



## **Over 500 submissions to the Backlight 08 Photo Festival**

### **– International autumn exhibition in Tampere and Oulu**

The International Backlight 08 Photo Festival, organised by the Photographic Centre Nykyaiika in Tampere, Finland, received 572 submissions from artists across the world. Projects from approximately 50 photographers will be chosen for the exhibition. The exhibition will be shared by various galleries and venues; selected artworks will be displayed in Finland, Italy, Austria and Poland.

In addition to Tampere and Oulu in Finland, the Backlight 08 venues include Wolkersdorf in Austria, Florence in Italy and Lodz in Poland. Different artworks will be displayed in every city and gallery. The vernissage takes place on the third week in September, on 18 September in Oulu and on 19 September in Tampere. The exhibition will be open to the public from 20 September to 16 November in general. The entire exhibition will also be presented at Lodz Photo Festival in May 2009.

In Tampere, the home town of the Backlight 08 main organiser Photographic Centre Nykyaiika, the exhibition is shared by several facilities and galleries. The exhibition spaces include exhibition hall TR1 and Museum Center Vapriikki, Mäntinranta Art Centre, Galleries Rajatila and Werstas as well as the Voipaala Art Centre in Valkeakoski. The Finlayson factory area will be the heart of the exhibition in Tampere.

The other Finnish venue is Oulu, where the exhibition will be shared by the Rantagalleria and Kummigalleria gallery spaces of the Northern Photographic Centre and the gallery Valve of the Oulu Art Museum. Some artworks will also be presented at the Goethe Institut Helsinki, one of the exhibition co-operators.

Titled Tickle Attack, the Backlight 08 Photo Festival is about humour, laughter, irony, paradox and absurd. Each gallery can approach the theme from a different artistic perspective. "We are expecting to see not only cheerful and sincerely funny but also multifaceted photographs that will challenge the viewers", Project Manager Ulrich Haas-Pursiainen envisions.

Photographic Centre Nykyaiika organises the international triennial for the 8<sup>th</sup> time. Backlight 08 is funded within the European Union Culture program.

International festival co-organisers include Fondazione Studio Marangoni, Italy ([www.studiomarangoni.it](http://www.studiomarangoni.it)), FLUSS (Society for the Promotion of Artistic Photography, Austria, [www.fotofluss.at](http://www.fotofluss.at)), Lodz Art Center, Poland ([www.lodzartcenter.com](http://www.lodzartcenter.com)) and the Northern Photographic Centre, Oulu ([www.pohjoinenvalokuvakeskus.fi](http://www.pohjoinenvalokuvakeskus.fi)).

#### More information:

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