

GULAHALLAT

PROGRAMME FROM 11.09 TO 24.10.2026 AT INSTITUT FINLANDAIS

Exhibition Gulahallat – Encounters with Contemporary Sámi Art

11.09. – 24.10.2026 / TUESDAY-SATURDAY 11AM – 6PM

Opening on 10.09.2026 / 6 – 8PM

Exhibition bringing together the works of nine contemporary Sámi artists. In Northern Sámi, *Gulahallat* refers to dialogue, to mutual understanding, and to being heard.

Pop up collection: Sámi Duodji

11.09. – 24.10.2026 / TUESDAY-SATURDAY 11AM – 6PM

Collection of traditional Sámi crafts by nine duojárs, for sale at Institut finlandais' gallery-boutique.

Gastronomy event: PYERI PUURRÂMLUSTO! Bon appétitt !

FRIDAY 18 & SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026 - 7PM

More than a dinner, *Pyeri puurrâmlusto !* is an invitation to discover Sámi gastronomy alongside award-winning chef Heikki Nikula and DJ Hulluella, in a unique journey through taste and sound.

Encounters with Sámi Music

Niillas Holmberg & Pauli Lyytinen in concert

THURSDAY 24.09 – 8PM

Sámi poet and musician Niillas Holmberg and Finnish saxophonist and composer Pauli Lyytinen perform together in France for the first time, in a concert drawing both on the ancestral mythology of the Sámi people and on the modernity of improvised music, at the far reaches of jazz and Arctic soundscapes.

Encounters with Sámi Cinema

ON THURSDAYS 8, 15 & 22 OCTOBER – 7PM

In collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples' Film Center Skábma, three screenings with French subtitles to discover Sámi cinema. More info soon!

This project is the result of a curatorial collaboration with Oulu2026, the Sámi partner organisations Sámi Duodji and Indigenous Peoples' Film Center Skábma, and the artists involved.

More information and tickets on www.institut-finlandais.fr



**Oulu2026
European Capital
of Culture**

GULAHALLAT

ENCOUNTERS WITH CONTEMPORARY SÁMI ART

**Exhibition from 11.09 to 24.10.2026 at Institut finlandais
Inauguration on 10.09.2026, 6-8pm as part of Paris Design Week**



© Oulu2026, photo: Juho Huttunen

Institut finlandais presents *Gulahallat – Encounters with Contemporary Sámi Art*, an exhibition bringing together works by leading Sámi artists alongside a selection of traditional Sámi handicrafts. The exhibition is organised in partnership with Oulu 2026 European Capital of Culture. It features artworks from the collections of the Rovaniemi Art Museum, as well as the Sámi Museum Siida located in Aanaar/Inari in Sápmi, the Sámi homeland area. In Northern Sámi, Gulahallat refers to dialogue, to mutual understanding, and to being heard.

The exhibition showcases the work of **nine contemporary Sámi artists**: Tomas Colbengtson, Marja Helander, Niillas Holmberg, Jouni S. Laiti, Hildá Länsman, Tomas Magnusson, Outi Pieski, Lada Suomenrinne and Liselotte Wajstedt. They live across Sápmi, some on the Finnish and some on the Swedish side, reflecting the fact that Sámi art transcends not only artistic disciplines but also the borders of the Nordic states. Their works – **photography, film, textiles and traditional handicrafts** – combine ancestral techniques with contemporary artistic practices. Sámi art is inseparable from **duodji**, the traditional craft that embodies the vitality and diversity of contemporary Sámi artistic expression. **These works carry the traditional stories while reinterpreting them for the present, exploring current themes such as cultural resilience, and relationships with the living world, as well as the reclaiming of traditions, and the dialogue between past, present and future.**

The Sámi people still live in close relationship with nature. In the context of the climate crisis, **nature is not a backdrop, a resource to utilise or a landscape to admire; it is an essential part of existence**, a vital partner, and the Sámi way of life depends on its well-being and survival.

Sámi history is marked with the **colonisation of their lands, political oppression and forced assimilation**. To this day, the Sámi people have had to struggle in order **to safeguard their status and to preserve their culture** by ensuring its transmission from one generation to the next. Even after four centuries of colonialism, Sámi culture, languages and spirituality remain vibrant and are now attracting **growing international interest**. Nevertheless, knowledge of the EU's only Indigenous people remains limited, both in Finland and across the rest of Europe. The artists featured in Gulahallat respond to this reality through works that build bridges between generations, as exemplified by Marja Helander's photography series *The Generations*.

In the Institute's main hall, *The 47 Most Wanted Ancestresses* examines the complex history of the traditional Sámi women's headdress, the ládjogahpir. Born from a collaboration between Sámi artist Outi Pieski and archaeologist Eeva-Kristiina Nylander, the work brings together **research and activism as well as Sámi artistic practice and craftsmanship** to illuminate the path of this headdress – from being widely in use to museum archives across Europe and to the recent remarkable revival of the tradition.

The exhibition Gulahallat is **an invitation to encounter, listen and engage**. It confronts the violence of oppression and colonialism while **celebrating cultural renewal through art**. To further explore the exhibition's themes, a rich accompanying programme highlights the multidisciplinary practices of the participating artists through **gastronomic events, film screenings and concerts**.

The public programme is organised **in collaboration with Oulu 2026 European Capital of Culture**. The Sámi are **the only Indigenous people in the EU**. In Finland, home to approximately 10,000 Sámi, nearly 1,000 of them live in the Oulu region, making it the country's largest urban Sámi population. The Oulu 2026 European Capital of Culture programme places Sámi culture at its heart.

This project is the result of a curatorial collaboration with Oulu2026, the Sámi partner organisations Sámi Duodji and Indigenous Peoples' Film Center Skábma, and the artists involved.



**Oulu2026
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**Paris Design
Week** Maison
&Objet

Institut finlandais is an independent and multidisciplinary cultural institute between Finland and France. We present visual arts, music, cinema, literature, design and gastronomy in the heart of the Latin Quarter in Paris.

Institut finlandais

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Opening hours:
Tuesday - Saturday,
11am to 6pm.

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PYERI PUURRÂMLUSTO!

Bon appétit !

GASTRONOMY EVENTS

DINERS ON 18 & 19 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT CAFÉ MAA

CHEF HEIKKI NIKULA & DJ HULUELLA

Born and raised in Inari, in the heart of Northern Finland, **Chef Heikki Nikula** draws inspiration from his **Inari Sámi heritage** and a lifelong connection to the Arctic landscape. Growing up, he learned to fish, forage, hunt and live according to the rhythm of the northern seasons – values that continue to shape both his life and his culinary philosophy.

Inspired by his Inari Sámi heritage, Nikula's cuisine reflects **a deep respect for nature**, seasonal rhythms and the ingredients of the Arctic. **Each dish celebrates the pure flavours of the North and the close relationship between people and the land.**

The experience will be enhanced by the radiating music of **DJ Hulluella**, a Sámi artist and producer based in Rovaniemi, Northern Finland. Hulluella creates immersive artistic sets that weave Indigenous Sámi joik, nature soundscapes, high-frequency textures and ambient electronics, **exploring the relationship between contemporary club culture, Indigenous identity and the natural world.** For this event, she will create an atmospheric sonic journey to accompany the chef's creations.

Set among the works of the exhibition ***Gulahallat. Encounters with Contemporary Sámi Art***, the dinner brings together cuisine, contemporary art and Sámi music in **a multisensory celebration of a living culture.** Through flavours, artistic expression and sound, the evening offers an opportunity to discover the richness and diversity of Sápmi from a unique perspective.

More than a dinner, ***Pyeri puurrâmlusto!*** is an invitation to encounter Sápmi with all the senses.

Menu : www.institut-finlandais.fr/en/pyeri-puurramlusto/

Bookings : www.institut-finlandais.fr/boutique/



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Encounters with contemporary sámi music
 Niillas Holmberg & Pauli Lyytinen:
Naarattu laulu



© Lada Suomenrinne

CONCERT ON THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT INSTITUT FINLANDAIS

Sámi poet and musician **Niillas Holmberg** and Finnish saxophonist and composer **Pauli Lyytinen** share a complicity that seems to stem from shamanic trance. Their shared trance draws both on the ancestral mythology of the Sámi people and on the modernity of improvised music, **at the far reaches of jazz and Arctic soundscapes**. Together, they co-wrote the album *Naarattu laulu* (literally: 'the fished out song'), which came out in 2025 on the Finnish independent label Eclipse Music. Niillas Holmberg and Pauli Lyytinen will perform together for the first time in France on 24 September 2026 at Institut finlandais.

Created around the poetic writing of Niillas Holmberg, ***Naarattu laulu is a deeply evocative and dreamlike work***. It blends **yoik (ancestral a cappella chant), spoken word, saxophone, percussion and "organic electronics"** – as the performers like to call their blend of sounds captured in nature. Water flows as a recurring motif in this **poetic mise en abyme tinged with surrealism**; like the water of the nourishing river at the mouth of which the elders once glimpsed whales. How water carries the voice!

The poet and the saxophonist fish the song out from the depths of the water and set it down on the riverbank. They take the time to live out their waking dream **in harmony with the natural elements**, without ever rushing needlessly. Rather than a finished product, they define this work as an act. *Naarattu laulu* has received an enthusiastic reception from the critic and has been **nominated for the prestigious Teosto Prize 2026**.

Tickets: www.institut-finlandais.fr/boutique/

Jalvvi Niillas Holmberg: vocals, recitation, songwriting

Jalvvi Niillas Holmberg, a poet, novelist, screenwriter, musician and activist, was born in 1990 and lives in Ohcejohka, Sápmi (Utsjoki in Finnish). He has published two novels and six collections of poetry, and his works have been translated into more than ten languages. In 2023, he was awarded the Finnish Eino Leino Prize for his entire body of work and has been nominated twice for the Nordic Council Literature Prize. *Halla Helle*, his first novel published in 2021 (published in French in 2024 by Éditions du Seuil), has been hailed by critics as “the Sámi people’s Magic Mountain”.

Niillas has been practising **yoik** since early childhood. **This unique vocal tradition does not simply describe a person, an animal or a landscape, but aims to embody their spiritual essence through melody.** He performs as a solo artist, as a guest with various Nordic ensembles, and in duo with Pauli Lyytinen since 2021. His poem *Luovuus* formed the basis for the first symphony composed by Roope Mäenpää, with Niillas performing as soloist at its premiere by the Lapland Chamber Orchestra in 2022, conducted by John Storgårds. Niillas is known as a fervent advocate for the rights of the Sámi and indigenous peoples to self-determination. He has been involved in several movements against extractivism in Sámi regions.

Pauli Lyytinen: saxophone, kalimba, percussion, electronics

Pauli Lyytinen (1983) has established himself as one of the most distinctive musicians on the new Finnish jazz scene. Throughout a professional career that began in Brazil in his late teens, the saxophonist has built a reputation as an uncompromising and daring artist who pays little heed to stylistic boundaries and dogmas. The tenor and soprano saxophones are his instruments of choice, but he also enjoys playing the alto saxophone, the Mellotron, keyboards and percussion. He currently performs as a solo artist, in duo with poet and musician Niillas Holmberg, with his trio *Rabbit Hole*, with indie-pop trio *Elifantree* led by singer Annie-Elif, trio *Sole Azul* and *Equally Stupid*, to name but a few of his most active groups. He performs regularly in Europe and around the world at numerous festivals, in clubs and on prestigious stages across the globe.

Lyytinen has released around thirty albums with his bands. His second solo album, *Lehto/Korpi* (We Jazz label), was named Jazz Album of the Year 2024 in Finland. He was artist-in-residence at the Südtirol Jazz Festival in 2018, and was named Artist of the Year 2017 by the Pori Jazz Festival. He performed at Institut finlandais in 2014 as part of guitarist Raoul Björkenheim’s *eCsTaSy* quartet, a group that is still active today.

