



LAURA PALOTIE



Katja Hagelstam

## ART AND ESPRESSO

**D**uring her two-decade-long career as a freelance photographer, **Katja Hagelstam** has compiled an expansive rolodex of Finnish artisans, designers and other artists – both the celebrated and the lesser known.

“My eye has filtered a lot of art and design over the years, so to speak,” she says, “and I’ve found that those who work at the intersection of visual art and handicrafts don’t always get the attention they should.”

While compiling her book *20 + 12 Design Stories from Helsinki* for the city’s 2012 World Design Capital year, she began conceptualising a space in which she could showcase local creative work in a low-key setting. She opened Lokal (Annankatu 19), an exhibition space, showroom and café in the centre of Helsinki last April.

“At first I envisioned it as a pop-up space, but because I wanted it to feel like home, I thought it should serve good coffee – so it had to have a kitchen,” says Hagelstam. “And if I was going to invest money and energy into getting this off the ground, I thought it should be a permanent space.”

The gallery features monthly exhibitions of visual art, furniture, interior design or small design goodies – and sometimes all of the above. Hagelstam’s long-standing affinity for mixing interior design and art comes across in a strong way, and coffee from Helsingin Kahvipaahimo (Helsinki Coffee Roastery) invites guests to linger. Lokal, which recently launched an online shop, has already been featured in Japanese and German design and travel publications.

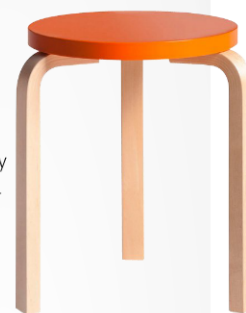
Hagelstam’s endeavour is quickly turning into a family affair. Her 17 and 19-year-old daughters both help with day-to-day operations. The older of the two, artist Ananya Tanttu, oversees Lokal’s social media efforts and coordinates Lokal’s young designers’ exhibition.

Lokal’s summer market showcase, *Tori*, runs until September 8. The next exhibition, opening on September 13, will feature textile works by Kristiina Wiherheimo and Arja Lehtimäki, and furniture by Yrjö Wiherheimo, Pentti Hakala and Seppo Auvinen.

LOKALHELSINKI.COM

## HELSINKI HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

**FINLAND’S MAIN FURNITURE,** interior décor and design fair, Habitare, is open to the public from September 20 to 22 at the Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre. Among its hundreds of exhibitors is iconic Finnish design company Artek, which celebrates the 80-year history of the Alvar Aalto-designed, stackable stool.



ARTEK

**THE ANNUAL HELSINKI DESIGN WEEK** takes place from September 12 to 22, with a century-old warehouse in the Katajanokka neighbourhood serving as its headquarters. Among the events are a large design market at Helsinki’s Cable Factory, workshops for kids, a seminar entitled “Dreaming and Doing” and a series of exclusive dinners with designers at restaurants including Savoy.

**WITH A RECORD-BREAKING** 57,000 viewers in 2012, the Helsinki International Film Festival (Love & Anarchy) is back with a line-up of 300 flicks from September 19–29. Among the featured works are Cannes Palme d’Or winner *Adele: Chapters 1 & 2* and Hong Kong auteur Wong Kar-wai’s latest, *The Grandmaster*. A culinary series combines food-related movies with themed dinners. In addition, a script-writing and film production workshop is offered for a select group of budding European talents.

–Mirva Lempiäinen

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