



## Beginning Maan Äänet

by Invisible Flock

We spent a magical week in April collaborating with Curator Kaisa Kerätär, exploring Lapland as Winter begun the journey to Spring.

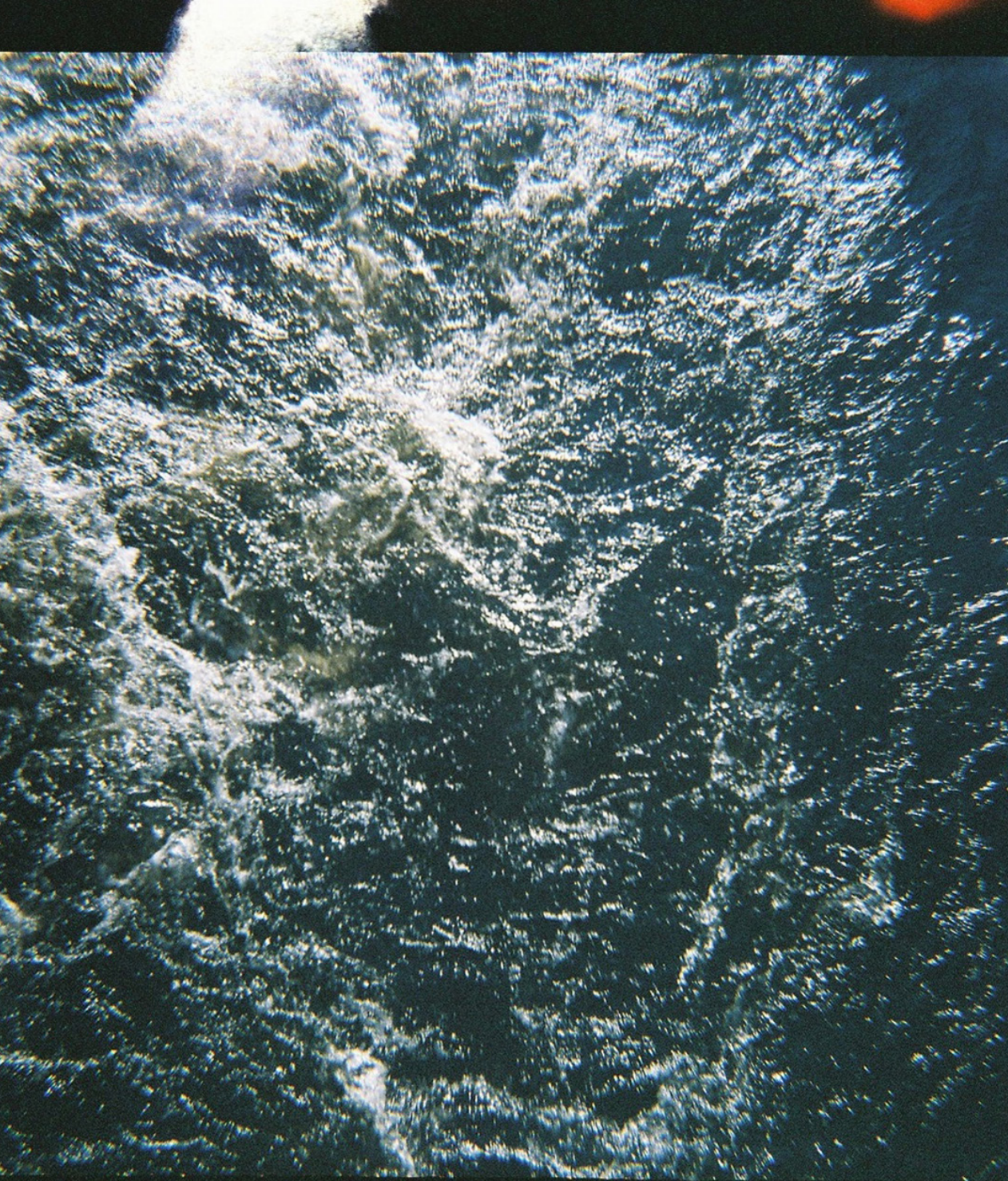




The week is the first development trip for a new project titled Maan Äänet; a new artwork building multiple datasets from the Finnish landscape, mixing environmental data with technology to find ways of representing hidden elements of nature and our fragile relationship to it through a sensory installation.

We met many inspiring artists, curators and academics, visiting cultural spaces such as Korundi Culture House in Roveniemi and the Oulu Museum of Art, while also starting to immerse ourselves in the beauty of the landscape.





Throughout the week we were drawn to the dramatic narrative of Lapland's topography, collecting footage and sound recordings from above and below powerful water bodies and attempting to connect to the very small and the very large-scale aspects of the environment.





Spending time in the forest, by the Raudanjoki, our imaginations were captured by the distinctive Luppo and Naava species of lichen; with their unique ability to indicate non polluted air while also being one of a reindeers favourite food, serving multiple roles in the forest ecosystem.





We were moved by an introduction to the Finnish word "metsänpeitto" - a state of mind where a wanderer becomes invisible and merges with nature, where time stops and the world goes quiet - which gave meaning to the awe that we felt in the closeness with the trees and the snow.





We talked to a number of people about personal relationships to the land and to the rivers, and the deep trauma that is felt when your environment and way of living is dramatically altered beyond your control. Whether through the towns and villages that were flattened during the second world war or through economics and the emergence of the hydro power stations that dried out the fish populations of communities rivers, or through the government sanctions of Sami land. Ongoing human obsession with controlling nature, happening all over the world, significantly deepens the trauma that exists in us and is mirrored in the land we care for.



The trip has given weight to a term we have been drawn to creating a deeper understanding of for some time. "Solastalgia" emotional or mental distress caused by environmental change to ones home, where this change is specifically acted upon the individual, beyond their control or consensus.

We will hold this close as we continue to map in May, spending a longer period of time in one place to gather data that builds a map of the physical landscape, while collaborating with researchers who have been gathering data on the shifting climate over decades.





We will take the data we collect and the research undertaken to Mynämäki in Southwest Finland to develop and build a work in progress installation as part of a Saari Residency with the Kone Foundation during June and July.

Maan Äänet is generously supported by the Finnish Institute London and Arts Council England.