

Sarjakuva 2026

**YEAR OF FINNISH COMICS IN FRANCE
PROGRAMME FROM 6.11 TO 18.12.2026 AT INSTITUT FINLANDAIS**

Exhibition: *Darlings*

TUESDAY–SATURDAY / 11AM–6PM

Exhibition by award-winning graphic novelist Juliana Hyrri, whose books explore childhood, the search for belonging, school violence and the fear of rejection. The exhibition brings together illustrations, sketches and other material documenting the creative process of her third graphic novel, *Darling*, revealing the narrative and visual thinking behind the story.

Pop-up Comic Bookshop: *La Regyliäär*

TUESDAY–SATURDAY / 11AM–6PM

A pop-up comic bookshop will be open throughout the *Darlings* exhibition. In collaboration with La Régulière, a bookshop in Paris's 18th arrondissement, which will take over Institut finlandais' gallery-boutique for the occasion, the pop-up will offer a wide selection of books translated into French, showcasing the richness and diversity of Finnish comics, graphic novels and illustrated books.

Concert: *Žižek Says!*

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER / 8PM

An exceptional live drawing concert at Institut finlandais: award-winning comics artist Ville Ranta will draw the concert live before the audience. The dynamic duo of accordionist Niko Kumpuvaara and saxophonist-singer Joonatan Rautiola creates surreal utopias blending Finnish, French and Ukrainian musical influences.

Family screening: *Moomins And The Winter Wonderland*

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER / 3PM

A film by Jakub Wroński and Ira Carpelan for families and children aged 3 and up. Based on the books by Tove Jansson, creator of the Moomins, whose rich and profound artistic universe continues to captivate new generations in Finland and around the world.

Programme presented as part of Sarjakuva 2026, Year of Finnish Comics in France.

Darlings

Exhibition by Juliana Hyrri from 6 November to 18 December 2026
Opening on Thursday, 5 November from 6 to 8pm, in presence of the artist



©Juliana Hyrri, Lelikki

Juliana Hyrri, born in 1989, is an **award-winning visual artist, illustrator and graphic novelist** based in Helsinki. Growing up between Estonia's Russian-speaking culture and Finland, Juliana Hyrri brings her experience of living between two cultural worlds to her three graphic novels, which explore childhood, the search for belonging, school violence and the fear of rejection.

"Because of my bilingualism, it feels as though I have faced a double linguistic barrier all my life, constantly having to chase after words and thoughts until I become frustrated. Writing and storytelling through art have given my thoughts and their development the time and space they need. Artistic work has opened up a different path for me, one that may be better suited to me, for expressing things that my words and communication skills alone would not be enough to convey." — Juliana Hyrri

The exhibition features original artwork from Juliana Hyrri's third graphic novel, *Darling*, alongside sketches and other material documenting the creative process, finished pages from the book and various versions of the work. Conceived as a companion to the book, the exhibition offers a behind-the-scenes look at its creation, revealing the narrative and visual thinking behind the story.

Based on real events, *Darlings* tells a story of childhood in a world where violence is often subtle and difficult to recognise. Its protagonist is a solitary, dreamy girl marked by a red pom-pom—a visual symbol that follows this otherwise unnamed character across several years.

Alongside original pages created in gouache and mixed media, the exhibition includes sketches, fragments of the story and narrative surprises. Rather than following the book page by page, the installation brings different versions and stages of the work into dialogue with one another.

Juliana Hyrri's work has been exhibited extensively in Finland and abroad. She has also received grants and illustration commissions from institutions including Helsingin Sanomat, the Kone Foundation, the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Arts Promotion Centre Finland and the Finnish National Agency for Education. In 2023, Juliana Hyrri received the Finnish State Award for Comic Art. The French translation of *Darling*, translated by Kirsi Kinnunen, will soon be published by Éditions Même pas mal.

The exhibition *Darlings*, dedicated to the comics of Juliana Hyrri, is presented as part of Sarjakuva 2026, the year of Finnish comics in France. Throughout 2026, the richness and diversity of contemporary Finnish comics are celebrated through a nationwide programme, fostering encounters between artists and audiences and encouraging cultural exchange between France and Finland.

Mark your calendars!

30 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER

Juliana Hyrri's graphic universe comes to life on the large wall of Café Maa!

The artist will paint a mural during Café Maa's opening hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm.



©Juliana Hyrri, Lellikki

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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Concert: Žižek Says!

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 8PM AT INSTITUT FINLANDAIS



©Otto Virtanen, WS0Y

An exceptional concert at Institut finlandais, **illustrated by Ville Ranta**, who has won awards for his bold comics, draws the concert for the audience, his illustrations based on expressive contemporary musical works. In a tumultuous duo, **accordionist Niko Kumpuvaara** and **singer-saxophonist Joonatan Rautiola** paint surrealist utopias by blending Finnish, French and Ukrainian music.

The main work of the concert **Žižek Says!** is a musical theatre performance about power: the musicians try to bluff each other by playing inaccurately, the instruments are moved like puppets and in the end, the singing voice takes over the musician's body as if in a Žižekian psychoanalysis. In this work played here for a **world premiere at Institut finlandais**, composer Miika Hyytiäinen combines humour with the savage possibilities of the human voice and experimental musical theatre.



©Tuomas Tenkanen



©Maarit Kytöharju

Ville Ranta is an award-winning cartoonist. To date, he has published nine graphic novels, translated into French by Éditions ça et là and Rackham. In Finland, Ville Ranta is particularly well known to the general public as a newspaper cartoonist. His irreverent humour, bold approach to taboo subjects, and expressive, dynamic watercolour drawing have won him a wide readership. Since 2024, he has been a cartoonist for Helsingin Sanomat, the largest daily newspaper in the Nordic countries.

Niko Kumpuvaara is a Finnish accordionist renowned for his versatility, spanning classical, popular and contemporary music. As a soloist, composer, arranger and producer, he has contributed to numerous musical, theatrical and film productions. A prizewinner in several competitions, he has directed several festivals in Finland and taught at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. A graduate of the Sibelius Academy, where he currently teaches, he also performs as a bandoneonist, particularly in chamber music and musical theatre.

Joonatan Rautiola is a Finnish saxophonist and singer whose career is distinguished by collaborations with composers and artists from a wide range of disciplines. He has performed on major international stages, including with the Strasbourg and Düsseldorf Philharmonic Orchestras, at the Lucerne Festival, Salle Pleyel and Carnegie Hall. He teaches saxophone at the Sibelius Academy and the Paris Conservatoire, while maintaining an active career in new music, performance and international touring.