

# Ulla Taipale

\*1971 Tampere, Finland



photo: Tommi Taipale

*Ulla Taipale is art curator and researcher. Her professional activity builds bridges between art and science communities, enhancing and facilitating dialogue between artists, creatives, scientists, and the general public. She holds a BSc in Environmental Engineering (Satakunta Politechnical University, Finland) and a Master of Arts (Visual Culture, Curating and Contemporary Art at Aalto University, Finland). She works currently as an Art&Science Curator at INAR (Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research) at University of Helsinki and forms part of various creative platforms and working groups.*

*Exhibitions, workshops and other interventions by Taipale has been shown internationally; at 1000 Ecologies Biennale in Geneva, CCCB (Centre for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona), Spain, Fundación Joan Miró Barcelona and Santa Mónica Art Centre, Barcelona, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, El Matadero Cultural Centre of Madrid, El Laboral Centre for Art and Industrial Creation in Gijon (Spain), Pixelache Festival (Finland), European Capital of Culture Turku2011 program (Finland), in Natureza: Arte e Ciência Festival in Brazil, Taidekoti Kirpilä, Helsinki, among others.*

*Since 2006 she works under the name Capsula [art science nature], a platform combining arts and natural sciences and creating cross-disciplinary cultural contents, curatorial and artistic productions. During the years 2011-14 she co-directed a team of professionals from arts, sciences and design that set up the laboratory and program of Biofilia – Base for Biological Arts at Aalto University, Finland. She is co-founder of Melliferopolis - Honeybees in Urban Environments platform established in 2012.*

*She speaks and writes fluently Finnish, English and Spanish. She has one daughter. She lives in Barcelona and in Ahlainen, Western Coast of Finland.*

*The curatorial and artistic work of Taipale has been supported by several Finnish cultural foundations such as Kone Foundation, Finnish Cultural Foundation and Alfred Kordelin Foundation.*

## Education

**2018** Master of Arts, Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Finland

**2003** Postgraduate degree in Curating and Cultural Practices in Art and New Media at Media Centre d'Art i Disseny de ESDi, Barcelona

**1997** BSc in Environmental Engineering and Technical Journalism, Satakunta Polytechnics (FI)

**1996-97** Erasmus-Sokrates Exchange in Politecnica de Valencia/ Universidad CEU San Pablo, Valencia, Spain

**1993** Business College graduate in Marketing, Pori College of Business (FI)

**1990-92** Valkeakoski High School (FI)

**1977-86** Piano, history and theory of music, Valkeakoski Academy of Music, (FI)

## Recent Professional Activity

2013 -> Art & Science Curator at Climate Whirl Arts Program, INAR / University of Helsinki

2019-> Curator of *Chorus sinensis* project as a part of Scandinavian *The Conference of Birds* project. Exhibition in Pori Art Museum confirmed for 2022.

2019-20 Curator of Accelerate Finland in partnership with Arts at CERN, Geneva

2013-> Melliferopolis-Honeybees in Urban Environments with Dr. Christina Stadlbauer.

2011-2014 Project Manager and lecturer, Aalto Biofilia at Aalto ARTS. *Biofilia –Base for Biological Arts* in an artistic-biological research and teaching laboratory, and a program interweaving artistic and bio-scientific explorations and thought.

## Past and Recent Curatorial Activity (selected)

2021-> Permanent art exhibition to the forests, peatland and lake at Hyytiälä Forestry Field Station, Climate Whirl, University of Helsinki

2020-> **The Word for the World is Forest** program for Tampere2026 ECoC proposal 2017:

**Feast of Pollen Gold** as part of Table Scenes, Taidekoti Kirpilä, Helsinki

2017: **Forest-Climate-Time Seminar**, WHS Theater Union, Helsinki.

2016: **Melliferopolis Fest**, series of events for bees and humans, Helsinki.

2014: **ArtMeatFlesh** food and biotech cooking event with Oron Catts&team, Helsinki

2011: **Halikonlahti Green Art: Food Chains**, Salo Contemporary Art Museum

2011: **Vol.at.ilit.y** dance performance by choreographer Tomi Paasonen, Turku

2009: **Eclipse Happening** with Agnes Meyer-Brandis, Kiasma/Astronomic Observatory, FI

2009: **Transversalia – Arte/Paisaje/Contexto/Aprendizaje**, El Laboral Centro de Arte, ES

2009-10: **Herbologies/Foraging networks**, Pixelache Festival, Kiasma Art Museum and Helsinki University Botanic Garden

**Curated Expeditions curatorial program** (2008-12) is dedicated to observing and experiencing fascinating earthly phenomena through artistic investigation. The first art&science expedition happened in the Zoo of Novosibirsk, Siberia and the second, to the Baltic Sea. More: [www.capsulaexpeditions.com](http://www.capsulaexpeditions.com)

2008-9: **Kiasma Art Museum**, Helsinki: Curated Expedition to the Total Eclipse

2009-11: **European Capital of Culture, Turku2011**: Curated Expedition to the Baltic Sea

2008: **Taxonomies**, Centro de Arte y Pensamiento, Barcelona, with Monica Bello

2006-07: **Neurótica project**, CCCB, Barcelona and El Matadero, Madrid, with Monica Bello

2006-7: **Days of Bioart I-II**, Centro de Arte Santa Monica, Barcelona, with Monica Bello

## Past and on-going Artistic Activity (selected)

2020 [www.theotherside.fi](http://www.theotherside.fi) -website launched

2019 *The Other Side* aural space, Cimetiére des Rois, 1000 Ecologies, Geneva.

2017-2018 Commission by Fundació Joan Miró / *Beehave* exhibition, *The Other Side* aural space at Poblenou Cemetery in Barcelona

### **Lecturing, talks, academic courses (selected)**

Taipale is regularly invited to lecture in the universities, seminars and festivals at institutions such as Aalto University, University of Helsinki, Uniarts, Helsinki and Universidad Politecnica de Cataluña (UPC) in Barcelona.

2020 Night of Science with IHME Helsinki and Bioart Society, Helsinki

2019 Moon Geese and Beyond - blending art and science, CosmoCaixa, Barcelona

2014-19 Biological arts and hands-on lab workshop, Biofilia at Aalto University, Espoo

2018 Guided tours (5) to the Other Side at Poblenou cemetery, Barcelona

2018 Who is Pollinating? Party is over, (Un)Commonworlds Conference, Turku

2018 The Other Side - A Long Walk with Bees and Angels, Hybrid Labs Symposium, Aalto University, Espoo

2018 Melliferopolis lecture, Fundación Joan Miró, Barcelona

2017-18 Melliferopolis lecture at Art Education MA. Aalto University, Espoo

2017 Who is Pollinating? Party is over, performative lecture, Taidekoti Kirpilä, Helsinki

2017 Lecture for Màster Oficial de Paisatge de la ETSAB / UPC, Barcelona

2016-17 Melliferopolis course for MAECP at Uniarts, Helsinki.

2014 The Art of Measuring the Woods Workshop at Hyytiälä Forestry Field Station

2014 Dinner's ready, 6 ECTS course, Aalto University

2014 Biofilia: Art and Biosciences Course, Hands-on, (MA-students), Aalto University

2013 Biofilia: Art and Biosciences Course, 6 ECTS (MA-students), Aalto University

### **Courses (selected)**

2018 Professional EU-training program for the management of urban green spaces (BE)

2018 Scientific illustration course, Centre Civic Pati Llimona, Barcelona

2018 Seminar "El pensamiento tentacular de Donna Haraway", Institut d'Humanitats, BCN

2015 Introduction to the Organic Beekeeping, Escola EsBiosfera, Catalunya

2005 Course of Scientific Museology, directed by Dr. Jorge Wagensberg, CosmoCaixa, BCN

2001 Padi Diving Course basic and advanced, Turtle Bay divers, Perhentian island, Malaysia

2001 Business English, The British Council, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1999 Artisan book binding, Politècnica de Valencia/Facultad de Bellas Artes,

1985-> Several courses in photography

### **Publications**

Taipale, U. at all (2019) While Art perforates the Walls of Data Silos: Climate Whirl Arts Program 2013-19 and Beyond. Helsinki: FCoE report, Academy of Finland.

Taipale, U. (ed.) (2018) The Other Side art book

Taipale, U. (2017). Vihreän tasapaino kaupungistuvassa maailmassa In: Vihreä päänsärky! Taidetta siemenestä kompostiin. Y. Sepänmaa, L. Heikkilä-Palo ja V. Kaukio (ed.) Helsinki: Maahenki Oy

Stadlbauer, C., Taipale, U. (2016). Inter-species encounters at the "Hexa-Hives". Urban Forestry & Urban Greening

Taipale, Ulla (2015). Kohtaamisia pesillä, metsässä ja merellä. In: A. Suominen and H. Ylirisku (ed.), Maan Kuva. Aalto ARTS

Stadlbauer C. and Taipale U. (2015), Stinging Beauty - Introducing the Wild in the Public Parks in Finland, Public Park issue at Paisea Magazine

Taipale U. (2015). The Secret Ingredient behind the Victimless Utopia, Leon Magazine, Helsinki

Taipale U. (2015). Melkoelävistä puolivilleihin. In: Kippola, A., Seppänen K. (ed.), Maasta luotua - Menneen ajan puutarhoista biotaitteeseen. Poikilo-museot.

2014 Contribution to the paper "Science and Society-the Climate Whirl Concept" by Eija Juurola et al.

2013 Contribution to the book "Pelastusalus Silakka" edited by Teemu Takatalo, Tommi Taipale and Juha Mehtäläinen

2006-7 Días de Bioarte, online and paper publication around Biological Arts

2008 Contribution in "Foraging in Central Kurzeme", Exercise Book of Traditions Series, published by Starpnozaru mākslas grupa SERDE, Latvia 2010

2000-> as a photographer, Ulla's photos have been published in media, exhibitions and books.

**Other professional activity (selected):**

2004: **Nike**, Production manager for press event *You are faster than you think*, Barcelona

2004: **The Snow Show**, Curatorial assistant of the exhibition of art and architecture of snow and ice, Rovaniemi and Kemi, Finland

2001-2: **NOA Ltd**, Sales agent for an international communications agency, in Malaysia, Guatemala, Trinidad&Tobago and South Africa.

2000: **Observatori**, Press manager for International Festival for Artistic Investigation, Valencia.

1998-2000: **Centro Cultural la Beneficencia**, Exhibition assistant and photographer for the exhibition production team at Ethnological Museum of Valencia City, Spain.

**Grants and nominations (selected)**

2021 **Kordelin Foundation**, Climate Whirl / INAR Permanent exhibition at the Forestry Station

2021 **Samuel Huber Foundation** / Chorus Sinensis

2021 **Taike** / Wandering Tree

2020 **Kordelin Foundation**, Kulttuurin digiloikka / www.theotherside.fi

2020 **Nordic Culture Point, Nordic Culture Fund and Taike Satakunta** / Chorus sinensis

2019 **Frame Foundation** / The Other Side Geneva

2018 **Saastamoinen Foundation and Tiedonjulkaisemisen neuvottelukunta** / Accelerate Finland, CERN

2017 **Finnish Cultural Foundation**, yearly grant for artistic work

2014-17 **Kone Foundation**, working grant / Melliferopolis

2014-17 Kone Foundation, working grant / Climate Whirl project

2012 **Finnish Cultural Foundation** / Hexa-Hive Village to Aalto Kampus Garden

2012 **Finnish State Art Prize** for Pixelache organisation

2011 **Wihuri Foundation** / working grant, 4 months

2011 **Finnish Ministry of Environment** / Curated Expedition to the Baltic Sea

2010 **AVEK, Finnish Art Council and Turku2011 Foundation** / Curated Expedition to the Baltic Sea

2009 **AVEK** / Curated expedition to Expedition to the Total Eclipse in Kiasma exhibition

2009 HIAP production residency in Suomenlinna, Helsinki

2009 **Finnish Art Council** / Expedition to the Total Eclipse in Kiasma exhibition

2009 **Finnish Ministry of Education**, Russia program for Arts & Culture / Eclipse Happening

2008 **AECID** (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo) Spanish Foreign Ministry / Expedition to the Total Eclipse

2008 **Frame Foundation** / travel grant for Expedition to the Total Eclipse

2007 **City of Madrid, Cultural Council** / Neurótica Project

**Memberships (selected):**

Founding member 2010 and chair of board of Capsula Society 2011->

Member and vice board member 2014-19 of Pixelache Festival

Member of board of experts of Aalto Biofilia 2013->

Founding member 2008 and board member 2008-2010, Finnish Bioart Society

Founding member 2008 and member of Zzzzinc, association for cultural innovation in Barcelona

**Online:**

[www.climatewhirl.fi](http://www.climatewhirl.fi)

[www.melliferopolis.net](http://www.melliferopolis.net)

[www.theotherside.fi](http://www.theotherside.fi)

[www.capsula.fi](http://www.capsula.fi)

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