



PRESS RELEASE

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IHME Helsinki Commission 2020 postponed – Climate work goes on

The May 4 decision by the Finnish Government on COVID-19 pandemic restrictions during the summer months affects IHME Helsinki. A decision has been made to postpone the staging of the planned sound installation at the Rowing Stadium by the artist **Jana Winderen** until August 2021. In postponing the commission IHME is seeking not only to ensure that Winderen is able to carry out the work to a high standard, but also to act responsibly and ensure visitor safety.

“My cooperation with IHME and other partners has progressed really well in terms of the background work and technical implementation. However, a significant part of the working process for me – the two-week recording and background-work trip to Helsinki – will not be possible due to travel restrictions. This part of the work is necessary for the completion of the work and requires my presence on site, not to mention tuning the work to suit the Rowing Stadium’s unique architecture and the surrounding sound environment,” says artist Jana Winderen.

“We are hopeful that Jana will get to Helsinki again in the autumn. Meanwhile, we are focusing on what we can do, and continuing to consider how we as a contemporary art-commissioning agency are to collaborate internationally and create relevant discourse and meaning in the age of climate and biodiversity crisis.” says **Paula Toppila**, Executive Director and Curator. *Read about IHME’s Climate work from the latest Ecoblog: www.ihmehelsinki.fi/en/blog-archives/*

The public event originally planned for the closing of the installation will be held as staging event at the Rowing Stadium in August 22, 2020. In the current situation this will serve to boost audience participation. All other discussions and seminars run by IHME Helsinki and its partners will also go ahead as planned. Further details of autumn events will be announced in the near future.

In 2021, IHME will produce two commissioned works for public spaces in the capital city: IHME Helsinki 2020 and IHME Helsinki 2021. The artist who will devise the 2021 commission is to be announced in autumn 2020.

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IHME commissions works of contemporary art that unite the worlds of art and science. Each year, IHME produces a public artwork and a series of conversations that offer a vision and hope amid the environmental crisis. IHME’s commissions and events are open and free for everyone. IHME Helsinki is supported by Pro Arte Foundation Finland and 2020-22 by Kone Foundation. 2020-22 IHME is in collaboration with Saastamoinen Foundation.

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