ELSA TÖLLI

Multidisciplinary Artist, Poet & Performer
Born: 1995, Finland I Website: www.elsatolli.com

EDUCATION

2019 **University of Helsinki**, Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSocSc)

2019 **Univerzita Karlova**, Intercultural Politics of Visual Mediums (minor subject)

2024 **Art School Maa**, Programme preparing for the profession of a contemporary artist

2014 **Kallio Upper Secondary School of Performing Arts**, Matriculation Examination

2007 **Lohja Region School of Visual Arts**, Extended Syllabus for Basic Education in the Arts

PUBLISHED BOOKS

2024 ***Diiva räjähtää nurmikoksi,*** Otava Publishing Company, Helsinki, Finland

2020 ***Fun Primavera***, self-published, Helsinki, Finland

SOLO & DUO EXHIBITIONS

2026 ***LIIKUN PIMEÄSSÄ RUNOJA SYLISSÄ,*** with Julia Matinniemi, SIC Space, Helsinki, Finland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 ***Rohkeus (Courage)***, online exhibition, Oulu Art Museum, Oulu, Finland

2024 ***MeniTuli (WentCame)***, Levyhalli, Suomenlinna, Helsinki, Finland

2023 ***The Young Artists 2023 (Nuoret 2023)***, Kunsthalle Helsinki and Helsinki Art Museum HAM, Finland

2023 ***you are no longer trembling, carcass,*** Maa-Tila, Helsinki, FInland

2022 ***The Seaweed Ceremony***, Pohjala Tehas, Tallinn, Estonia (collaboration with Aura Latva Somppi)

2022 ***Onko aika eliö? (Is time a living being?)***, Myymälä2, Helsinki, Finland

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2026 ***Show Boudoir,*** Teater Viirus KLUBB, Helsinki, Finland (co-produced with Sara Melleri)

2024 ***Belladonna Grind***, punk poetry show, Poetry Moon Festival (Runokuu), Helsinki, Finland (with Mirja Inkinen)

2024 ***Hyvästit kynsille (Farewell Nails),*** Suomenlinnan Levyhalli, Helsinki, Finland

2023 ***Finaalilaulu (A Finale Song),*** Kunsthalle Helsinki and Helsinki Art Museum HAM (costume by Ella Snellman)

2021 ***DEMON***, poetry performance, presented as part of Marcel Dzama's exhibition, Sara Hildén Art Museum, Tampere, Finland

2021 **Jazz Poetry collaboration with *Superposition*,** We Jazz Festival, Tavastia, Helsinki, Finland

2019 ***Harmony Korine / Harmonian Korina***, poetry performance, Flow Festival (Pink Space), Helsinki, Finland (in collaboration with sounds by Sini Jussila and visuals by Jade Vesto)

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

2025 **Versopolis European Poetry Platform**, poetry translations into English with translator Isa Hukka
https://www.versopolis.com/poet/602/elsa-tolli

2023 ***TRASH LOVER*****,** interactive online piece, Mad House publication 4
https://publication.madhousehelsinki.fi/#vol4

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

2024 **Toisinkoinen Literary Prize**, finalist (for the book *Diiva räjähtää nurmikoksi*)

2021 **Tanssiva Karhu (Dancing Bear) Poetry Prize** (for the book *Fun Primavera*)

2021 **Future of Culture Award**, Finnish Culture Gala (Kulttuurigaala)

2020 **Helsingin Sanomat Literature Prize for Best Debut**, finalist

RESIDENCIES

2025 **Mazzano Romano Residency**, Italy, 1 month (awarded by the Väinö Tanner Foundation)

2025 **Ehkä-production Residency**, Art Space Kutomo, Turku, Finland, 2 weeks (collaboration with Sara Melleri)

2023 **Valóság Residency**, Budapest, Hungary, 1 month

2023 **Mad House Helsinki**, online residency, 1 month

2023 **Residenza Artisti Finlandesi,** Matera, Italy, 1 month

GRANTS

2026 **Arts Promotion Centre Finland (Taike),** 12-month artist grant

2021, 2023, 2025 **Arts Promotion Centre Finland (Taike)**, working grant for literature

2022, 2024 **Otava Book Foundation**, working and project grants

2024 **The Finnish Writers' Union**, project grant

2022 **Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation,** working grant for literary work

2020 **Finnish Cultural Foundation**, working grant for literature

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

2024 ***Runografi*** — “Reviews Together, Reviews Side by Side”, online review by Anni Katajapuu, Eeva-Leena Karihtala, Jussi Koiranen, and Ilona Vuori, October 15

2024 ***Nuori Voima*** — “The Magic of Theatre and Pea Shoots”, literary review by Laura Kärkäs and Roosa Pohjalainen, issue 4/2024

2024 ***Helsingin Sanomat*** — “35 Under 35 – Who Are the Big Names of Finnish Culture in 2035?”, featured article by Aino Frilander, Ilkka Mattila, Arla Kanerva, Sanna Kangasniemi, Aino Miikkulainen, Samuli Tiikkaja, Jasmin Vahtera, April 27

2021 ***Yle Uutiset*** — “Poetry Prize Winner and Spoken Word Artist Elsa Tölli Wants Poetry to Be Felt in the Body, Tasted in the Mouth, and Heard in the Ears”, featured national broadcaster interview by Niina Mäkeläinen, June 24

2021 ***Helsingin Sanomat*** — “The Most Surprising Offering of Bättre Folk Festival Is the Literary Programme, Where Poet Elsa Tölli Charmed Audiences with Rock Star Energy and Charisma”, festival review by Vesa Rantama, July 18

2021 ***Tuli & Savu*** — “Under Diagnoses, Genes, Heroic Deeds, Genders, and Dreams”, poetry magazine review by Ville Hämäläinen, February 4

2020 ***Helsingin Sanomat*** — “Spoken Word Poetry Found Its Literary Form in Elsa Tölli’s Debut Book, Which Is a Fireworks of Messy Colors”, newspaper review by Vesa Rantama, August 8

SELECTED ACADEMIC REFERENCES

2025 Katajapuu, Anni: “Performance in the Book, the Book in the Performance: Metapoetry and Its Functions in Elsa Tölli's Works 'Fun Primavera' and 'Diiva räjähtää nurmikoksi'”**,** Master's Thesis, **University of Helsinki**

2022 Oksanen, Fanni: “To See, to Be Seen. To Hear, to Be Heard. To Touch, to Be Touched: Spoken Word Poetry as a Method of Bibliotherapy”, Bachelor's Thesis, **Laurea University of Applied Sciences**

2021 Nykänen, Pauliina: “Of Books and Bodies: Somaticism in Graphic Design”, Master's Thesis, **Aalto University**

MEMBERSHIPS

2026–present **The Artists' Association of Finland**

2026–present **Artists' Association MUU ry**

2020–present **The Feminist Association Unioni**

2023–present **Mad House Helsinki**

2021–present **TAKU ry – Art and Culture Professionals**

2023–present **Fem-R – Antiracist Feminist Organization**

2015–present **Helsinki Poetry Connection**

POSITIONS OF TRUST AND VOLUNTARY TRAINING

2026 (May) **Braver Space Principles in the Workplace**, training, TAKU – Art and Culture Professionals

2025 (April) **Volunteering for Mental Health Carers,** training, FinFami ry

2020 (May) **Girl’s House Helsinki Volunteer training**, Loisto Settlement Association

2019 (September) **Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) Training**, Extinction Rebellion Finland (Elokapina)

2015–2019 **Board Member, Vice Secretary and Communications Officer,** Helsinki Poetry Connection ry