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Maija Luutonen, *Patch*, 2018, Installation view, Kiasma Commission by Kordelin, Feb 9 – Jul 29, 2018, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Petri Virtanen

## **Kiasma and Kordelin Foundation Launch New Concept to Promote Finnish Contemporary Artists** February 9 – July 29, 2018

**Kiasma Commission by Kordelin is a new Finnish concept for promoting and producing contemporary art. Centring around the production of one project every year, the concept aims to provide international exposure for one selected Finnish artist. The project is funded by the Alfred Kordelin Foundation.**

*I believe that the new collaboration model with the Alfred Kordelin Foundation will have a huge impact on developing future collecting activities at KIASMA. It updates a model for private-public partnerships, which permits us to establish a perspective for both younger and mid-career artists to acquire expertise, exposure and to create networks and visibility during the commissioning process. Through each commission Kiasma will also articulate one artist-initiated topic relevant in contemporary art today.*

**– Leevi Haapala, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma**

## KIASMA COMMISSION BY KORDELIN

The purpose of the new funding model is to support the selected artist's career, particularly at the international scale. The artist will be supported by Kiasma's multiprofession staff, their expertise and networks. Upon completion, the new artwork will be shown at Kiasma in a solo exhibition and will be added to the Finnish National Gallery collection. As part of the regular exhibition programme, Kiasma Commission by Kordelin will be presented to a broad public, international art experts and the media. For the first edition the selection of the artist was made by Kiasma's curatorial team, and in the future it will be made in collaboration with a curator from another international art institution.

The purpose of the initiative is to establish a permanent model for promoting contemporary art. After the initial three-year period funded by Kordelin, the project will seek other funding bodies to serve as project partners.

## MAIJA LUUTONEN

The first Kiasma Commission by Kordelin artist is Maija Luutonen. Based in Helsinki, Luutonen works primarily with painting mainly on paper-based materials by exploring and expanding its boundaries and potential.

Considering the surface as something transient, Luutonen addresses the relation between time and movement, treating the works as moving images, though ones that shift too slowly for the human eye or lifetime. Her practice often concerns spatial immersion, our relation to the built environment, and nature, at every scale.

For the show at Kiasma, Luutonen will create a new installation to be exhibited in Studio K. The commissioned work, curated by Satu Oksanen, will make use of the distinctive properties of the gallery space.

**Maija Luutonen** (b. 1978) graduated with an MFA from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in 2006. She has exhibited her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Finland and in the Baltic and Nordic countries. She has work in several Finnish art collections and was awarded the Ducat Prize by the Finnish Art Society in 2012.

**The Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma** is part of the Finnish National Gallery, along with the Ateneum Art Museum and the Sinebrychoff Art Museum.

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