

HOSTLER BURROWS

KIM SIMONSSON

b. 1974, Finland

The ceramic sculptor Kim Simonsson works figuratively, animating a mythic cast of characters. Typically, his stoneware and porcelain figures take the form of anarchic and self-reliant children immersed in the textures of the natural world; outfitted in moss, foliage, branches, flowers, and feathers, their glazed and nylon fiber surfaces radiate the vibrant, electric green of new growth on the forest floor. Other works, finished with an array of monochromes in blue, white, and gold, conjure the pure tones of the elements.

The artist is particularly well-known for his series of *Moss People*, a tribal society of young people who have broken off from industrialized civilization to live in accord with nature. Grounded in Finnish folklore, post-apocalyptic film, and fairy tales, these sculptures evoke the prospect of freedom, wildness, and the fantastical reveries of childhood. As Simonsson puts it, “What I am trying to do in my art is to create something that is of an informal sublime beauty ... I want to make work that is honest and true to my way of expressing myself.”

Simonsson is based between Fiskars and Helsinki, Finland. He received a master’s degree from the University of Arts and Design in Helsinki and has exhibited widely, including at the Ålands Konstmuseum, Mariehamn, Finland; the Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland; KWUM Karin Widnäs Museum, Fiskars, Finland; Musée d’Ansembourg, Liège, Belgium; MoCA Busan, South Korea; and the Wäinö Aaltonen Art Museum, Turku, Finland. Simonsson is the recipient of the Pro Finlandia Prize, the Svenska Kulturfonden Prize, and the Walter Runeberg Foundation Award. His work is held in the collections of the Didrichsen Art Museum, Gothenburg Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art Gifu, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, National Museum in Oslo, Shigaraki Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Tampere Art Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum, among others.

HOSTLER BURROWS

KIM SIMONSSON

b. 1974, Finland

EDUCATION

2000 Master of Arts, University of Arts and Design, Helsinki, Finland

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Waking Dreams and Other Stories*, Söderlångvik Museum, Söderlångvik, Finland
- 2024 *Children of the Forest*, Galerie NeC, Paris, France
Grower, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
Moss Giants, Amos Rex, Helsinki, Finland
Moss People, Academy of Ceramics Gmunden, Gmunden, Austria
Moss People, Schlossmuseum Linz, Linz, Austria
- 2023 *Kim Simonsson, L'Idole Endormie des Moss People (The Sleeping Idol of the Moss People)*,
Carte Blanche, Espace Monte-Cristo, Fondation Villa Datris, Paris, France
Memorials, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
- 2022 *Moss Cabbage People*, Galerie NeC, Paris, France
Silhouettes, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
- 2021 *Future Dream*, Jason Jacques Gallery, New York, NY
Moss People, Iyouth Studio, Shanghai, China
Small Monuments, KWUM Museum, Fiskars, Finland
- 2020 *Moss People and Other Stories*, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
- 2019 *Chosen*, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
Santeri Tuori and Kim Simonsson, Ålands Konstmuseum, Mariehamn, Finland
Stories at Campfire, Galerie NeC, Paris, France
- 2018 *Treasure Hunters*, Galerie Forsblom, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2017 *Shaman Party*, Jason Jacques Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 *Little Prince and Moss People*, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
Moss People, Galerie NeC, Paris, France
- 2015 *Moss People*, Jason Jacques Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *Invisible Hand*, Galleria Sculptor, Helsinki, Finland
- 2012 *Chameleon*, Gallery Heino, Helsinki, Finland
Kim Simonsson, Galerie Favardin & de Verneuil, Paris, France
- 2011 *Ponytail*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY
- 2010 *Parallel Reality*, Elverket, Tammisaari, Finland

- Parallel Reality*, Musee d'Ansembourg, Liège, Belgium
- 2009 *Animal Gaze*, Galleria Heino, Helsinki, Finland
Duality, Wonderland Art Space, Copenhagen, Denmark
Pro Arte Award Exhibition, Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Sculptures, Galerie Favardin & de Verneuil, Paris, France
The Golden Deer, Retretti, Punkaharju, Finland
- 2008 *Invisible World*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY
Sculptures, Finnish Cultural Institute, Oslo, Norway
Variations on a Decoration, Wäinö Aaltonen Art Museum, Turku, Finland
- 2007 *Den Osynliga Hjorten (The Invisible Deer)*, Finnish Cultural Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Dreams and Disappointments II, Herrmann & Wagner Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Kotona II (At Home II), Karin Widnäs, Fiskars, Finland
Sculptures, Taidesalonki Husa, Tampere, Finland
- 2006 *Camouflage*, Gallery Heino, Helsinki, Finland
Huoltamo, Tampere, Finland
- 2005 *Dislocated Clay and a Transformative Mirror*, NCECA Maryland, Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Sculptures, Arabia Museum's Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 *Young Artist of the Year 2004*, Tampere Art Museum, Tampere, Finland
- 2003 *K9 and NIKE*, Kluuvi Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2000 *Realm of the Senses*, Studio Hyöryllistä, Turku, Finland
- 1999 *Ideaali (Ideal)*, Gallery of the Fine Arts Academy, Helsinki, Finland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Mille et une Vies (One Thousand and One Lives)*, Espace Monte-Cristo, Fondation Villa Datris, Paris, France
Tête à Tête: Hugo Alonso et Kim Simonsson, Alzueta Gallery Paris, France
The Group Exhibition, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
- 2024 *New Portraits*, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
Together_Montaignes Cat, Gyeonggi Museum Of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Gyeonggi, South Korea
- 2023 *Atelier Life: Contemporary Ceramics of the Arabia Art Department Society*, Hvitträsk Museum, Kirkkonummi, Finland
Galerie Forsblom's 45th Anniversary Exhibition, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
Hey! Céramique.s, Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France
Northern Latitude 60,20890, Iittala and Arabia Design Center, Helsinki, Finland
Utopian Scenario about Nature, MoCA Busan, Busan, South Korea
- 2022 *Human and Animal*, Iwate Museum of Art, Morioka, Japan
Lille3000: Utopia, Rue Faidherbe and Garden of Eden, Lille, France

- Manifesto of Fragility*, Lyon Contemporary Biennale, Lyon, Paris
Sculptures, KWUM, Fiskars Village, Finland
Toucher Terre (Touching the Earth), Fondation Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France
Überhund (Superdog), Salo Art Museum, Salo, Finland
- 2021 *Beautés Équivoques (Equivocal Beauties)*, Fondation Bernardaud, Limoges, France
Human and Animal, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan
- 2020 *Call to the Wild / L'appel de la Nature*, Maison Louis Carré, Bazoches-sur-Guyonne, France
In the Shade of the Forest, Halosenniemi Museum, Tuusula, Finland
Luonnon Edestä (Before Nature), Poikilo Museot, Kouvola, Finland
Skulptur i Pilane, Klövedal, Sweden
- 2019 *Beyond the Vessel: Myths, Legends, and Fables in Contemporary Ceramics*, Mesher, Istanbul, Turkey
From the Shadows of Night to the Brightness of Day, Makasiini Contemporary, Turku, Finland
Pro Arte Award Exhibition, Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsingfors, Finland
KWUM Studio Ceramics Museum, Fiskars, Finland
- 2018 *About Clay: Pearls of European Ceramic Art in Fiskars*, The Copper Smithy, Fiskars, Finland
Alice in Wonderland, Art and Museum Centre Sinkka, Kerava, Finland
Ceramics Now: The Faenza Prize Is 80 Years Old, The International Museum of Ceramics, Faenza, Italy
Monkey and Waterfall: Pictures of Our Climate, Sara Hilden Art Museum, Tampere, Finland
No Time, The McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Northern Exposure: Contemporary Nordic Arts Revealed, Nordic Museum, Seattle, WA
The Fantastical Worlds of Kim Simonsson, The American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN
- 2017 *Kim Simonsson and Kalevala Koru*, Galleri Hanaholmen, Espoo, Finland
- 2016 *Human Condition, #TheHospital*, Los Angeles, CA
Pyhäniemi 2016, Hollola, Finland
Wild Strawberries, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art, Turku, Finland
- 2015 *Skills*, ØKS, Fredrikstad, Norway
Summer Exhibition, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
9 Seasons, Embassy of Finland, Finlandia Hall, Washington, DC
- 2014 *Blurred Lines*, Fiskars Village, Finland
Helsinki Fat Clay, Galerie Heller, Heidelberg, Germany
Helsinki Fat Clay, Gallery Arabia, Helsinki, Finland
Melancholy, Villa Roosa, Orimattila, Finland
Photographs and Sculptures, Lahti Art Museum, Lahti, Finland
Skills, The Lofoten Islands, Norway
The Adidas Man and the Strongwoman, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum, Turku, Finland
- 2013 *Arabia Art and Design*, Arabia Art Department, Artium, Fukuoka, Japan
Happy End?, Helsinki Art Museum, Tennispalatsi, Helsinki, Finland

- Joy*, Copper Smithy, Fiskars Village, Finland
Soul and Body, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
Spark, Critical Contemporary Art and Design, Granary, Fiskars Village, Finland
The Magic of Ceramics, The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo, Japan
The Young Artists of the Year: 1985–2012, Gumbostrand, Sipoo, Finland
1:10 – Arabia Art Department 10 Years, Gallery Arabia, Helsinki, Finland
 2012 *Bo Haglund and Kim Simonsson*, Helsinki Airport Art Gallery, Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, Vantaa, Finland
Camouflage, Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
Helsinki Fat Clay, Faenza and Milan, Italy
Lucid Dreaming, Pietarsaari, Finland
Tendenser (Trends), Galleri F 15, Moss, Norway
 Shigaraki Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Japan
 2011 *Close Your Eyes and Tell Me What You See*, Turku Observatory, Finland; Gothenburg Museum of Art, Gothenburg, Sweden
Reflective Shadow, Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen, Denmark
The Figuratives, Oude Kerk, Delft, The Netherlands
 2010 *Best of Wonderland*, Wonderland Art Space, Copenhagen, Denmark
Collect, Galleria Norsu, Saatchi Gallery, London
Feuer und Eis (Fire and Ice), Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany
Korero: Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, Yingge Ceramics Museum, Yingge, Taiwan
One Hundred Years of Sculpture in Finland, Vainö Aaltonen Art Museum, Turku, Finland
Portraiture beyond Likeness, Wayne Art Center, Philadelphia, PA
Vom Dunkeln Geschluckt (Swallowed by Darkness), Ars Auttoinen, Auttoinen, Finland
 Finland Platform for Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris, France
 2009 *Miami Warm Up*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY
Prospection and Perspective, Galerie Favardin & de Verneuil, Paris, France
Visuell Förvirring (Visual Confusion), Museum of Art in Åland, Mariehamn, Finland
 2008 *Confrontational Ceramics*, The Arts Exchange, White Plains, NY
Every Body Counts, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Norway
Incertitude de la Vision (Uncertainty of Vision), Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium
KunstKörperlich – KörperKunstlich Part 2, Kunsthalle, Dominikanerkirche, Osnabrück, Germany
La Position de la Terre (The Position of the Earth), CRAC Alsace / Centre Rhénan d'Art Contemporain, Alsace, France
Tulessa Syntynyt (Born in Fire), Makasiini, Fiskars, Finland
 International Biennale of Contemporary Ceramic Art Vallauris, Vallauris, France
 2007 *Evil Eye*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
I Would Like to Be a Dog, Rauma Art Museum, Rauma, Finland
Present 2007, Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall, Aredal, Norway

- Silent Violence*, Oulu Art Museum, Oulu, Finland
XII Mäntän Kuvataideviikot (XII Mäntän Art Week), Mänttä, Finland
 Herrmann & Wagner Gallery and Gallery Heino, Brussels Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium
 2006 *Another Worlds Part II*, Arario Gallery, Cheonan, South Korea
Helsinki International, Korjaamo, Helsinki, Finland
Purnu Summer Exhibition, Purnu, Finland
 Set, Forum Box, Helsinki, Finland
Six Rooms, Porvoo Art Factory, Porvoo, Finland
Ungsfärskt (Fresh), Gallery Sinne and Elverket, Helsinki and Tammisaari, Finland
 2005 *Japan Pop*, Tennis Palace Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Trans Ceramic-Art, Third Ceramic Biennale Korea, Icheon, South Korea
 2003 *One Hundred Years of Finnish Ceramics*, Design Museum Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
Wegway Show, SPIN Gallery, Toronto, Canada
 Toronto Outdoor Art Show, Toronto, Canada
 2002 *Group Show*, The Palace, Toronto, Canada
Inverno (Winter), Este Gallery, Toronto, Canada
 2001 *Biennale of Contemporary Ceramic Art*, Chateauroux, France
Emerging Sculptors, Canadian Sculpture Center, Toronto, Canada
Made in LAC, Living Arts Center, Mississauga, Canada
 2000 *K2000*, Lappeenranta Art Museum, Lappeenranta, Finland
Think, Ateneum, Helsinki, Finland
 1999 *Nenonen, Partanen, Lerviks, Persson, Simonsson*, Into Galleria, Helsinki, Finland
 1998 *Contemporary Glass Art*, Studio Mezzo, Helsinki, Finland
Keramik 98, Konstfacket, Stockholm, Sweden
 Stockholm International Art Fair, Gallery Taik, Stockholm, Sweden
 1997 *Glass and Ceramic in the Spotlight*, Gallery Taik, Helsinki, Finland
Glass and Light, Tampere Modern Art Museum, Tampere, Finland

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Honorary Doctorate, Aalto University, The School of Arts, Design, and Architecture, Aalto, Finland
 2024 Pro Finlandia Prize
 2022 Posti Art Award
 2014 5-Year Artist Working Grant in Design (2015–2019), Arts Promotion Centre
 2013 Art Prize, Svenska Kulturfonden
 2009–2012 Artist in Residence, Villa Snäcksund, Tammisaari, Finland
 2012 William Thuring Prize
 2009 Pro Arte Award, Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
 2008 Walter Runeberg Foundation Award
 Svenska Kulturfonden Two-Year Artist Grant

- 2006 Walter Runeberg Foundation Award
Stina Krook Foundation Award
- 2005 Frame-Fund Exhibition Scholarship
Svenska Kulturfonden Two-Year Artist Grant
Arts Council of Finland Travel Grant
- 2004 Young Artist of the Year, Tampere Art Museum, Tampere, Finland
Artist of the Month (July), Frame-Fund
- 2003 Best in Show, Toronto Outdoor Art Show
Svenska Kulturfonden One-Year Grant
- 2001 Svenska Kulturfonden Project Grant
Paolo Foundation Project Grant
- 1998 University of Arts and Design Helsinki

PUBLIC SCULPTURES

Emma, Tapiola Metro Station, Espoo, Finland
Gmunden, Austria
Kirkonkylän Kampus, Tuusula, Finland
Kotka Sculpture Park, Kotka, Finland
Kupittaa Park, Turku, Finland
Mustio School, Finland
Roubaix, France
Tivoli, Copenhagen, Denmark
Yrkeshögskolan Sydväst, Tammisaari, Finland

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Amos Rex, Helsinki, Finland
Arario Gallery, Cheonan, South Korea
Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
EMMA Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, Finland
Fondation Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France
Gothenburg Museum of Art, Gothenburg, Sweden
Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan
Heino Collection, Helsinki, Finland
Helsinki City Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Kone Foundation, Helsinki and Mynämäki, Finland
Kunstsilo, Kristiansand, Norway
McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
The National Museum, Oslo, Norway

Nelimarkka Foundation, Helsinki, Finland
Oulu Art Museum, Oulu, Finland
OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH, Linz, Austria
Pro Artibus Foundation, Ekenäs, Finland
Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
Sara Hildén Art Museum, Tampere, Finland
Shigaraki Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Shigaraki, Japan
Tampere Art Museum, Tampere, Finland
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Ville de Châteauroux, France
Wäinö Aaltonen Museum, Turku, Finland
ZIC Museum, United States