

# Grönlund \ Nisunen

## Exhibition Information

### Exhibition Events

#### Thursdays 20 January and 24 February

7pm, Gallery 1

Join a member of DCA staff for an informal tour and chat about the exhibition

#### Thursday 17 February

7pm, Activity Room / Gallery 1

Join Zoe Irvine, sound artist and lecturer at Duncan and Jordanstone for an informal tour of the exhibition.

These events are **free** – just turn up.

### Dundee Contemporary Arts

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Art merges with architecture and technology in the room-sized installations of Finnish duo Tommi Grönlund and Petteri Nisunen. With a background in architecture and a specialist interest in electronic music, their visual installations stem from a playful, experimental relationship with the laws of science, combining electronic and industrial technologies.

This exhibition, their first major show in the UK, brings together a number of recent works with a new commission by DCA, realised for the large gallery. Various involving sound, light and movement, the group of works in the exhibition demonstrates the typically broad and often surprising range of materials with which Grönlund and Nisunen work, and the various forces they co-opt. Apparently simple, minimal structures are animated by these forces, introducing elements of infinite change and chance into otherwise tightly controlled and defined spaces.

10/18 December  
2004 –  
27 February 2005

In Gallery 2, **The Music Box** (2004) combines a precise and calculated use of space with the pervasive and immaterial nature of sound. Inside a

completely darkened and acoustically controlled room ' *The Internationale* ', the former Communist anthem, plays on a tiny music box located in the middle of the room. The box is the only source of light. The tune is slowed down and distorted, made difficult to recognise, like the room itself. The mechanism is housed in a box that mirrors the shape and proportions of the room. This recognisable and once strident, powerful tune is rendered delicate, melancholic and unfamiliar. As it filters through the darkness, the shifting balance of sound dramatically impacts upon the way we perceive the space.

**The Music Box and 3-D LED Structure**, in one of the small galleries, are characteristic of the ways in which the artists make imaginative use of widespread and readily available technologies. The first uses the simple, low-tech workings of a music box; the second deconstructs the familiar display device of 'Light-Emitting Diodes' used in, for example, digital watches, clocks and calculators.

**3-D LED Structure** is one of a series of works Grönlund and Nisunen have made with light-emitting diodes. For DCA, they have designed a structure that fills the small north gallery and emits a red glow through the window outside. Their fascination with LED's

began with the realisation that when shown *en masse* these apparently precise, regular and equal components are actually individual and blink at different rates. This causes the installation to create uncontrollable, constantly changing and moving patterns.

*'If the visual and acoustic result in the installations appears controlled, clear and precise, then the creative process is full of contradictions, little difficulties and mishaps.'*

Using invisible or immaterial phenomena has been a preoccupation for Grönlund and Nisunen since they began to work together in 1993. They are interested in the '*unpredictability of systems*' that are not pre-programmed or overtly controlled. Instead they allow the phenomenon itself to control the outcome of the work. This creates surprising effects, which add to the physical experience of the work.

**Radiation Sensitive Sound Installation** (1996), presented in the small south gallery, is one such example. It amplifies an invisible natural phenomenon present in all buildings. Acting like as a sampling device, a Geiger counter - once readily available in Soviet Russia - constantly measures the amount of radiation in the space. This measurement is made audible

through four large speakers, or sub-woofers, and any changes in the reading are reflected in changes in the pitch of the deep, bass sounds. Using the background radiation to control this installation they allow an immaterial phenomenon to be perceptible to the senses.

Each of Grönlund \ Nisunen's works is in some way connected to, inspired by or dependent on the space in which it is presented. Works are re-visited and re-configured for each installation, tuned or adapted to the specific nature of the room or gallery they occupy, while new pieces develop out of a close collaboration between the two artists and in response to the given architecture and character of the space.

For this exhibition, Grönlund and Nisunen have realised a major new piece for the large gallery. Here, they have worked specifically with the light, bright and expansive qualities of the space to create a vast 'landscape'. **Pneumatic Landscape** is a vast, undulating surface, its shape altered by currents of air. It seems to offer infinite possibilities and contours.

Each of these works offers us a dramatically altered experience of the gallery and an extra-ordinary awareness of space and how it is

composed. From the tension between the walls, floor and ceiling in the room housing the **3-D LED Structure** to the sheer volume of the large gallery contained in **Pneumatic Landscape**, Grönlund \ Nisunen's works occupy spaces in ways that make us aware of the complex forces at work in our environment.

**The Music Box** is presented at DCA first as part of 'Kill Your Timid Notion' (10 – 12 December) and then as part of the exhibition from 18 December.

**Tommi Grönlund** (b.1967) and **Petteri Nisunen** (b.1962) live and work in Helsinki. They started their artistic collaboration in 1993 having already worked together on architectural projects. Since 1993 they have shown together internationally and curated the Nordic Pavilion at the 49<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale.

**For more information about the artists please visit the Information Room just outside the gallery entrance where you will find books, articles and reviews of their work.**

**The exhibition is supported by:**

**FRAME**  
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