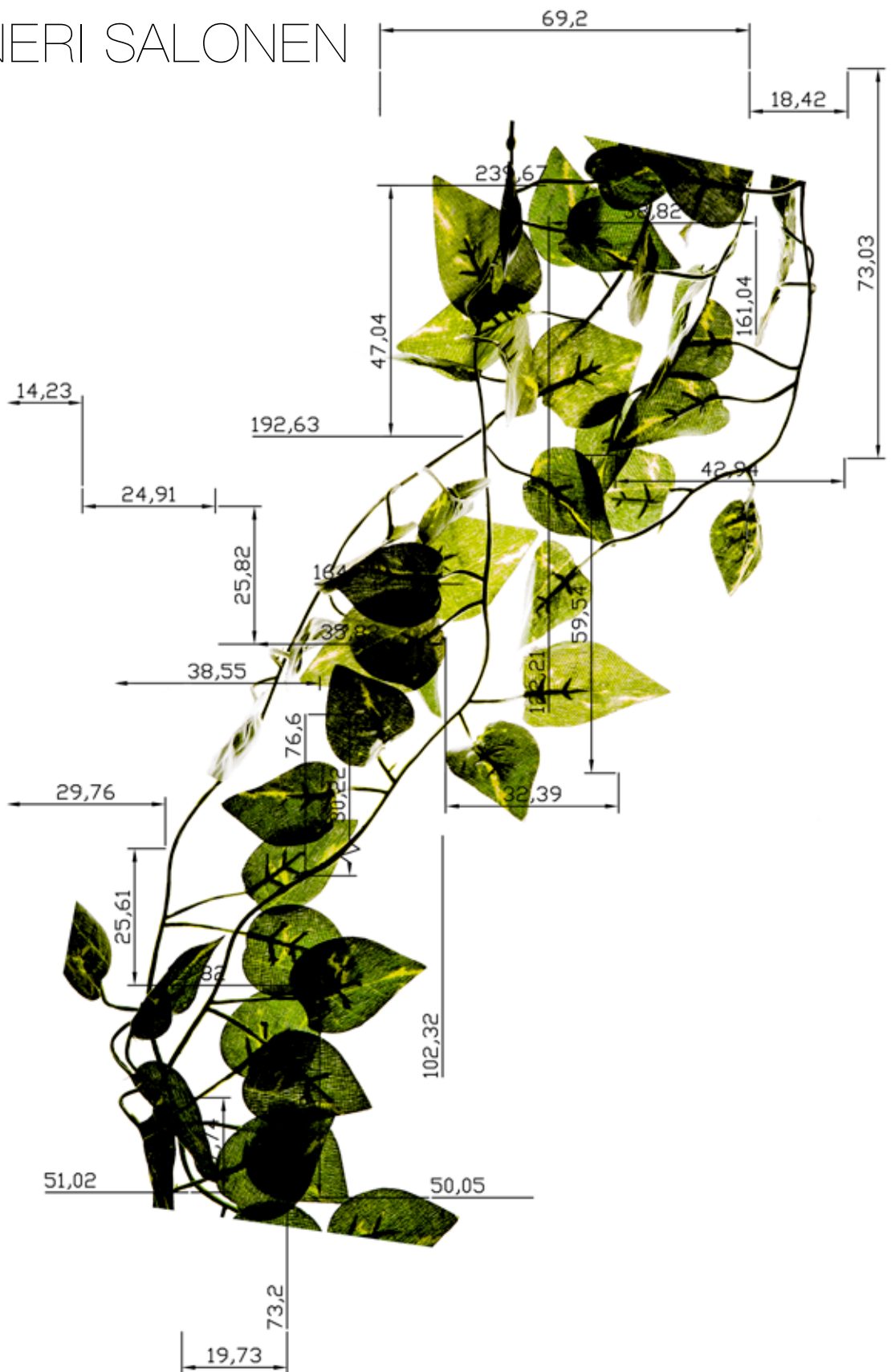


# PORTFOLIO

VERNERI SALONEN



## Biography

Veneri Salonen (b. 1989) is a Helsinki based artist and a graduate student in the Time and Space department at the University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland. He holds bachelor's degree in engineering from the Tampere university of applied sciences. Salonen is interested in exploring contemporary technoculture. His work re-contextualizes and re-imagines the functions of everyday objects and ideas in a manner that is surprising, revelatory and at times humorous. Composing unexpected relationships between ready-made and hand-made objects, the artist invites new meanings and interpretations of their uses that challenge the human logic and capitalist realization. Peeling back our preconceptions, his videos, photography and mixed-media installations transform the mundane into the marvelous while addressing issues in relation to emancipation, technology and ecology.

Veneri Salonen is co-founder of Kino Club Helsinki. Kino Club is a collective and nonprofit community that offers a place to watch, discuss and review audiovisual works and performances from artists visiting or residing in Finland.

Selected exhibitions and festival screenings include 2021 If I Were Ewe, Newtown Castle, Ballyvaughan, Ireland // 2021 Exquisite Futures, Braunschweig Art Academy Filmforum, Braunschweig, Germany // 2021 Exquisite Futures, Virtual YouTube live -event, Kino Club Helsinki // 2021 Kosminen Salonki, Kosminen, Helsinki, Finland // 2020 Postal Art 2020, Poetry Moon Literary Festival, Galleria Stoa, Helsinki, Finland // 2020 TOTEEMI, Hyvinkää Halo -light festival, Hyvinkää, Finland // 2020 The Rivals, Feel Helsinki -festival, Helsinki, Finland // 2020 Expanded Cinema, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, Finland // 2019 Concerto for Film and Orchestra, Lappeenrantasali, Lappeenranta, Finland // 2019 The Sound Art & Sonic Arts: Hidden Materialities, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, Finland // 2019 Suoja/Shelter festival, Free Art Space, Helsinki, Finland // 2018 The Void, Sigrids Gallery, Kjollefjård, Norway // 2018 RED MAY, Gallery ALKOVI, Helsinki, Finland // 2018 Yucca Elephantipes Artificialis, KAIPUU Festival, Helsinki, Finland.



**Project title:** if I were ewe

**4th floor**

**Artwork title:** We felt ewe  
**Year:** 2021  
**Medium:** Installation  
washing machine felted wool, raw wool,  
found wood, clay, yarn, candles  
**Size:** 4th floor

**3rd floor**

**Artwork title:** Baaaaa  
**Year:** 2021  
**Medium:** Soundscape  
Iphone, Boombox, candles  
**Duration:** 2:09 loop

**2nd floor**

**Artwork title:** Chewing the cud  
**Year:** 2021  
**Medium:** Food serving  
Drinks: grass, apple juice, water  
Stew: lamb, salt, potato, carrot, fennel, onion, spicy  
pepper, rosemary, thyme  
**Duration:** Opening

**1st floor**

**Artwork title:** Sheeple  
**Year:** 2021  
**Medium:** Video projection  
**Duration:** 3:28 loop

**Exhibited:** 2021 Newtown Castle, Ballyvaughan, Ireland

**Introduction**

*if I were ewe* was an installation in Newtown Castle that explored the interconnected nature between human and sheep. Covering the four floors of the castle, the works celebrated and challenged our perception of sheep in ways that engaged with taste, smell, touch, sight and hearing. The exhibition was produced in collaboration with artist Phoebe Tohl.

**Additional links:**

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



**Project title:** Deus Ex Machina

**Artwork title:** Motor Cycle

**Year:** 2021

**Medium:** Mechanical sound sculpture  
Motorcycle motor, Electric Motor, Frequency Converter,  
Cables, Chain, Steel Frame

**Size:** 1,0 x 1,5 x 1,6 m

**Artwork title:** I have more will to go than care to stay

**Year:** 2021

**Medium:** Video sculpture  
Brightsign, Headphones, Amplifier, Cables, 55" Television Screen, Steel Frame, Cargo Straps

**Size/Duration:** 0,8 x 1,2 x 1,5 m // 4:33 loop

**Artwork title:** Just Passing By

**Year:** 2021

**Medium:** Video sculpture  
Two 19" monitors, Two Raspberry Pi's, Two Videos, Cables, Steel Frame

**Size/Duration:** 0,3 x 0,6 x 0,6 m // 1:21 loop

**Exhibited:** 2021 Exhibition Laboratory, Lisättila

#### **Description and a true story**

I was a member of the "golden piggy bank club" and had earnestly saved money for a rainy day. The club's motto: "It's great to be part of the golden piggy bank club." One day I saw the boy next door tinkering with his Honda Monkey at their backyard and went to ask him if he'd be willing to part with his bike anytime soon. He said that he has no need for it anymore as he would pretty soon turn eighteen and announced that the asking price would be three hundred marks. Now the money really started to burn in the stomach of my golden piggy bank. I decided to offer five hundred marks because I was kind of excited and found the bike to be very cool. Even my parents couldn't hold me back from my foolish offer. Perhaps since that deal I made when I was five years old I've been enchanted by machines...

This body of work is expressing the need for holding back and suppressing the fossil fuel fantasies that individual has in the fossil fueled society. It also examines what is there to desire in the fetishized technology that we encounter almost every day.

#### **Additional links:**

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



Installation view from Kuvan Kevät 2021 - Exhibition

**Name of the work:** Exquisite Futures

**Year:** 2020

**Medium:** Video

**Duration:** 32:15 min

**Exhibited:**

2021 Alex TV, Germany

2021 Braunschweig Art Academy Filmforum, Braunschweig, Germany

2021 Virtual YouTube live -event, Kino Club Helsinki

### Introduction

The global lockdown forced Kino Club to reconsider the group's approach to collaboration and participation, and inspired a visualization of possible futures for the artistic mind.

Set in a post-apocalyptic timeline, Exquisite Futures develops through conceptual production dogmas carried out by a selection of ten international artists.

Exquisite Futures is a structural experiment, questioning production methods and investigating collective approach through remote collaboration on a foundation of transparency and inclusive communication.

The domino-effect was constructed of ten 48 hour-marathon productions, all intertwined and carried out in a chain-reaction of creation: 10 artists, 20 days, 1 film.

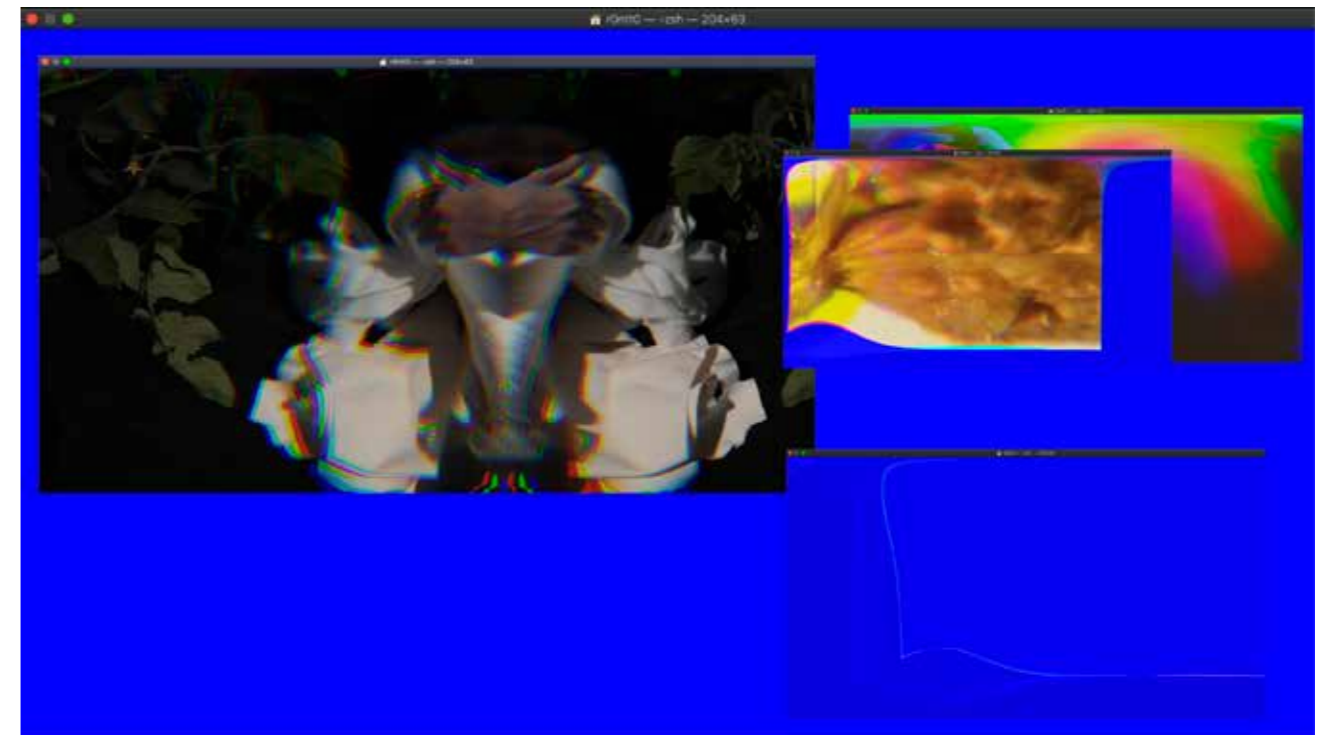
The result is an organically occurring narrative, where themes and ideas are subconsciously transported through the material and, despite the sequential format, questions are asked and answered non-linearly.

Each artist brought an individual set of skills, styles and ideas. Through dialogue and creation the group met each other personally and visually, and combined their efforts in this showcase of collective predictions; imagening artistic life in the future.

My part starts at 5:28 and ends at 8:03.

### Additional links:

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



Still picture from the video Exquisite Futures

**Name of the work:** The Rivals

**Year:** 2020  
**Medium:** Video  
**Duration:** 2:22 min  
**Exhibited:** 2020 Feel Helsinki -festival, Helsingin Musiikkitalo,  
Helsinki, Finland

#### **Introduction**

The Rivals takes a novel approach to the idea of political subjectification. The protagonists in my work are birds that are performing in YouTube videos. During the springtime there are lot of rivals in the trees trying to take over their territory and that is the political scene where I brought the rivals from internet.

Are birds just communicating pleasure and pain like Aristotle would have put it? In this context it is interesting to think how these birds are unaware of being in the internet without any privacy policy or copyrights whatsoever.

#### **Additional links:**

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



Still picture from the video The Rivals

**Name of the work:** For the time being, emergency exit only.

**Year:** 2020

**Medium:** Video sculpture / Installation  
Wooden door painted with fluorescent orange, metallic peep-hole, 3D-mouse handle, UV-light with shader, door phone, 360-video.

**Size/Duration:** 2,5 x 1 x 0,3 m // Infinite loop

**Exhibited:** 2020 Expanded Cinema, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, Finland

### Introduction

Launched in 1889 Kinetoscope was the first commercial motion picture exhibition device. It was designed for films to be viewed through a peephole by one individual at a time, creating the illusion of movement by conveying a strip of perforated film bearing sequential images over a light source with a high-speed shutter. Soon Kinetoscope was joined with a cylinder phonograph called kinetophone to produce sound. These devices together created unprecedented astonishment and confusion of time and space in the public.

Modern digital reconstruction has constantly transgressed the boundaries of time and space for the benefit and entertainment of our species. In the science fiction movie The Matrix(1999) humanity is unknowingly trapped inside a simulated reality created by intelligent machines. In spite of all dystopian imagery, our contemporary simulations are desired and ever more realistic. In my work For the time being, emergency exit only the simulation has been suspended in the state of limbo.

The viewer can explore the view seen through the peephole with a special door handle (3D-mouse) encircled with blue light and simultaneously listen to the soundscape from the door phone.

### Additional links:

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



Installation view

**Name of the work:** Totem

**Year:** 2019

**Medium:** Video

**Duration:** 22:02 min

**Exhibited:**

2021 Finn Filmnapok, Budapest, Hungary

2020 Hyvinkää Halo Light Festival, Hyvinkää, Finland

2020 Feel Helsinki -festival, Helsingin Musiikkitalo,  
Helsinki, Finland

### Introduction

I built a totem from blocks of birch and repeated the performance three times. Each time I got further.



Still picture from the video Totem



Documentation from Musiikkitalo (2020)



**Name of the work:** Post-Fossil Data?

**Year:** 2019

**Medium:** Sound Sculpture / Installation  
Computer screen, two hard-drives, jerry-can speaker, hidden computer, hidden piezo mics, hidden amplifier, hidden mixer, Automated filetransfer between hard drives

**Size/Duration:** 2 x 1,5 x 1,5 m / 2 minutes loop in the program

**Exhibited:** 2019 Suoja/Shelter festival, Free Art Space, Helsinki, Finland  
2019 The Sound Art & Sonic Arts: Hidden Materialities, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, Finland

**Introduction:**

The technological stethoscope is listening to the communication between two external hard drives. The computer acts as a director between them, and the jerry can speaker is the narrator.

This system is fully automated: it turns itself on and off during the gallery opening hours and hibernates in cycles for the sake of energy consumption. The process loops different file types and file sizes between the hard drives, making the audible performance varied in time. The data is playing.

Beneath the coulisses of designed cases, one can find informative labels which are not informative at all for the common user. What does it mean to be blind to the information given and to the fossil capitalism that made it all possible in the first place?

**Additional links:**

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



Installation view



Detailed view

**Name of the work:** AR-Mosquito

**Year:** 2019

**Medium:** Iphone 6, Video, Tape, Powerbank

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Exhibited:** 2019, Exhibition Laboratory, Finland

#### **Introduction**

The opening of the The annual BFA graduates' degree exhibition at the Academy of Fine Arts of Uniarts Helsinki featured an evening-long performance called AR-Mosquito.

#### **Additional link:**

<http://www.vernerisalonen.com/projects/>



Documentation from the performance



Detailed view