

Kimmo Ylönen

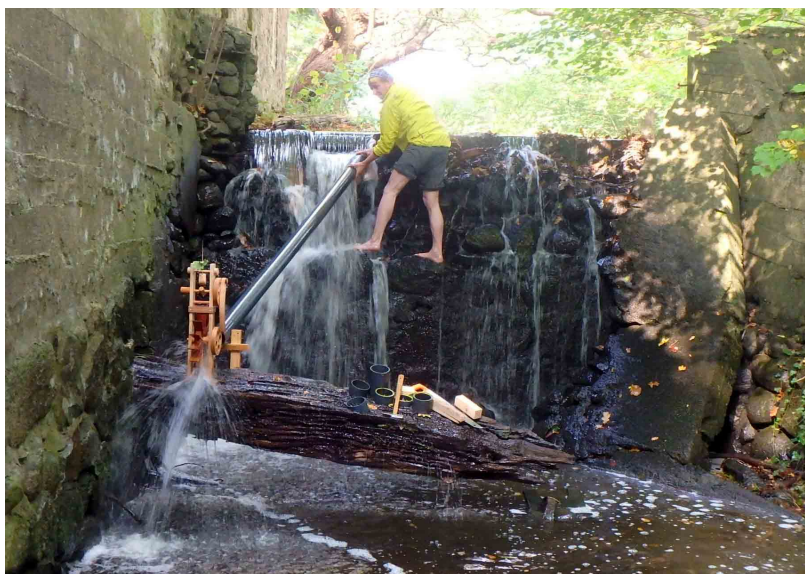
Kimmo Ylönen (born 1970) is an artist living and working on the island of Norrskata outside the South-Western coast of Finland. After graduating as a painter from Kankaanpää art school 1996 he soon took to sculpture, wood becoming his principal material. After ten or so years of solitary work Ylönen started to expand into other fields of art and learn new crafts. First came the environmental art then various multi disciplinary groups combining different fields of art from poetry to dance and from music to movies.

The way Kimmo Ylönen works can be roughly divided in three. In the basement ateljé in Norrskata he builds large sculptures. Building time stretches into years. Finishing individual pieces is not necessarily the goal. Material is mostly either natural or recycled, many times both.

Slow travelling has been a part of his practice since 2008 when Ylönen cycled to an artists residency in Marbella, Spain. Since then he has for example walked 1200 kilometres through Finland to build an exhibition in a Gallery in Rovaniemi, Lapland and cycled 2400 kilometres around the country combining an exhibition in the North and a residency in the East.

Participating in environmental art events and building site specific pieces offers Ylönen a way to challenge his way of working and to learn. Ylönen has turned a bus into a big four wheeled water level, baked a 4 meter wide bread, done excavations and built trails in the forest. He has used material from common reed to needles and rag rugs.

"I see art as a playground for a curious boy to build his own picture of the world around and in doing so, maybe understand some of it."



Kimmo Ylönen building a water wheel in Assens, Denmark.