



Jenni Erkindalo
26.8. - 25.9.2021



"I warn myself
for soon this will end

I know you to be unpredictable
but for a moment longer I will enjoy
these blue kisses of yours"

A personal experience had by the sea can be difficult if not outright impossible to completely share with another person. Words, images and even videos seem only pale reflections of the actual experience. However, **Jenni Erkindalo** has boldly picked up exactly this topic and crystallised her emotions in a beautiful and touching book.

My Sea (Minun mereni) is a love letter to the sea. One that is easy to understand yet ambiguous. Known for her children's books, the illustrator and publisher employs a personal and almost abstract stream of consciousness style that whisks one along for the ride. In her minimalist illustrations, Erkindalo has succeeded in capturing both the tender and playful nature of the sea as well as its awesome strength. The pages of the book are dominated by a deep blue colour, constantly in motion, while a bright red also makes sporadic appearances like a lateral buoy gleaming on the side of a sea channel.

The book proceeds according to the seasons and its poetic spreads consist of sentences, words and illustrations. There is no one without the other.

There is no life without the sea.

Erkindalo's solo exhibition explores the sea and its different forms and meanings. The new work and story on display is *My Sea*, and a small batch of unique artist versions of the book have been printed specifically for this exhibition. The book was born after time spent in **Tove Jansson's** artist residence on the island of Klovharun in the summer of 2020. Additionally, the exhibition contains illustrations from the children's books *Colours in the Sea (Värejä meressä)* and *The Worm and the Sea (Mato ja meri)*, which Erkindalo has published via the publishing house Etana Editions.

BIO

Jenni Erkindalo (b. 1978, Rauma) is a children's author, illustrator and publisher. She has studied graphic design and illustration at Aalto University and storytelling at Stockholm's Konstfack. Erkindalo's picture book *The Worm and the Sea* (Etana Editions 2019) was awarded the *White Raven 2019* accolade by the International Youth Library, and in 2016 she received an honourable mention in relation to the *Punni children's literature prize* for her work *What Kind of Me? (Millainen minä?)* (Etana Editions 2016)

Erkindalo has illustrated and written six children's picture books, three of which in collaboration with **Réka Király**. Her works have been translated into Spanish, Catalan, Chinese, Korean and French. Illustrations from Erkindalo's books have been selected for the Mikeli Illustration Triennial in 2017 and 2020, and they also represent Finland in the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava in 2021. The small publishing house Etana Editions – founded by Erkindalo and Király in 2014 – specialises in children's picture books and received the Children's Culture State Award from the Arts Promotion Centre Finland in 2020.

jennierkindalo.com

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