

KONSTENS HUS
VID HAVET

TAITEENTALO
MEREN ÄÄRELLÄ

ART HOUSE
BY THE SEA

CHAPPE

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Gustav Wasas Gata 11
10600 Ekenäs, Finland

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chappe.fi

Media release

Perttu Saksa: Jussarö – Invisible Forest exhibition, 9 May to 7 September 2025 in Chappe

Albert and Kromosom space (1st floor and cellar)

Perttu Saksa's photographic works explore the layers of time and space – the traces of human presence, destruction, and decay, contrasted with the cycle of life in an old growth forest and the birth of new. In his images, the vitality and unruliness of the old forest stand in stark opposition to the history of the human-shaped landscape, to dust and rust.

Alongside the photographs, the exhibition features sculptures in which natural materials, such as bones and branches, have been transformed into heavy cast iron. Rusted iron connects to the presence of human, the sea, salt, and water.

Saksa has photographed the Jussarö island and its history in Ekenäs archipelago. For centuries, the island has served as a base for seafarers and fishermen. Iron ore was mined on the island from the 18th century until 1967, leaving behind a radically altered landscape—abandoned buildings and industrial remnants amid untamed nature create an eerie, almost surreal atmosphere. Some parts of the human-made landscape are gradually merging back into the environment, as if returning to a time before human intervention.

"An old forest is not a place to pass through; it is a place to be. Life sprouts and generates new growth. One can sit down and watch a tree decay. And this is all visible, even though, in the world of trees, a human lifespan is but a moment."

Perttu Saksa

Half of Jussarö belongs to the Ekenäs Archipelago National Park and contains a small stretch of untouched natural forest, which has been allowed to grow and exist undisturbed for hundreds of years, despite the surrounding mining activity. Movement in this fragile forest ecosystem is restricted to designated paths. With a deviation permit, Saksa has been able to explore the forest, seeking to capture its uncontrolled, natural diversity—a space for life.

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A documentary video on Perttu Saksa will be released in conjunction with the exhibition as part of the *Studio visit Chappe* series.

Perttu Saksa (b. 1977) is a visual artist and photographer based in Raseborg. His work explores themes related to the relationship between the human and the environment. Saksa won the Fotofinlandia Prize in 2014 and was awarded the Pro Finlandia Medal in 2019. His works are included in numerous public collections, such as the Espoo Museum of Modern Art (EMMA) and the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma. In 2017, he was nominated for the Ars Fennica Award. His design proposal won the competition for the memorial of President Mauno Koivisto in 2018. Saksa's most recent photobook, *Dawn Chorus*, explores the landscapes of the Hanko Peninsula and the relationship between human time and geology.

The Finnish Heritage Agency has awarded a grant for the exhibition.

For additional information please contact marketing manager Janeta Asplund,
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