

The Kumu Art Museum, located in the side of a limestone bank, and its courtyard have a circular floor plan. The building was designed by the Finnish architect Pekka Vapaavuori, and it was opened to the public in 2006. The museum's outstanding architectural solution was awarded the European Museum of the Year Award in 2008.

The museum's main entrance opens onto an inner courtyard, where wide staircases and rhythmically zigzagging ramps offer various trajectories and create an open environment. The light dolomite that has been used to cover the inner courtyard reflects abundant sunlight. A playful grid with a decorative surface is located at the same level as the main entrance.

Moving up the main staircase or along the ramp, you will first come across a group of sculptures, which are not meant to depict anything recognisable but to play with interesting materials and ideas. For example, concrete, steel and aluminum have been used. What does Eero Hiironen's abstract image of Karelia look like? Was the echo which lurks in the openings of the sculpture deliberately used by the artist as a means to convey his idea, or did he focus only on the different surfaces and reflections? Has the artist Neeme Külm really cast a cow in concrete? We see no concrete evidence of this in his work, but the reference in the title is trying to provoke us.

Anu Vahtra's installation Work in Progress: Somewhere between the Supports and the Collapse is located on the lower level of the courtyard. It was a part of the great hall exhibition Gordon Matta-Clark: Anarchitect. Anu Vahtra: Completion through removal (22.02.-08.06.2019).

As you leave through the main gate, you will see a large recycled metal cistern on the Lasnamäe side of the hill. It was designed by Lithuanian sculptor Mindaugas Navakas and may deceptively seem like an industrial relic or the museum's own architecture that become timeworn and weatherbeaten. Rust is usually a symbol of destruction and decay, but the artist himself considers it to be beautiful, because it reminds him of suede. So perhaps we are dealing with an animal in this case?

### Views and sounds

Looking back towards the Kumu courtyard, you get an idea of its sheer size, further amplified by the reflection on the glass façade. To the right of Kumu, you can enjoy postcard-like views of the Old Town and the port.

You can also return from the Lasnamäe slope to the courtyard via a pedestrian tunnel. And several more sculptures are on display in the Stairway Gallery located there. The tunnel's acoustics, which amplify the noise of the passing cars and visitors' footsteps, create various sounds. It's worth stopping for a minute to listen and test the possibilities of space – for example, clapping and shouting sound very powerful. The sound artist John Grzinich, who has organised "listening tours" in Kumu, considers all sounds that develop to part a building's acoustic identity. What other voices and sound can be heard as you wander around the Kumu courtyard and its environs? Who or what might be creating them?

# Take a break ...

When you arrive back in the courtyard, you can take a break and lie down on the lawn or sit on a bench and see what associations the surrounding works of art bring to mind. On a sunny day it is nice to enjoy a book surrounded by art and architecture. You can find books in our museum shop or in the library of the Estonian Art Museum.

# ... and find something to do!

Have you noticed the ping pong tables? Don't be shy, go and get a friend or someone wandering in the courtyard to play with you!

# Orienteering game

It is nice to discover the Kumu courtyard through photo-orienteering. Ask for the inner courtyard map at the Kumu ticket office; photos can be found on our webpage. Find all of the places in the courtyard where the photographs were taken and mark them with a pencil or a marker as accurately as possible on the map. Do not forget to note down the letter that figures on the left side of the photo!

If you have found all of the places shown in the photos, connect the letters that you have marked on the map with straight lines in alphabetical order. Also, connect the first (A) and the last (L) letters to each other. Now you should see a familiar figure on the map. If you are sure about your discovery, then submit it at the Kumu cashier and you will receive a small prize from the Kumu Art Museum!

# #kumu #kumuartmuseum

SCULPTURES IN AND AROUND THE INNER COURTYARD OF KUMU

THE SLOPE OF LASNAMÄE

Mindaugas Navakas (1952)
Horizontal cylinder. 2000. Steel

INNER COURTYARD OF KUMU

- Anton Starkopf (1889–1966)

  Mother and Child. 1940. Granite
- Anton Starkopf (1889–1966)
  Romeo and Juliet. 1963. Granite
- Jass Kaselaan (1981)
  Square of Dolls. 2014. Installation
- 6 Armands Zelchs (1978) Untitled. 2016. Concrete and Minion Pro Regular
- Eero Hiironen (1938)

  Karjala. From the series "Earth and Water". 1995.

  Steel and aluminium
- 7 Kadri Metsik (1962) Rider. 1989. Bronze
- Neeme Külm (1974)

  A Cow Cast in Concrete. 2006. Concrete
- Jacob Jessen (1976) Weight of the World. 2016. Iron meteorite, 4.56 billion years old (from the Campo Granite del Cielo crash around 3000 B.C.); railing of the Kumu Art Museum
- Augustas Serapinas (1990)

  Backyard. 2016. Plants chosen and grown by the employees of the 14 Kumu Art Museum
- Renaldo Veeber (1937–2010) Maria. 1972. Granite
- Anton Starkopf (1889–1966) Stone Flower. 1958. Granite

Anton Starkopf (1889–1966)

A Reclining Woman. 1948. Granite

Martin Saks (1902–1962) After Work, 1947, Granite

Anton Starkopf (1889–1966) **The Distressed.** 1942. Granite

Anton Starkopf (1889–1966) Forgive Me. 1963. Granite

Anton Starkopf (1889–1966)

A Woman Grieving. (Evening). 1936–1937. Granite

# STAIRWAY GALLERY

- Lembit Palm (1944)

  A Book Post Parcel. 1988. Granite
- Ekke Väli (1952)
  The Great Bustler. 1987. Bronze
- Mare Mikof (1941)
  Country Woman. 1983. Bronze
- Edgar Viies (1931–2006) Venus. 1981. Bronze

- Hille Palm (1941)
  Cloud. 1983. Bronze and granite
- Ülo Õun (1940–1988)

  The First Egg of a Young Bird. 1976. Bronze
- Mati Karmin (1959)

  A Militarist Fox. 1982. Welded iron
- Anu Vahtra (1982)
  Work in Progress: Somewhere between the
  Supports and the Collapse. 2019. Limestone,
  welded rectangular steel pipe, wood,
  PET-strapping

# OTHER NICE PLACES

- 21) Café terrace
- Roof terrace of Kumu

From June to August you can visit the Kumu roof terrace, perfect for enjoying the spectacular views of Tallinn and the unique architecture of the Kumu Art Museum. Visits take place in good weather at 3 pm from Tuesday to Sunday; the groups assemble at the cashier. For single visitors, access to the roof terrace is included in the admission fee.

(23) Ping pong

In summer, there are ping pong tables in the inner courtyard of Kumu waiting for players during the museum's opening hours. Grab your ping pong set or ask for one from the information desk and enjoy playing table tennis in our courtyard!

- The best seats for enjoying a bird song concert
  The best sunny spot for spring-time bird song
  audiences is on the edge of the plateau, where
  there are benches.
- Kumu's belly button
  This is the actual central point of the circular
  Kumu building.
- Iron man challenge
  The stairway leading from Kadriorg Park to
  the upper gate of Kumu is an invigorating
  challenge for an athletic art lover.
- The sci-fi writer's avenue
  A practically endless crescent, in which space
  and rhythm intertwine in a timeless composition. The backstage of the real world, a science
  fiction stage.
- The invisible tram
  Originally, a tram track was designed in the middle of the "Lasnamäe canal", but it was never actually built.
  - Stairway to nowhere
    From the middle of the Pallasti Bridge a
    stairway leads down to nowhere. It was
    originally designed to provide access to
    the tram stop. Now, the empty space at the
    bottom of the stairway makes one wonder
    whether this could be an invisible gate to a
    parallel world.