

Finn-Guild

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**BRITTIÄHETILÄS
JYVÄSKYLÄSSÄ**

**AMBASSADOR IN
JYVÄSKYLÄ**

**THE KALEVALA
AUDIO BOOK
OUT IN ENGLISH**

**CELEBRATING THE
CULTURAL AHO FAMILY**

**WIN BOOKS!
VOITA KIRJOJA!**

**Master Bazaar
5-17 March**

**Killan
kirjastot**

AGM 23.3.2013

**Finnish
events**

**Lontoon
kirjon sivut**

Claire Aho's photographs come to London on exhibition



Claire Aho (b. 1925, Finland) is the Grand Old Lady of Finnish colour photography. Grandchild of the author Juhani Aho and the painter Venny Soldan-Brofeldt, Aho established her own commercial studio in the early 1950s working across a broad range of industries including editorial, advertising, magazine covers and fashion. She is now about to have her first exhibition in London.

The exhibition at the Photographers' Gallery, from 19 April to 21 July, will include a large selection of original Finnish lifestyle magazines with Aho's cover photographs and up to seventy images from her archive. Saturated with colour and full of humour, her images, although distinct to Finland and to the period, still remain relevant to young practitioners today".

Claire Aho started her career as a documentary filmmaker before eventually setting up her own commercial studio in the 1950s – a formative time in Finnish design.

Whether capturing her models in amusing poses or meticulously composing still life scenes, Aho's cutting edge approach to image-making was a reflection of the bold and lively atmosphere prevalent in the creative sector in Helsinki at the time. Her prolific, quality output across a broad range of industries created a demand for her services – making her one of the most prominent photographers of the period.

While running her own studio Aho remained in complete control of the space, commanding every stage of the production from casting, styling and construction of sets to liaising with designers, manufacturers, magazines and advertising agencies. This exhibition will look at Aho's inventive working methods and practices within the studio environment as well as her relationship to the models, objects, forms and patterns depicted.

Photographs will be hung in loosely themed groups complemented by vintage publications, placing them in the broader context of how they were disseminated and used. Occasional glimpses through the pictures of the machinations of the studio – lighting gear, colour charts, the casual artist portrait – will further enhance the photograph's journey from initial conception to its various commercial applications. **H**

See the *Six Aho-Soldan* events for more details.

Six Aho-Soldan events in 2013

Works of various members of the Aho-Soldan family are celebrated this year both in Finland and in Britain.

BRITAIN

CLAIRE AHO EXHIBITION 19.4.2013 – 21.7.2013

The Photographers' Gallery presents *Claire Aho: Studio Works*, the first solo international showcase of Aho's photographs, a pioneer of Finnish colour photography and a key cultural figure in her homeland. 6 – 18 Ramillies Street, London W1F 7LW, <http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk>

AHO-SOLDAN SEASON AT THE LONDON ICA

Brothers Heikki Aho and Björn Soldan – the former an engineer, the latter a photographer – were pioneers of Finnish documentary. Founded in 1925, the Aho & Soldan company produced over 400 documentaries, ranging in subject matter from ethnography to propaganda. 12 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AH. www.ica.org.uk

Fri 24.5. at 18.30 JUHA

Dir: Nyrki Tapiovaara, 1937. In 18th century Eastern Finland, the eponymous farmer Juha raises and then marries the orphaned Marja, only for her to fall prey to the advances of visiting trader Shemeikka. Based on the Juhani Aho's book, this is the only fiction film produced by the company.

Sat 25.5. at 15.00 SUOMI KUTSUU/FINLAND CALLING

Commissioned by the Finnish Foreign Ministry, *Finland Calling* appeared in a number of incarnations between 1932 and 1940, culminating in this version, which was first presented at the 1939 World Expo in New York in 1939. Followed by a programme of Aho-Soldan short films.

Sun 26.5. at 15.00 AHO & SOLDAN PROGRAMME 2: CLAIRE AHO

Heikki Aho's daughter Claire is the unifying figure for this second programme of shorts. *Jean Sibelius Kodissaan*, meanwhile, completes an arc of Aho & Soldan productions on the Finnish master composer, commemorating him through idyllic images of the country landscape surrounding Sibelius' villa 'Ainola'.

Wed 29.5. at 20.45 SPLINTERS/ LASTUJA

Dir: Peter von Bagh, 2011. Finnish with English subtitles.

Over three generations, the Aho-Soldan family has made a profound contribution to Finnish culture.



A fascinatingly layered essay film that charts a century in Finnish history, *Splinters* uses the prism of the Aho-Soldan to explore concepts of time and memory, of national identity, and of the way the arts both reflect and enrich a society.

THE RAILROAD IN ENGLISH

Juhani Aho's small masterpiece is published in English by Norvik Press, an independent publisher specialising in Nordic literature. Available on www.norvikpress.com

FINLAND

HELSINKI CITY THEATRE

In February the Helsinki City Theatre premiered the play *Omatunto – kahden sisaren välissä* (*Conscience – between two sisters*) by Lauri Sipari. It tells the story of Juhani Aho's triangular relationship with sisters Venny and Tilly Soldan. He married Venny and had two children with her, but he also loved Tilly and had one child with her. All three lived in the same family household in Tuusula. Helsingin kaupunginteatteri/ Helsinki City Theatre, Ensi linja 2, 00530 Helsinki. www.hkt.fi

VENNY SOLDAN-BROFELDT EXHIBITION

Järvenpää Art Museum is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of painter Venny Soldan-Brofeldt (1863-1945) with an exhibition of her works until 11 August. The exhibition "Nimimerkki VSB" includes over one hundred works covering her life-long career. Kirjastokatu 8, 04401 Järvenpää. <http://www.jarvenpaa.fi>

TUUSULA ARTIST COMMUNITY IN ATENEUM

The Ateneum Art Museum in Helsinki celebrates the Tuusula artist community with an exhibition lasting from October 2013 to February 2014. About 100 years ago young artists were looking for peace and inspiration at Lake Tuusula near Helsinki. Among the residents were Juhani Aho, Venny Soldan-Brofeldt, Jean Sibelius and painters Eero Järnefelt and Pekka Halonen. www.ateneum.fi

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