Right Body, Wrong Body?

Exhibition about cultural meanings of body in Estonia



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KATRIN ALEKAND (b. 1975) holds a master's degree in semiotics. Her topic of research is the human body and how the cultural view of the body changes, with the main emphasis on the use of henna. As a practising henna artist and entrepreneur she has worked with the pigment for over 15 years. As a lecturer she has taught body modification techniques. She has worked as a guide, and for the last five years as a teacher of cultural anthropology at Miina Härma Gymnasium, an academically selective upper secondary school in Tartu.

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KRISTIINA ROSS (b. 1955) holds a PhD in linguistics and serves as lead researcher at the Institute of the Estonian Language. She has studied the grammar of Baltic Finnic languages, the morphology of Estonian and the history of the Estonian literary language. In recent years she has also studied the sociolinguistic aspects of the literary language of the 17th and 18th centuries. She has published a number of translations from Hebrew, French and German and has also been a teaching staff member.

INGRID RUUDI (b. 1978) holds a PhD in art history and is a researcher with the Institute of Visual Culture of the Estonian Academy of Arts and a visiting associate professor. She is editor in chief of the art history journal Kunstiteaduslikke Uurimusi. Ruudi has studied changes in Estonian architecture and art in the 1980s and 1990s, curated a number of architecture exhibitions and edited architecture publications. TENNO TEIDEARU (b. 1989) holds a master's degree in ethnology and is a research fellow at the Estonian National Museum. His main fields of study are material culture, consumer culture and the anthropology of religion. In the context of his doctoral research, he focuses on material forms of expression of a new ethos and esoteric commerce. He also investigates repairs of items in consumer culture of both the present day and the Soviet era.

MARI TÕRV (b. 1983) is a PhD in archaeology and a research fellow at the University of Tartu's Institute of Chemistry and the Institute of History and Archaeology. Her main fields of study are past cultures of death, and food culture, for which she uses osteology, archaeo-thanatology and stable isotope studies of bones. A broader research topic is the identities of people who lived in the past and how they are expressed in different practices (for example burial customs, food culture).

TIINA VÄHI (b. 1956) has a licentiate degree in comparative religious theory. She was lecturer in cultural anthropology at the University of Tartu from 1993 to 2001, worked in the comparative religion department of the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Humanities from 2001 to 2004, and was lecturer at the Tartu Academy of Theology from 2012 to 2013. She is currently a freelance scholar and publicist. She has published several dozen research articles on the topic of werewolves and witch trials.

ELLEN VÄRV (b. 1959) has a master's degree in ethnology and is director of the folk culture education and information centre at the Estonian National Museum. Her main research fields are clothing, chiefly folk costume, and daily life in the Soviet era. She has compiled exhibitions and written articles on these topics and has been a leader of folk culture related advisory and education activities.