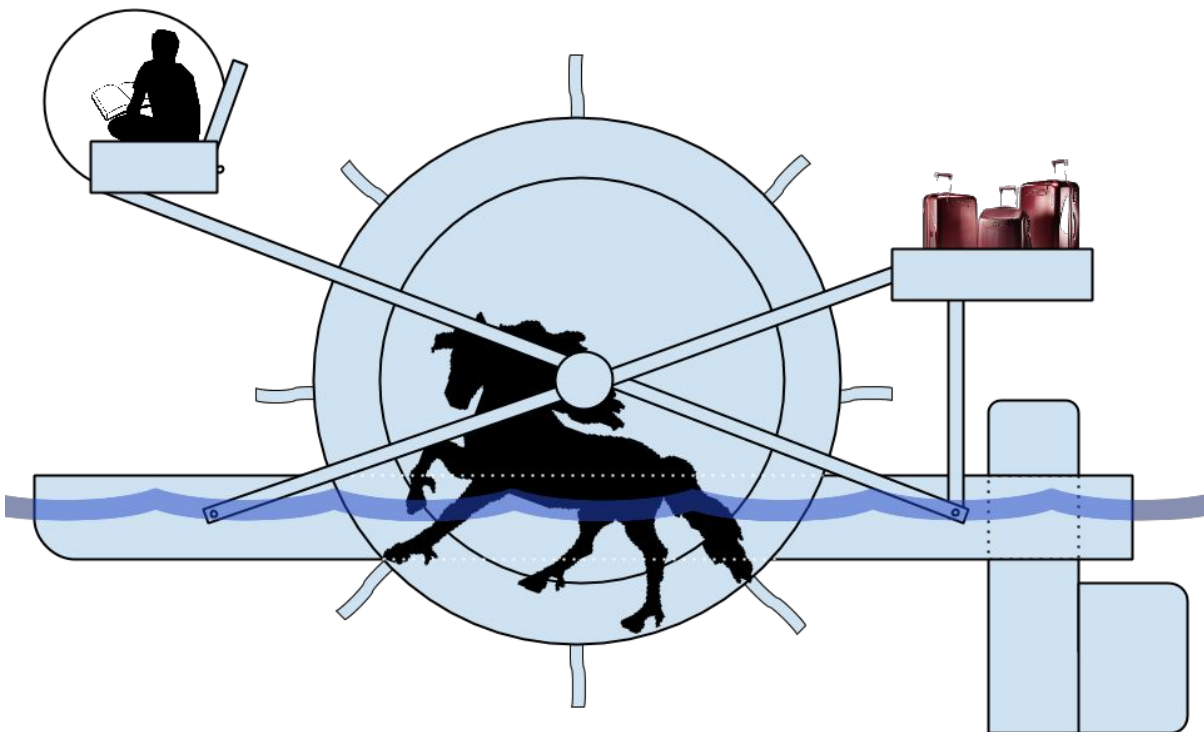
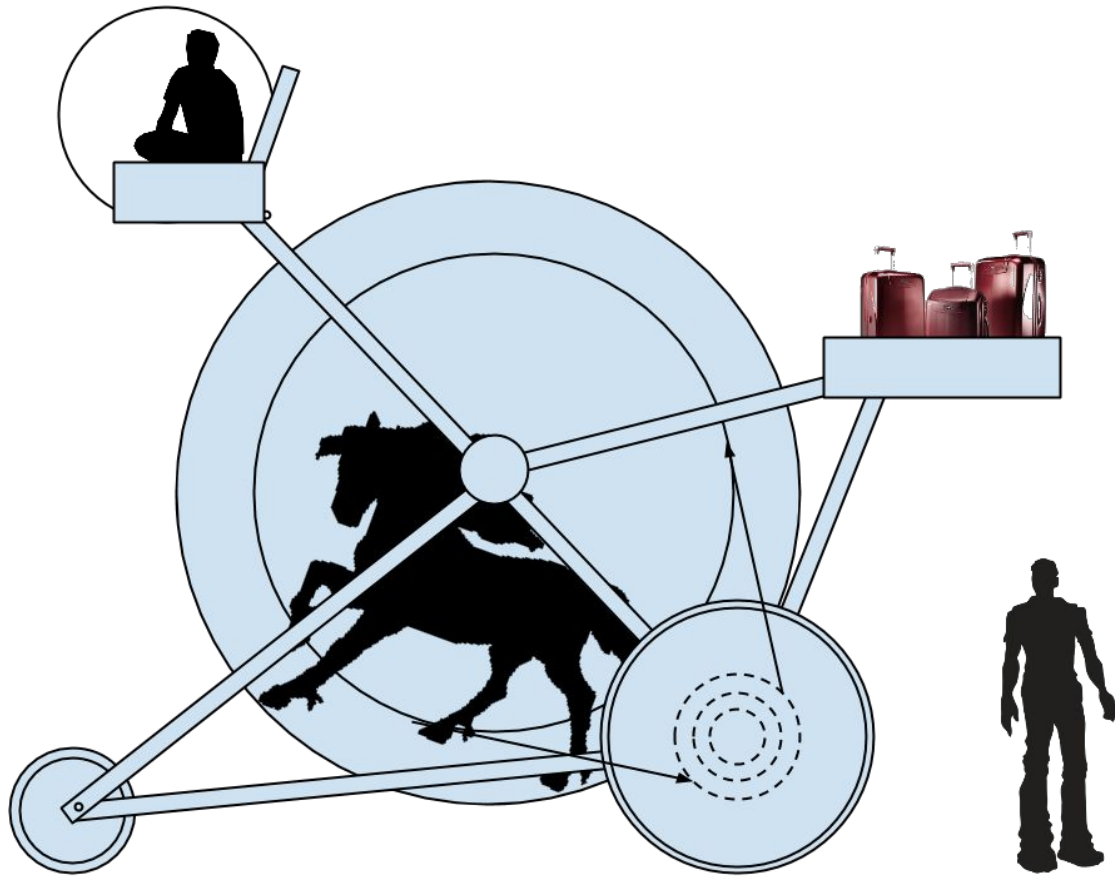


**Post-Model Pavilions - Merging Human and Non-human  
Agencies in Contemporary City Space**  
Project for the Finnish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2017



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**Supporting Material** (as separate .pdf files)

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20160108\_post-model-pavilions-appendix-3\_porfolio-ore-e-refineries

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## **Preface**

We intend to take a finnhorse to the Finnish pavilion, help audiences understand her and to rethink their relationship to non-human life. This agenda will be preceded by public events that will take place in Helsinki before the biennale opens. The finnhorse will be presented together with a publication that brings together practical knowledge on how to work with non-human life. The texts for the publication will be collected as a part of the public events. Transporting and caring for the horse is the main challenge and content of the project. This will force everyone involved to develop new skills and engage in dialogue between different professional fields and even species. This engagement will prove useful in orientating to future initiatives aiming to support non-human life. If changes suggested by posthumanist thinking are taken seriously, the core question of this century is how to transport and sustain a horse at the 57th Venice biennale 2017.

The *Post-Model Pavilions - Merging Human and Non-Human Agencies in the Contemporary City Space* project for the 2017 Finnish Pavilion consists of a collaboration between the multidisciplinary artist organisation Ore.e Refineries and curator Jussi Koitela. It contains a public research part organised in Helsinki and artistic and animalistic interventions in Venice. The project re-evaluates current modes of nation building, artistic agency and social, economic and ecological conditions in Europe and globally. This is a continuation of Ore.e Refineries' recent *Trans-Horse* project and a collaboration between Ore.e Refineries and Jussi Koitela that started as an exhibition called *Skills of Economy – Post Models: Ore.e Refineries* in SIC Space 2014. What starts at Helsinki and Venice will complete itself as a transition in our perception of nature, urban development and our relation to non-human environments.

## **Phases**

1. A diverse group of practitioners and thinkers will be invited to present their views on non-human life and especially horses for mixed audiences in Helsinki. Events are hosted at the Kaarti manège and local horse stables. Presentations will be documented by an invited editorial staff.
2. A manual which will define a lexicon and best practices concerning sustainable design and art from a *species-sensitive perspective* will be drafted based on the documentation and contributions by invited writers.
3. A finnhorse will be transported to the Finnish pavilion and presented next to the publication. The horse will spend the majority of its stay at nearby horse stables, where it will meet audiences by appointment. Invited artists and horse training professionals will host open workshops with the horse, sharing their notes on how to collaborate with non-human life.

## **Post-Model Pavilions in Helsinki and Venice**

We argue that learning how to collaborate with animals in urban planning and other fields of design is key for the development of sustainable futures. This perspective to innovation and other modes of creativity is defined as *species-sensitive design*. It enforces understanding deep dependencies between categorically different agencies. As our relation to animals is made more visible a diversity of economical and social agreements, fundamental to our current ideological stance and lifestyle, will open up for critical reassessment. Everyday relations to animals illustrate our changing relation to the Other. This is the first era in European life when we can choose to be independent from everyday collaboration with animals. The more independent we have imagined

ourselves to be, the more severe our impact on the planet has become. Post-Model Pavilions addresses independence both as a nationalistic myth and as anthropocentric relation to our environment.

Oil-based energy consumption and neoliberal capitalism dictate daily life, segregate populations to grids and enforce specific concentrations of resources and wealth. The city and urban space can be viewed as a modern technology which has been built to enforce the segregation of human populations and to filter citizens' exposure to unsanctioned modes of existence. Contemporary western understanding perceives the city as the main site for the accumulation of capital. Generating capital is based mainly on the use of "dead" natural materials and oversees labor executed in poor conditions. This human-centered model of organizing and viewing our surroundings is the primary reason for current social, economic and ecological dead ends. Our cities' futures are in desperate need of new companionships.

### **Sites for Confrontations**

The Kaarti manège location in Helsinki will be used as a venue for a discursive program, emphasising local urban development and thinking related to material knowledge. The site is used as the group's temporary workspace and opened to the public before the events at the Finnish Pavilion (It will remain accessible to audiences throughout the project.) The property was built in 1877 for the Russian army. The building has since been used as an exhibition hall and in 1952 it was turned into a garage. It is located near the city's expanding touristic and economic center. Currently the building is being prepared for the Finnish Military Museum that will open during the celebrations of a 100 years of Finnish independence in 2017. Horses and urban spaces they occupied in the past have changed from being part of a modern and urban dispositifs to sites of post-modern, affective economy. During the biennale and its preparations, a part of the building will act as the festival's artistic enclave and make the project accessible to local audiences. On site, invited speakers will present their thinking on city development and material knowledges, horse training specialist will demonstrate their skills on working with horses in urban environments and we will hear presentations covering topics from selective breeding to the history of finnhorses in war efforts. The organization of events at the Kaarti manège will be coordinated together with the site's current holder, the Military Museum of Finland.

Venice's development into a city dependent on waterways is tied to climate change. The city is sinking. Tourists roam its narrow streets and their effect on the cityscape is even more forceful than natural erosion. Horses have been shoved aside and the city is heading down an unsustainable path. Venice is one of the key sites for the birth of European modernism and ironically one of Europe's first cities in danger of disappearing from the face of the earth as a direct result of climate change. This is why it serves so well as the main stage for efforts aiming at detaching us from human-centered thinking. To gain an understanding on how to build a more sustainable relation to non-human environments, we will turn to our trusted allies: horses. Ask them and take their answer seriously. The horse we will take to the Aalto pavilion is presented as a non-human specialist and tasked to provide insights on how the city and our lives should be reorganized. We will ask her how she sees the city and how she would like to change it. To further the enquiry we will invite horse training experts and artists working with non-human life and witness their collaboration with the horse in Venice. The Finnish Pavilion will continue the discursive program hurled into motion at the Kaarti manège but focus on practical engagement

with the particular finnhorse and further explore the possibilities of non-human sensitivities in arts and creative practices.



**Saint Barbara Altarpiece**  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Barbara\\_Altarpiece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Barbara_Altarpiece)  
Master Francke c. 1410  
Tempera on Wood



**Revolutionary Perspective**  
[oree.storjapan.net](http://oree.storjapan.net)  
Ore.e Refineries 2013  
Digitally Enhanced Image



**Species Sensitive Perspective**  
[oree.storjapan.net](http://oree.storjapan.net)  
Ore.e Refineries 2013  
Digitally Enhanced Image

## Participants

This project proposal is dependent on the involvement of a variety of craftspeople, horse trainers and veterinarians, theorists, artists, researchers and animals. This rare form of peer dependency can result into a movement which will support the development of non-human sensitivity across cultural life.

## The Horse

The key agent and character of the project is the finnhorse. It serves as an access point for the reevaluation of our relation to non-human agencies and the role of animals in our visual hierarchies and narratives. A manifestation of its importance for European cities is evident looking at equestrian statues erected in city centres. In Venice this tradition is spectacularly present through the statue of *Horses of Saint Mark* (which we'd really like our horse to see it and give an expert evaluation of it). Horses are common in indo-european nation building myths and nearly every European nation has introduced their own breeds of horses. The finnhorse studbook was founded in 1907. Studs were judged on their physical and mental attributes, their character was defined following the nationalistic ideals of the time. Finnhorses are humble, honest and hardworking. The horse we will present in Venice comments on these ideals.

The animal will occasionally pasture in the Aalto pavilion site and spend the majority of its stay at horse stables located on the mainland, where it will engage with audiences by appointment. These appointments will resemble social pedagogy horse services. Guests will share experiences with

the particular horse, participating in contemporary equine-affective economics. Events will be facilitated by horse training specialists, invited artist and the Ore.e Refineries personnel.

Horses are no longer instrumentalized as a manual labor force and they have been deployed extensively in the service economy sector. The contemporary horse has been tasked to provide humans with experiences. In Italy they are used allure tourists and guide them through the city's historic past. Horses are kept for sports and hobbies and the economics they are involved with are in the realm of emotional labor. Their evolved role from a mechanical labour force to this contemporary state emphasises that they should be viewed as a hybrid, as defined by Bruno Latour. Horses are artificial and controlled by a strict breeding process, which makes them largely dependent on human contact. As a result of human interference with its genome the species is practically incapable of fitting into the wild. At the same time they are considered to be a part of nature and experiences we share with them are thought to be more real than ordinary life.

To further complicate the horse's contemporary role, we want to draw attention to its historical role as a servant of European colonial expansion. The animal has been vital in imposing European supremacy in distant lands and negotiating harsh habitats around the globe. It is a proto-bioengineered cyborg and the species population has benefited from colonial expansion. If Donna Haraway's ideas presented in the *Companionship Species Manifesto* would be simplified as a mutual agreement between humans and animals benefiting both species, could we hold horses accountable for European colonialism? Our contribution to the Venice biennale studies this combined human-horse/centaurus agency.

### **Practitioners and Speakers for Events and the Publication**

The project is conducted as an open-ended artistic research, knowledge production and network building process. These developments will be made accessible to the public through the programming in Helsinki. Events are documented by a temporary editorial staff which is tasked to formulate texts from the presentations to the publication which will be presented later at the Aalto Pavilion. Selected participants of the talks will also be invited to contribute texts.

The shape and emphases of the publication will be detailed as the invited practitioners and speakers are set. Our intention is that it will result into a *Manual on Species-Sensitive Design*, which builds a lexicon and identifies best practices concerning sustainable design and art. The publication will formulate a manual and a toolset for sustainable urban design and art. It may be used to derail unsustainable organizations and thinking made possible by fossil fuel energy production or *naftology* (a concept devised by Tere Vadén and Antti Salminen)

Speakers and practitioners we hope will participate in the research phase of *Post-Model Pavilion at in Helsinki* include established pioneers in post humanistic thinking (Donna Haraway and Tim Ingold), thinkers who approach contemporary life critically (Jason W. Moore and Franco "Bifo" Berardi), specialists in urban development (PhD candidate at Aalto Mari Ariluoma, Keller Easterling and architect Pauliina Korhonen), and specialist in horse culture (PhD candidate Hilja Toivio, Jannis Kounellis, urban rider Heikki Mikola and horse breeding specialist Anita Viitanen).

Events in Venice will demonstrate how to collaborate with the particular finnhorse. Participants we imagine as suitable for these events include artists working with horses (Nastja Säde Rönkkö, Mari Kesnikorsu and Fanny Niemi-Junkola), horse training specialists (Katariina Albrecht and Salla

Käenniemi), artists working with non-human life (Saara Hannula) and demonstrations by professionals involved with horses in their daily life (Finnish Workhorse Hobbyist Association and the Department of the Mounted Police of Helsinki)

## Facilitators

Ore.e Refineries was founded 2007 by blacksmith / designer Jesse Sipola and carpenter / performance artist Eero Yli-Vakkuri. Communications concerning the development of the *Post-Model Pavilions* project will be handled by Yli-Vakkuri. Since 2012 the organization has worked in collaboration with other professionals from a variety of fields. The *Trans-Horse* project was initiated in 2014 with the support of journalist / artist Pietari Kylmä and multidisciplinary media worker Hanna Karppinen. The organization attempts to enforce changes in ecological thinking through campaigns, educational workshops and events.

The organization holds craft skills and material knowledge fundamental for developing sustainable futures. The *Trans-Horse* project forced the group to learn how to care for and ride a horse in an effort to connect the cities of Helsinki and Turku by horseback. The project was made possible with the aid of a finnhorse called The Awaited Son (Toivottu Poika b.2008). Along the way the group has made critical reassessments of contemporary horse culture, non-human life related themes in contemporary arts and the city as a technological environment. Research has been made available through publications, exhibitions, performance lectures and workshops including a "Horse and Performance" course held at the Theatre Academy in Helsinki.

Jussi Koitela is a curator based in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Currently he is a participant of the De Appel Curatorial Programme. His selected curatorial work include *To Use As a Capital* at One Night Only Gallery/Kunstneres Hus, *Skills of Economy – Post Models: Ore.e Refineries* at SIC Space, the *Dissolving Frontiers* exhibition at Hiap/Gallery Augusta and the *Performative* program for Manifesta 10 On Board. During the spring of 2015 Koitela edited the *Finnish Art Policy Handbook*, published by Checkpoint Helsinki and Baltic Circle Festival. Currently he has been curating and organising the *Skills of Economy Sessions* event series at Finnish Theatre Academy/Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Baltic Circle Festival and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art.

*Skills of Economy* is a long term curatorial research project focusing on artistic reactions to and engagements with economic rhetorics and structures. It has been realised in different forms as texts, events, sessions, talks, exhibitions and video screenings. Research has been conducted in multidisciplinary forms involving artists, curators, thinkers and researchers from different fields of knowledge. During 2016 research within the *Skills of Economy* project focuses on city space and gentrification and how to rethink urban economic, social and ecological areas with the help of human/non-human agencies. A curatorial research program and exhibitions based on this theme are realized for the Bucharest Biennial 2016, EKKM museum in Tallinn and SixtyEight Art Institute in Copenhagen.



## References and Links

Latour, Bruno, *We Have Never Been Modern*, 1993

Harraway, Donna, *Companionship Species Manifesto*, 2003

Vaden, Tere & Salminen, Antti, [\*Energy and Experience: An Essay in Nafthology\*](#), 2015

Documentation of past collaborations between Koitela & Ore.e Refineries and key moments of the *Trans-Horse* project:

- Video of Skills of Economy – Post Models: Ore.e Refineries exhibition at SIC Space 2014: <https://vimeo.com/111410020> and photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jukkapalmu/sets/72157645164792553/>
- Yli-Vakkuri presenting Horseological Thinking with urban rider Heikki Mikola & Kullannuppu at New Performance Festival, Turku 2014: <https://youtu.be/YTHkpW7qHmA>
- Academician Outi Heiskanen appoint the finnhorse Awaited Son (Toivottu Poika) an Adjunct professor for the Bellins Academy (2014): <https://youtu.be/aKrM55y1Z2s>
- Trans-Horse at Mänttä XX art weeks, Finland (2015): <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jukkapalmu/albums/72157654338226161>

Ore.e Refineries: Trans-Horse

<http://oree.storijapan.net>

<http://hevoslinja.tumblr.com> (mainly in Finnish)

Jussi Koitela / Skills of Economy

<http://www.jussikoitela.com>

<http://www.skillsfeconomy.com>

