



HELSINKI  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
BIENNIAL

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Main exhibitions:

**No Exit – Urban Space, 2 March – 22 April 2012**, Helsinki City Museum, Hakasalmi Villa, Mannerheimintie 13b

**No Exit – Urban Being, 2 March – 29 April 2012**, Helsinki City Museum, Sederholm House, Aleksanterinkatu 18

Free admission!

The opening ceremony of the biennial will be held on 1 March 2012, from 6 pm to 8 pm, at the Hakasalmi Villa.

On the opening night, the exhibition in the Sederholm House will also be open for preview from 5 pm to 8 pm.

No Exit seminar on 2 March 2012, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Kino Engel, Sofiakatu 4.

Advance registration: [info@hippolyte.fi](mailto:info@hippolyte.fi). The seminar language is English.

**The Helsinki Photography Biennial begins in March 2012.** *HPB12* is a series of events showcasing Finnish and international lens-based contemporary art. The theme of the 2012 biennial is urbanity and the city. The biennial is organized by the Finnish Union of Artist Photographers.

**The *HPB12* main exhibitions are organized in cooperation with the Helsinki City Museum;** the venues are the Hakasalmi Villa (19 artists) and the Sederholm House (13 artists), as well as the union's own Photographic Gallery Hippolyte (2 artists). The main exhibitions are curated by a team whose members are photographers *Ari Kakkinen*, *Marko Karo*, *Harri Pälviranta*, *Kari Soinio* and *Hanna Weselius* together with *Jari Harju*, a researcher from the Helsinki City Museum.

The works in the main exhibitions offer perspectives on the kind of urban space we construct for ourselves and the changes that are taking place in cities across the world. However, inhabitants of cities are also in focus: how they experience the urban space, how they use it, and perhaps also mould it for their own needs.

The featured artists' subjective viewpoints on the city offer viewers very different experiences, borrowing for a moment different ways of thinking about and living in the urban environment. In his work *Urban Flow*, the Hungarian-born Adam Magyar explores the motion and rhythm of the city by using a technology familiar from finish line photos in sports competitions. The Finnish artist Noomi Ljungdell constructs urban topographies in which she has reinterpreted and transposed photographs into abstract landscapes of floating words. Current and global issues are also addressed by many artists. *The Paperless* by the Finnish photographer Katja Tähjä showcases immigrants living in European cities without papers. The protagonists in the works of the Romanian documentary photographer Dana Popa are women who leave their poor home country to become prostitutes in European cities.

The main exhibitions also feature moving image works, such as the video installation *J. Street Project* by Susan Hiller. The project searches for signs of the history of Jews in contemporary German cities. The result is not a historical document, but a work of art which transports the viewer into a landscape of forgetting and remembering.

*No Exit – Urban Space*: Isidro Blasco, Chad Gerth, Stephen Gill, Anthony Haughey, Susan Hiller, Simo Karisalo, Kalle Lampela, Jukka Lehtinen, Noomi Ljungdell, Adam Magyar, Peter Margonelli, David McMillan, Sohei Nishino, Jiang Pengyi, William Raban, Abigail Reynolds, Jani Ruscica, Christina Seely, Christopher Thomas

*No Exit – Urban Being*: Juha Allan Ekholm, Nina Berman, Tuukka Kaila, Enrique Metinides, Jukka Onnela, Sami Perttilä, Salla Pesonen, The Pier (Nils Petter Løfstedt, Erik Vestman), Dana Popa, Nicolas Provost, Roskakaupunki (Sirpa Kinnunen, Emilia Kurila, Teemu Lehmusruus), Maija Saksman, Sanni Seppo, Katja Tähjä, Michael Wolf

**In addition to the main exhibitions, HPB12 also expands in a series of events** into the museums, galleries and other venues as well as public spaces in the Helsinki metropolitan area. *HPB12* mobilized an unprecedented number of cultural actors in the greater Helsinki area, with more than 60 individual events having already been submitted. Events in the *HPB12* programme either address the themes of the biennial or are otherwise linked to photographic or moving image art. The events include exhibitions, discussions, workshops and participatory performances and works in the public space. For the full programme, please visit [www.hpb.fi](http://www.hpb.fi).

**The roots of HPB go back to the early 1980s**, when the event went by the name *Valokuvataide – Arkitaide (Photographic Art – Everyday Art)*. From 2000 to 2009 it was known as *Helsinki Photography Festival*. The Union of Artist Photographers has organized the event about once every three years, alternating with the *Triennial of Finnish Photography*. From 2012 and beyond, these two events are combined into one extensive urban festival, the *Helsinki Photography Biennial*, organized in April in even-numbered years. The mission of the biennial has from the beginning been to bring photographic art to the great public.

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DB Schenker

Helsinki Photomedia

*Kamera magazine*

Omenahotels.com

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*The Helsinki Photography Biennial is organized by the Union of Artist Photographers in Finland, whose mission is to promote and support photography-based art and to represent the professional, economic and social interests of its members. HPB12 is a highly visible and varied set of events for the artform whose role as one of the most interesting mediums in both Finnish and international contemporary art is beyond question.*