

## Finnish Landscapes

The first announcement with Finnish nature was in exceptional winter time. In January there was no snow. The snow that was there before was melted before I visit Finland. From the first day I made many walks in the neighborhood of Haukivuori and special around the art centre Saksala ArtRadius. After a few weeks the nature changed because of the snow was falling again. The nature got her mysterious feeling for me. Nature is covered by a white layer of snow. All the inferior shapes are disappeared, only the primitive forms like rocks and trees are recognizable in the snow. It are these primitive forms that interested me the most in Finnish landscapes. The 'linear' shape of the trees with the amorphous forms of the rocks. Next to that I was fascinating about the small amorphous like lakes in the forest. Often I visited the big lake to encounter the feeling of loneliness. At the lake, this feeling was different from the feeling that I got while wandering in the forest.

Finnish nature is in many ways different from the nature that you can experienced in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, nature is construct by human beings and less wildest than in Finland. Nature is less expressive. The forest are cultivated. The forest has many footpaths with benches and garbage bins. It is 'nice' but has nothing to do with nature as you can find it in Finland. In the Netherlands you are never alone in the forest. In the weekends everyone is going out to the forest, to get rid of the stress after working for a week.

In my many visits to Finland, most of the time it was winter. Once I visit Finland in summertime. The nature is very different in summer comparing with the winter. The primitive forms are almost changed. The normal vegetations has grown 1,5 meter high. Paths that I walked often in the winter, where unridable in summertime. The rocks and the shaft of the trees were hidden by the vegetation. Nature did not give the feeling of primitiveness anymore. This difference is enormous. Even enormous is the change of colors. In the winter nature is colored on a black-white scale, while in summer nature is so colorfull.

During my stays in Finland, I also translate my experiences in nature to art. For this my daily walks outside where of great importance. Because of the silence en emptiness of nature I clear my head. The surrounding during my walks give me inspiration about what I'm trying to find in my work. My works show the widespread Finnish environment. If I'm in the forest, the surrounding closes me in. I feel tied up. If I then leave the forest, the surrounding is so wide that I feel totally free. Sometimes this is such an amazing experience that it overwhelmed me. In my work you can feel this experience in a surrealist way. Nature is all around us. Sometimes we don't pay any attention to nature. If you open your mind about the natural surrounding it can overwhelm you, like you didn't knew before.