



Forest and Food Bioeconomy Scientists from Finland Present Research Concepts through Art in Tokyo

By Naomi Moriyama

A team of scientists from Finland held the “ASUMIA Science and Art Exhibition” in Tokyo

The ASUMIA Exhibition coincided with the BIOSYS North Karelia International Growth Ecosystem’s visit to Japan in November 2024

The Ecosystem taskforce members travelled from Joensuu and Helsinki to Japan, filled with excitement and cutting-edge forest bioeconomy intelligence for collaborative discussions with forestry partners in Tokyo, Nagano and Hokkaido.

Most suitcases were packed with laptops loaded with polished presentations, but some were packed with exhibition posters and objects, as well as food samples developed with North Karelian ingredients for tasting by Japanese people.

On November 11–12, 2024, **Dr. Tuula Jyske**, Associate Professor, Wood, Science & Wellbeing, University of Helsinki and Senior Scientist, LUKE, and a group of scientists from Finland presented “ASUMIA Science and Art Exhibition for a More Sustainable Life” in MIL GALLERY Jingumae MIL 2nd, a ceiling to floor glass-windowed minimalist event space on a back alley lined with hip lifestyle boutiques in the Omotesando neighborhood, one of Tokyo’s cultural epicenters.



Welcome Desk



From Left: Ms. Naomi Moriyama, Communications Specialist, BIOSYS Ecosystem, Dr. Susanne Heiska, Dr. Jose Martin Ramos Diaz, Dr. Tuula Jyske, Mr. Markus Hirvonen, Region Mayor, Regional Council of North Karelia, Ms. Jessica Smith, Ms. Venla Jyske

MIL 2nd Interior

"Tree of life" by Evolution in Action, Tuula Jyske, Design Petronella, Fabric mycorrhiza, plywood, 2024

ASUMIA is the brainchild of Dr. Jyske and is an artistic expression of her research “The influence of the built environment and the surrounding nature on perceived and psychophysiological well-being”.

The poster explains: ASUMIA is a thought-provoking exhibition that combines elements of science and art to explore themes of wellbeing in built environments. It illustrates temporal and inter-organism connections, highlighting ways in which it is possible to improve urban living through reciprocal nurturing, symbiotic relations, and through valuing materials and all living creatures as part of the natural cycle where all living springs from. The exhibition showcases the Finnish nature-based innovations and invites visitors to immerse in nature of Finland.

The show was an edition of the larger scale exhibition held in HELSINKI last Summer.

Dr. Jyske, who directed and produced ASUMIA, said, “When combining science and art, we not only reached the larger audience, but also learnt new perspectives on topics we work with, via multilateral collaboration and interaction.”



“Wax Tree” and “Photo Collages and Poems from Taiwan Research Expedition of Urban Environments” Tuula Jyske, 2024



**“Being and Becoming – Residents of Mind and Body” Tuula Jyske, Dried SCOB cellulose
“leather”, photographs on paper, poetry, repurposed model hand, 2024**



"Breath In, Breath Out" Sasa Tkalcan, 2024, 360° video, 3 minutes

Ms. Jessica Smith, one of the participants, travelled from Helsinki to explain her science-art works to visitors, and to assist Professor Jyske with the operation.



From left: Dr. Tuula Jyske, Mr. Markus Hirvonen, Ms. Jessica Smith discuss Ms. Smith's installation "The First International Street Trash Award 2024"



"Wing Binders – Residents of Golden Cage" Tuula Jyske, Jessica Smith, 2024

Dr. Susanne Heiska, Senior Scientist, Innovations & Co-creation, LUKE, and **Dr. Jose Martin Ramos-Diaz**, Senior Scientists, Food and Bioproducts, LUKE, set up their “Unique Food Products” project with newly developed food products, together with **Ms. Taru Kariniemi**, LUKE’s Laboratory Engineer, like pasta and cereals utilizing ingredients from North Karelia. Some of the presentation packages were custom made by a local wood packaging company, **KOLO Design**.



Dr. Susanne Heiska (left) and Dr. Jose Martin Ramos-Diaz (right) explain their “Unique Food Products” display to a visitor

Dr. Heiska said, “Our research helps food companies to develop innovative food products that utilize local, high quality raw materials. These products are not only tasty and healthy, but they also drive the needed and desired change of the whole food system towards sustainable.”



“FUNgSULATON”, University of Helsinki, 2003–2027; “Reishi Antlers”, Peter Petros, 2024;
 “Mycelium and Dream Dissolve Dichotomy of Life and Death Through Metamorphosis”, Irma
 Heiskanen, Peter Petros, Jonatan Snapir, Otso Kauniskangas, 2024



“Feed; Self-portrait”, Julia Varis, Oil on Canvas, 2024

Mr. Russ Ackerman, US Sustainability Marketing Lead for KPMG in New York, who was travelling through Japan with his son, Alexander Ackerman, management consultant also from New York, said, "ASUMIA was truly innovative! We were amazed at the wide range of one-of-a-kind exhibits. It was made all the better as the professors and scientists conducting the research guided us through the show personally. We highly recommend it."



"FUNgSULATION", Peter Petros, Tuula Jyske, Kirsi S. Mikkonen, Pauliina Lankinen, Jutta Varis, Milla Koponen, Video, 2024



“Bio-based Antiviral Solutions from Finnish Forests”, Tuula Jyske, Varpu Marjomäki, Susan Kunnas



“Fruiting Bodies”, Noora Sandgren, 2024, and Collection of Immersive Nature Photos, Milla Koponen, Sasa Tkalcin, 2024

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ASUMIA is part of a wider project complex, which examines built environments, bio-based building and decoration materials and their well-being effects. The research projects that inspired the exhibition include, for example, Nature Based Serenity Solutions funded by the University of Helsinki and the LUONTEVA and BIOSYS projects implemented by the European Union at the University of Helsinki and the Center for Natural Resources.

Tuula Jyske, Otso Kauniskangas, Naomi Moriyama, Noora Sandgren, Jonatan Snapir, Jessica Smith, Sasa Tkalcan, Julia Varis, Jutta Varis and Ninni Westerholm have created works combining science and art for ASUMIA.

The BIOSYS North Karelia International Growth Ecosystem is run by Natural Resources Institute Finland / Luonnonvarakeskus as a project lead, the Regional Council of North Karelia Pohjois-Karjalan maakuntaliitto, University of Eastern Finland and MKN Itä-Suomi | Rural Women's Advisory Centre (RWAC) of Eastern Finland. The project is funded by Renewing and Competent Finland 2021–2027, EU Regional and Structural Policy Programme's Just Transition Fund – JTF, and Regional Council of North Karelia.

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For more information about the "Unique Food with North Karelia Ingredients", please contact Dr. Susanne Heiska susanne.heiska@luke.fi and Dr. Jose Martin Ramos-Diaz martin.ramosdiaz@luke.fi

For more information about BIOSYS Ecosystem, please contact Naomi Moriyama naomi.moriyama@pohjois-karjala.fi

← Previous: 北カレリア地域、長野県、伊那市は、今後も実りある協働関係を築きます



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