

KATI VUORENTO



Marquise de Sans Souci

— THE CAREFREE MARQUISE —

1.10. – 5.11.2021

The leading lady of Galleria Kuvitus' autumn exhibition is the charmingly carefree Marquise. The character, created by beauty-loving illustrator **Kati Vuorento**, knows how to enjoy life, even though she has money troubles.

The Marquise is my favourite out of all my characters. I have merged a range of challenging traits in this fickle, slightly alienated character: selfishness, vanity, and carelessness. The character is pure fiction and has no connection to real historical figures. I arbitrarily picked up influences from the 18th and 19th centuries for the milieu, clothing, and illustration style. (Kati Vuorento, Kuvittaja magazine 3/2021.)

In the exhibition, the lightness of the line converses with the witty humorous content. The illustrator subtly approaches the question of the meaning of everything. The character of the Marquise, who has wasted her fortune on all things frivolous, provides an opportunity to scorn the problems and consumption-based lifestyle of a well-to-do westerner, without pointing fingers. The fleetingness of it all worries the Marquise, but not enough to make her change her nature or habits.

The exhibition Marquise de Sans Souci – The Carefree Marquise presents delicate and vivid pencil originals and their enlargements. One of the designs has been transformed into a charming wallpaper fit for the walls of any mansion. The magic of the past continues in the *A line of love* paper products. These include postcards made from selected illustrations and the weekly planner “*A Year of Losing a Fortune Avec Classe*”, featuring exhilarating aphorisms. These quotes of the Marquise's dubious wisdom were written by author **Ulla Pulkka** and translated into English by **Eija Raitala** and **Anu Piippo**.

Kati Vuorento (born 1973 in Helsinki) lives in Tapiola, Espoo. The illustrator, who graduated with a Master of Arts (Art and Design) in 2005, has illustrated magazines and picture books, children's novels and covers. Vuorento's clients include Tammi, WSOY, Karisto, S&S and Otava, among others. In recent years, Vuorento has made black and white illustrations, among others, for **Cristal Snow's** novel *Penni Pähkinäsydän ja kauhea kadotuskakku* (Tammi 2020) as well as **Tuutikki Tolonen's** novels *Agnes ja unien avain* (WSOY 2020) and *Agnes ja huvilan salaisuus* (WSOY 2021). Vuorento has received a grant from The Finnish Illustration Association for work on her Marquise illustrations and from The Arts Promotion Centre Finland for the execution of the exhibition.