



**KUVATAIDEKOULUJEN LIITTO**  
Finnish Association of Art Schools  
Förbundet för konstkolor i Finland  
Sandelsinkatu 10 C 40, 00260 Helsinki.  
+358 (0)40 736 3767  
youngart.fi

BULLETIN 9 JANUARY 2025

Portraits on display at the Library of Parliament 16 January - 27 March 2025

### **MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF ART STUDENTS #Keks2025**

The Finnish Association of Art Schools invited the art schools for children and young people throughout Finland to join a collaborative exhibition project: the idea was to implement portraits of all of Finland's 200 Members of Parliament as well as of those who have transferred to the European Parliament. 22 art schools were a part of the challenge and the exhibition was implemented as a part of the collaborative democracy education project with the Parliament.

The exhibition includes one portrait of each MP and European Parliament member, chosen by the involved schools. The creators of the portraits aged from 4-20 years old. Over 1200 pupils in basic art education participated in the project, whose work had been compiled into an online gallery, which will be available starting on 15 January, 2025: [www.kansanedustajatkuvataidekouluistaistensilmin.com](http://www.kansanedustajatkuvataidekouluistaistensilmin.com)

For each participating art school, 9-10 MP's were selected at random. The children and young people created the portraits based on the official photos published by the Parliament or during the visits of MP's at the schools. During 2024, almost 30 MP's visited art schools as models for their portraits. The visits offered an opportunity to speak with students about the role of an MP and issues of concern to children and young people. The students practise one of the traditions of visual arts, portraiture, while also participating in and contributing to society. The art schools themselves have selected the works to be sent to the exhibition and some even organised an election to select the portraits for exhibition.

Combining arts and democracy education, the project supports children and young people's participation and empowerment, and highlights their creative expression. Art is a way to build interaction and to be seen and heard, which is why it is essential that children and young people are encouraged to influence things.

Art education is a key to children and young people's wellbeing. Art activities increase wellbeing and inclusion, among other things. Art education also supports children and young people's growth, self knowledge, formation of identity, cultural competency and readiness for creative expression and action. The Finnish Association of Art Schools sees the role of basic arts education for children and young people in strengthening sustainability, active citizenship and democracy throughout Finnish society. Young people will carry the effects of their early relationship with art to various areas of society in their future careers.

This is the second time the exhibition is being held: the 2022 exhibition on MP's had great success. This time Estonian art schools are also taking part in the challenge. In fact, the Estonian Parliament is hosting an exhibit of portraits of their MP's at the same time.

The portraits will be on display at the Library of Parliament from 16 January to 27 March 2025. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 12-6pm. Free admission. Visitors of the library must undergo a security check at the library entrance. Address: Aurorankatu 6, Helsinki

You are invited to the exhibition!

Finnish Association of Art Schools and the Library of Parliament



**KUVATAIDEKOULUJEN LIITTO**  
Finnish Association of Art Schools  
Förbundet för konstkolor i Finland  
Sandelsinkatu 10 C 40, 00260 Helsinki.  
+358 (0)40 736 3767  
youngart.fi

#### ENQUIRIES:

Eliisa Sorvali  
Executive director, Finnish Association of Art Schools  
+ 358 040 736 3767, eliisa.sorvali@youngart.fi

Arja Bellinger  
Communication planner  
the Parliament's Information Office  
+358 050 574 2019, firstname.lastname@eduskunta.fi

[www.youngart.fi](http://www.youngart.fi)  
[www.eduskunta.fi](http://www.eduskunta.fi)

[www.facebook.com/youngart.fi](http://www.facebook.com/youngart.fi)  
Instagram and Twitter: @kuvisliitto

#keks2025 #demokratiakasvatus #taiteenperusopetus #kuvisliitto

#### PARTICIPATING ART SCHOOLS:

Aimokoulu, Hämeenlinna, Espoon kuvataidekoulu, Forssan kuvataidekoulu, Järvenpään Opisto, Kauniaisten kuvataidekoulu, Keravan kuvataidekoulu, Kokkolan kuvataidekoulu, KONSTa Turun Seudun Kuvataidekoulu, Kuvataide- ja käsityökoulu Emil, Valkeakoski, Lappeenrannan kuvataidekoulu, Nurmijärven kuvataidekoulu, Oulun taidekoulu, Petäjä-opisto / Pisama kuvataidekoulu, Hämeenkyrö, Kankaanpää, Karvia, Pirkan opisto, Lempäälä, Nokia, Pohjois-Helsingin kuvataidekoulu, Porvoon taidekoulu, TaiKon, Vaasa, Tuusulan kuvataidekoulu, Vanajaveden Opisto, Hämeenlinna, Vantaan kuvataidekoulu, Vihdin kuvataidekoulu, Åbolands Bildkonstskola KonstTila / Turunmaan Kuvataidekoulu KonstTila, Parainen.

#### **Finnish Association of Art Schools** | Förbundet för konstkolor i Finland rf | Kuvataidekoulujen liitto ry

The Finnish Association of Art Schools represents basic education in the visual arts and the art education provided by the schools. It is a national umbrella organisation founded in 1982. The Association has 63 member communities that provide basic education in the arts based on the national curriculum, focusing on visual arts, crafts, architecture and media arts. They also offer leisure activities to children, young people and adults. In 2023 the member schools had **16,262** students attending basic education in the arts. The art education activities of the member schools reached **32,137** students, and all of the operations were attended **647,807** times in total.