

**Ville Kumpulainen**  
**The Home of Absences**  
**Studio Mältinranta**  
**25.5.-18.6.2024**

*Observations move from unexposed spaces to developed traces and shift from fields of colour to broken rooms within images. Surfaces are dissected and pierced. Thoughts drift from the presence of traces to the absence of objects. Spaces are formed inside the images, becoming cropped chambers. They emerge from the silence enveloped by emptiness. From the heart of these images, a home of absences unfolds.*

Ville Kumpulainen's exhibition, *The Home of Absences*, explores concepts and meanings related to space through various visual and formal solutions. In the exhibition, Kumpulainen examines different spaces both as physical and concrete entities, and as points confined to gazes constructed within the artworks.

The presented body of work comprises photo collages, plaster reliefs, photograms, and found objects. Analogue photogram paper and a piece of flooring found at a construction site take on a new form as a sculpture in the exhibition. Plaster reliefs carry traces of absent objects, while nested visual spaces are constructed within the layers of photo collages.

The photo-based collages crafted by the artist consist of various pieces that depict spaces, collected from books, magazines, manuals, and archives. In the process of creating these works, Kumpulainen re-photographed his spatial collages and added physical marks and traces on the surfaces of the images. Through this, he has created new layered spaces within the images using different materials such as soil, iron oxide, and everyday objects.

The plaster reliefs made by Kumpulainen for the exhibition were produced by pressing found objects into wet plaster mix, then removing the object and creating a new imprint using a mould. The forms are imprinted in the plaster, representing the object as absent, much like a traditional photograph is a trace of the object that was in front of the lens and light. In this process, Kumpulainen is intrigued by objects where one can sense or see a human's past physical touch and wear, such as an old pipe, a magnifying glass, a doorknob, and a pen. These provide interpretive hints, seeds for imagination, and clues from the past. Additionally, the exhibition features photograms whose surfaces the artist sees as spaces waiting for traces and touch. The works are created by blending analogue and digital material processes.

The artist's work and exhibition have been supported by the Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

#### **Bio**

Ville Kumpulainen (b. 1988, Rovaniemi) is a Helsinki-based visual artist. In his artistic practice, Kumpulainen experimentally approaches spaces and objects through image-making. Through this process, the artist feels he discovers visual realities and spatial dimensions that are hidden from ordinary observation. Kumpulainen perceives his works as containing twisted dimensions, illogic, voids, holes, distortions, and weightlessness. He graduated as a visual artist from Turku Arts Academy in 2016 and from the Photography MA programme at Aalto University in 2019. The German publisher Hatje Cantz published a book titled *Out of Sight* about Kumpulainen's work in 2017. His works have been showcased in several solo and group exhibitions both in Finland and internationally.