

Maarit Suomi-Väänänen (MA) works as a filmmaker and media artist. Her work also encompasses photography and installations. Praised as fascinating, absurd and open to a multitude of interpretations, Suomi-Väänänen's award-winning works are shown in exhibitions, at festivals and on TV over 30 countries. Maarit (born 1966) lives in Helsinki and works with the artist's stipendium granted by the Finnish Cultural Foundation. Distributors: AV-arkki The Distribution Center of Finnish Media Art, Finnish Film Foundation, Vtape Toronto Canada, and Vidéothèque Nomade, Bruxelles, Belgium www.maaritsuomi.fi

FILM INSTALLATION, EXPERIMENTAL SHORT FILMS,

Work on process: Third part of the trilogy researching the cinematic special effects

MINISPECTACLES 4-9: 4xStream, 2xUpstream, each one minute

PÖHEIKÖN HÖNKÄ In a Musty, Misty Thicket 2011 installation with objects, 2012 Short Film

festival Rotterdam Film Festival, Dinamo | Nordic Glory Festival competition, JKL Fin

installation Mänttä Art Festival, Finland, curator: Otso Kantokorpi | Pori Festivals, curator: Anni Venäläinen
Grand Detour, Portland, USA + retro screening + artist talk + lecture

Seanahk Performance Art Festival, Estonia, Haapsalu, curator: Jaan Toomik and Johannes Deimling

TV Yle Teema Finnish Broadcasting Company (public tv), Uusi Kino Producer: Sari Volanen

MINISPECTACLES 1-3: touché, douche and or souche 3x1min 2010, original name: koskee, korpee, sorsii
Honorary Mention Helsinki Short Film Festival 2011

installation North End Studios, **Detroit** Design, USA | Culture Tram, Helsinki **Finland** | ATA **San Francisco** USA |
Biennale d'art contemporain de Bourges, triptych installation, Bandits Mages, **France**

festivals Traverse Vidéo Toulouse **France** | Instants Vidéo Numériques et poétiques, Marseille **France** | Reikäreuna
FF, Finland | Bay Street FF, Thunder Bay **Canada** | Nordisk Forum and Clermont-Ferrand Short FF, Markets
by Nordic Film Foundations | Ismailia FF, competition, **Egypt** | IDFA ParaDocs Amsterdam Netherlands | 1
Min FF Aarau, **Switzerland** | Kölner Filmhaus, **Germany** | Gallery 3h&k, Pori Finland, curator: A. Venäläinen

TV AV-arkki at Suomi-TV, cable channel Hki, FIN |

WEB: Instant Cinema, Exp Doc Channel, curator: P. Carrera | Impakt Channel Netherlands

UP AND ABOUT AGAIN 10min 2009, original name: Jalkeilla Taas. 100 venues in 24 countries.

TV Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE. Rebroadcast 8.12.2011. Uusi kino, Sari Volanen.

visual arts Solo exhibitions Canada: WARC gallery Toronto 2011 | Galerie Sans Nom, Moncton 2009
REGARD Saguenay Short Film Festival: Nordic Panorama, 4Cities in Quebec AND SEQUENCE art gallery
Scandinavian House New York 2012 | Avantgarde Films in the Drive-in Theater, Vienna **Austria**
Group: Fabfca de Angelo Grassi, Gambettola **Italy**, curator Sandra Miranda Pattin&Bianca Laura Petretto
Lorenzo Jovanotti's Stadium Concerts **Italy**, visual projection | Festival international Signes de Nuit **Paris**
Global Container, Culture Factory Polymer, Tallinn **Estonia**, curator: Sandra Jögeva |
Turku 365, European Capital of Culture, Finland | Gallery Alkovi, **Finland** curator Eero Yli-Vakkuri
Videoart at hospital **Finland**, curator Risto-Pekka Blom | LOOP Barcelona **Spain**, curator Anni Venäläinen
Virserum Konsthall, Sweden (+Bill Viola+Eija-Liisa Ahtila etc) Curator: Torun Ekstrand |
AV-arkki: Exhibition Centre TR1 Festart01 installation, Tampere **Finland**
Screening at Reykjavik Art Museum, Visual Art Magazine Rafskinna and Nordisk Panorama **Island**
Pori Art Museum, Night of the Museum + Publication of DVD, FRAME project room **Finland**
Int Video Festival Videomedeja, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina **Serbia**
Directors Lounge Urban Research: Gallery Meinblau+Magistrale Berlin+PAm Sennigallia **Italy**
Bandits-Mages, Bourges, **France** | Vidéothèque Nomade Brussels: Charleroi, Recyclart, Liege, Hasselt **Be**
Galleria Forssan tori + Helsinki: MoA + Art Fair Suomi

awards **competitions: Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Montréal Canada Best Short Film in the Int. Selection 2009**

festivals REGARD, Chicoutimi **Canada** | L'Etrange Festival, Paris **France** | Off-Courts Festival -, Trouville **France** |
Kassel Documentary Film & Video Festival **Germany** | Curtocircuito 09, Santiago de Compostela, **Spain** |
Filmets Badalona, Barcelona **Spain** | Arctic & Fabulous FF, Jyväskylä **Finland** | Uppsala Short FF **Sweden**
| Milan FF **Italy** | 25 FPS Zagreb **Croatia** | Thai Short FF, Bangkok **Thailand** | CAMBOfest, Cambodia | Just
For Laughs Festival, Montreal **Canada** | **Worldwide Short Film Festival Toronto Canada**

On programs: Rooftop, **New York** USA | Kulturhuset Stckh REX, **Sweden** | IDFA - Paradocs Amsterdam
Filmhuis Den Haag, **Netherlands** + Liigalaksma FF **Estonia** (all films) | VerdensKulturCentretCopenhagen

Impakt : **Brasilia** Belo Horizonte - Venue Arte.mov Festival + Salvador + Porto Alegre + Belem
Open Air Event and Urban Screen, Utrecht, **Netherlands** | Göteborg FF, **Sweden** | Sarajevo FF, **Bosnia and**
Herzegovina | **ATA San Francisco + Millennium Film New York** USA + **La Enana Marron Madrid Spain**

France: Festival Silhouette, Paris & Festival international du film d'Amiens | Reikäreuna FF, **Finland** | In
the Palace **Bulgaria**, market | Cine Martiko Ghent, **Belgium** | Montreal Underground FF, **Canada** | Video
Formes, Clermont-Ferrand **France** | Oldenburg Short Film Days, **Germany** | Cairo Video Art &
Experimental FF, **Egypt** | medimed Euro-Mediterranean Barcelona **Spain** | Bay Street FF, Thunder Bay,
Canada | AV-arkki : Tampere FF and Washington Film Institute, **USA** | Nordisk FF2009, Fredrikshavn,
Denmark + Rauma Blue Sea FF, **Finland** | Curtas Vila do Conde Int Film Festival, **Portugal**

Cannes Film Festival, France, Scandinavian Short Films Screening, Short Film Corner **France**

screenings Doc Lounge | Punk evenings | FinlandsInstitutet, Stockholm+ tour | Kosmoramaclub | AV-arkki for KIDS | Pinnanalta

SALTY SNOW, 8min 2007 Exp. Short Film Suolaista Lunta

exhibitions Solos: Lönnström Art Museum, Rauma, **Finland** | CableGallery, Helsinki, **Finland** | Group: Contemporary
Virka Gallery, Helsinki City Hall, **Finland** | Art Festival, Khanty-Mansiysk, **Russia** | VIEW – Media Art Fest

screenings Nomadic Video Library Brussels **Belgium** | Filmhuis Den Haag, **Netherlands** | Ignition New Media and
Film Festival **Australia** | VerdensKulturCentret, Copenhagen **Denmark** | Night at the Indies, Toronto
Canada | Rostock, Nacht der Kultur, **Germany** | Helsinki Art Fair | WWF – New Delhi, **India**, Film Library |
RAW Brooklyn, New York **USA** | Videofomes, Clermont-Ferrand, **France** | AMBIENT Festival, Knot point,
Brescia, **Italy** | FOXdays Helsinki | Media Art Festival, Siberia | Bay Street FF, Thunder Bay, **Canada** | CFC
Worldwide Short Film Festival Toronto Canada

tv and streaming: Movieola – Short Film Channel, **Canada** AND Finnish Broadcasting Comp. YLE
compilation Flux-screening vol2 2007 Espoo, Finland | SIMULTAN Timisoara, **Romania** | Vertical Festival Spain

A BIT SCARY REALLY.... 7min 2005 Experimental Docu-Comedy, vähän niinku pelottavaa...

web Instant Cinema, EYE Film Institute NL collection, curator: Anna Abrahams
<http://preview.instantcinema.org/eye/379/A-bit-scary-really>

www.undergroundfilm.com, San Francisco, USA (site is closed by now)

installation Virserum Konsthall, **Sweden** | MadCat Women's FF, San Francisco **USA** | Virka Gallery, Helsinki
City Hall, Finland | Nomadic Video Library Brussels **Belgium**

festivals Filmhuis Den Haag, **Netherlands** | Bay Street FF, Thunder Bay, **Canada** | Colchester International FF Signals
Great-Britain | WWF – New Delhi, **India**, Film and Documentary Library | Kulczyk Foundation, Poznan,
Poland | Love&Anarchy, Helsinki, **Finland** | San Giò Festival, Verona, Italy | Jubilee screening of Helsinki
Arts Association | Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, **Belgium** (IDFA screening) |
IDFA International Documentary Film Festival, Paradocs Amsterdam **Netherlands**
Int. Fideo and Vilm Festival, Pärnu **Estonia** | Courtisane Festival, Ghent **Belgium**

Gallery Leena Kuumola's Film-Event, Helsinki | WIEV and FOXdays Festivals in Helsinki

compilations AV-arkki tour06 – compilation 2006: Uppsala Int. Short FF Sweden | FORUM BOX -gallery,
videoroom, Helsinki, Finland | Tampere FF, Finland | LOOP: The Place for Video Art Lovers, Barcelona,
Spain | Perf06 gallery 3H+K, Pori | Breaking The Ice, Kunstmuseum Bonn
VideoNight compilation 2005, curated by ArtEast Foundation Romania, Jozsef Bartha | Alter-Native
Short FF, Fortress Gallery, Targu Mures | Museum of Modern Art, Bucharest, Romania

SWAN SONG 6min 2004 Experimental Film 2004

exhibitions Aquarelle Biennale, Ciurlionis Art Museum, Kaunas **Lithuania** | Gallerii Deco, Tallinn **Estonia**

tv Channel Metro14, **Canada** | Movieola – Short Film Channel, **Canada** | tv-tv Copenhagen, **Denmark**

screenings Filmhuis Den Haag, **Netherlands** | Le 4e`me Festival de films underground de Montreal MUFF,
Canada | Night at the Indies, Toronto, **Canada** | Rostock, Nacht der Kultur, **Germany** | WWF – New
Delhi, India, Film and Documentary Library | Cartes Flux –screening **Finland** | Filmklubb Video Lick,
Gothenburg, **Sweden** | VIEW –Helsinki | Foxdays, Gallery Leena Kuumola | MuuGallery Helsinki

CHANGING: MASUZYO and TASINTHA, 2x30min 1996 community theatre in Finland/Zambia
Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE TV 1, 1996, (co-operational Work)

STONES, 15min 1993 Experimental Dance Film (co-operational Work) MuuMediaFestival | Fox Days 1994

s/v **ESTELLE**, 25min documentary 1993 (cinematography, in co-operation script, edit)
Tampere Film Festival, national competition and Fox days

PHOTOS, INSTALLATIONS

Middletons - Photos from California | Tolppaset – valokuvia Kaliforniasta 2008

Solo Exhibition: Lönnström Art Museum, Rauma, **Finland** + e-cards

Production House Medusa, Office Turku, permanent installation | www.medusa.fi

MoA Festival Helsinki **Finland** + Private Collection

nameless smoke and light installation, Pori Art Generator Space, **Finland**

ANONYMOUS black-and-white Photo Triptych 2005

Firenze Biennale, Italy | European Commission “Finnish photography” by Liz Wells, UK

ANONYMOUS black-and-white Photo Diptych 2004

Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Rear Window, Helsinki, **Finland**

SOMEBODY-ANYBODY-NOBODY 1999 Site-Specific ANATOOMIKUM (curator: Paul Rodgers), Tartu Estonia

ZOOM 1999 Borey Art Gallery, St. Petersburg Russia | Photocenter Peri, Turku, Finland

NORTHERN KNOTS 1995 Installation (photos, lights and slides) on Board of s/v Estelle, Amsterdam

BANGLADESH BY WAY OF HAND 1991 black-and-white Photo Exhibition Helsinki, Tampere, Turku, Oulu
Fair Trade Shop Juuttiputiikki, Oulu, Finland 15.5.-15.6.2011

AWARDS

2012 Working grant, Finnish Cultural Found | Residencies: Kone Foundation, Finland | Kinokino Art and Film, Norway

2011 Working grant, Finnish Cultural Foundation | **Honorary Mention, Helsinki Short Film Festival**

2010 **Audience Award for all films, Filmhuis Den Haag**, Netherlands | EMARE Media Artists Residency in France

2009 **Best Short Film in the International Selection, Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Montréal Canada**

2008 **Honorary Mention, Aquarelle Biennale, Kaunas Lithuania**

2005 **Honorary Mention of Photo Art, Firenze Biennale of Contemporary Art, Italy**

1993 **Honorary Mention, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen Denmark**

2010-12 Arts Council of Finland | Finnish Film Foundation | AVEK | FRAME grant

PROJECT GRANTS for art 1999-2012:

Arts Council of Finland, Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture, Finnish
Cultural Foundation, Women's Cultural Foundation, Visual Artist Copyright Society VISEK

OTHERS: 2010- AV-arkki Board member + Fox Days Jury member | State Art Collection Committee 2005-07 |
Film Jurys 05-06: The Oscar Finland | Viitasaari Film Week Award | Jussi Award pre selection (Finnish Oscars) |

Memberships: SET, Muu, AV-arkki | **Education:** 2008 MA - **Master of Arts**, University of Art and Design

Teaching: North West Film Institute, Portland USA | Lahti Art Institute | Laurea | Stadia | Tutvo | YLE Turku | etc

ON PUBLICATIONS selected own texts

more about articles: <http://www.maaritsuumi.fi>

- **Coming:** Crying and laughing – artist on the ride with her work. Publisher: Magazine of Avek, The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture, March 2012
- *Smell of Dark.* The photographic book of PUNK by Juha-Pekka Inkinen. Publisher Like, 2009.
- *One picture can be too many.* Voima culture newspaper 5.2007. Katse - photo culture www.katse.org

critics

- Curator Pablo Carrera (CH/NL) in Experimental Documentary Channel / Instant Cinema about Minispectacles <http://preview.instantcinema.org/expdocs/1093/Minispectacles>
- **The Globe and Mail, Saturday Art Edition 12.11.2011: R. M. Vaughan: A road trip into our psyches** <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/arts/rm-vaughan/a-road-trip-into-our-psyches/article2233649/>
- SIRP Eesti Kultuurileht: Seanahk maailma avardamas, writer: Raivo Kelomees 12.8.2011
- KMV - newspaper Finland 8.8.2011 The Wind in the Thicket. Writer: Harri Mäcklin
- Huvustadsbladet Helsinki 18.6.11 "Kaotiska och rörande familjerelationer". writer: Leena Kuumola
- Up And About Again at FNC Montréal, Vol 13 Issue 12, writer critic Randolph Jordan http://www.offscreen.com/biblio/pages/essays/festival_nouveau_cinema_2009/
- Up And About Again at Idfa Daily-DagKrant Amsterdam 26.11.2009. Writer: film critic Niels Bakker
- *Up And About Again*, New Currents Shorts - Sarajevo FF. Writer: Patricija Malicev, Delo, Slovenia
- Solo exhibition at Lönnström Art Museum. Published at Satakunnan kansa 17.6.2008, writer H-R Kuisma.
- *Not everyone can be a mother.* Salty Snow, at TV 1, Uusi Kino. Published at Aamulehti, Satakunnan kansa ja Keski-Uusimaa 15.5.2007, writer Jukka Kangasjärvi.
- *Media artists yearn for home and away from there.* Salty Snow, solo exhibition at VIEW Festival. Helsingin Sanomat 23.2.2007, writer Kaisa Heinänen.
- *Experimenteren met werkelijkheid.* a bit scary really... IDFA screening Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen. Writer Michiel van Opstal, NL, publisher www.tubelight.nl nro 48, 1.1.2007.
- *a bit scary really.....* Kortfilm.be, writer Sven de Schutter, Belgium.
- *About the naturalness of making a baby.* Salty Snow, VIEW07 Catalogue, writer A Vänskä. Pub: AV-arkki.
- *a bit scary really...* IDFA daily-magazine, 1.12.2007 writer Niels J. Bakker. Publisher IDFA, Hollanti.
- Swansong, TAIDE-magazine nro 1 2006, writer Pirjetta Brander.
- Swansong, Sirp Cultural Journal Tallinn, 17.9.2004, writer Rainer Vilumaa, Estonia.
- zoom, Maximka Art Magazine-St. Petersburg, 3.1999, writer Nadezda Spil, Russia.
- From Bangladesh by Hand, Kainuun Sanomat 31.7.1991, writer Pirjo Immonen
- Kaleva 17.1.1991, writer Markku Heikkilä

articles

- NOW Toronto every week. Issue 1553 vol 31 no 9, 2011. Mention: must-see-shows
- KVM newspaper 29.8.2011 "Wonderfully exciting Pöheikön Hönkä" writer: Mira Metsälä
- The Strategy of Finnish Short Film by Marja Pallasalo, Finnish Film Foundation 11.5.2011
- Newspaper Haapsalu Lääne Elu, journalist: Taavi Eilat. Seanahk Art Festival, Haapsalu, Estonia 2.8.2011
- Ilkka, Mänttä Art Festival 12.6.2011
- interviews: Egyptian TV 2 and Nile Channel. Local radio Belgees Connection, Ismailia. Oct 2010
- Canadian Sanomat 29.9.2010, Up And About Again at Thunder Bay FF. writer Minna Ollikainen
- Opening of the Galleria Forssan Tori. Kauppalehti (business newspaper) 11.2.2010 writer: Harri Oinonen
- UAAA Traveling. Publisher: The Finnish News Agency. Writer cultural journalist Reetta Ravi, 20.11.2009
- UAAA at Arctic and Fabulous Film Festival, Finland, writer Tero Karjalainen, Keskisuomalainen 20.11.2009
- Impakt on the Move (Brazil): http://www.impakt.nl/index.php/blog/on_the_move
- The journal of underground film, ATA 22.10.2009, San Francisco. <http://www.badlit.com/?p=2773>
- Live radio interview: Radio J, 93.5 FM. Interviewer: Marc Xavier Leblanc. 29.10.2009, Canada, NB
- Radio Canada, région Acadie. UAAA in the exhibition at Galerie Sans Nom, Moncton, Canada. 30.10.2009
- Vjesnik 29.9.2009 (daily newspaper), UAAA in the 25fps Zagreb. Writer film critic: Bozidar Trkulja
- *Up And About Again* in Toronto WSFF Competition. STT Finnish News Agency. Newspapers in Fin 6.2009
- Text on DVD about *Up And About Again* written by curator Marita Muukkonen
- News about diploma of Kaunas Aquarelle Biennale was published on August 2008 at Helsingin Sanomat, Satakunnan kansa, Savon Sanomat, Kaleva (The Finnish News Agency, STT)
- Exhibition at Lönnström Art Museum, published at Länsi-Suomi 13.6.2008 writer Anni Teppo
- *Salty Snow.* Simpukka magazine 2.2007, writer Anne Lindfors.
- *Media Art at the world.* Shortly AVEK magazine 16.10.2006
- Articles about censorship and award at Firenze Biennale, published at HS, AL, Keskisuomalainen
- *nameless, smoke-light installation.* Satakunnan Kanssa 6.7.2007, writer Lili Wessman
- *Salty Snow* at WWSFF festival at Toronto. Writer Liz Clayton. Publisher Eye Week Toronto June 07 2007
- From Bangladesh by Hand – photo exhibition at Oulu 1991. Kansan Tahto, writer Petri Laukka.

catalogues

- *In a Musty, Misty Thicket*, Mänttä Art Festival. Curator: Otso Kantokorpi. June 2011
- Finnish Documentary Films at IDFA 2010. Publisher: Finnish Film Foundation.
- Works on numerous film and media art festival catalogues
- *Salty Snow* and *Up and About Again* trailer at catalogue TAIDE2008 Helsinki Art Fair.
- *Swan Song* Baltic Bridges – Catalogue Kaunas Aquarelle Biennale 2008. Publ: Arts Assoc of Lithuania.
- Anonymous triptych, Firenze Biennalen catalogue 2005

works on collections

- On EYE Film Institute Netherlands collection on Instant Cinema, curator: Anna Abrahams
- Lönnström Art Museum, Rauma, Finland | Digital Production Company Medusa, Finland | undergroundfilm.com, San Francisco (2005-07) | Private collection (ArtFairSuomi) | Seashell Assoc.

Maarit Suomi-Väänänen selected works 2004-2012 / on publications

In a Musty, Misty Thicket 2012



Minispectacles 1-3 (2010)

Up And About Again 2009



SALTY SNOW 2007



a bit scary really... 2005



SWAN SONG 2004



ANONYMOUS 2004, 2005



"Maarit Suomi Väänänen's absolutely absurd film is depicting scenes between mother and daughter in an environment where the Stone Age is joining with some urban elements. Nina Renvall's excessively realistic presentation as Likka is irresistible, like Appe Vanajas in the role of Pik Mama..." LKuumola, HBL 18.6.11

"The enigmatic work playfully reconstructs the Oedipal scenario of psychoanalytic theories and seems to be offering a new mythical basis for a modern, inverted interpretation of the Oedipus complex...The work takes us to an age before words. In the middle of nowhere, in some era long since gone, live to women – the morbidly obese Pik Mama and presumably her daughter Missy – whose language is the language of primordial desire...Suomi-Väänänen's work speaks with euphemisms. The work describes the hopes and desires we all unconsciously share, but which we cannot or dare not express with words." Mäcklin, KVM, 8.8.11

Honorary Mention, Helsinki Short Film Festival 2011

"The mini film series is an anarchistic diamond that needs no refining." Jury Anssi Kasitonni and Maria Duncker

**- Best short film in the International Selection - award
Festival du nouveau cinema, Montreal, Canada 2009
- Audience Award for all film and video works,
Filmhuis Den Haag, the Netherlands 2010**

"The award-winning artist's act of anthropomorphism starts off with a long pan of a grubby, ill-tended quarry circled by hearty green trees and spots of moss....Be prepared to laugh out loud, even if you're laughing in resigned recognition...For such a tiny and downtrodden object, Suomi-Vaananen's protagonist sure can carry a lot of viewers' projections. Maybe that's why it's covered in movie-screen white. R. M Vaughan: A road trip to our psyches, Globe and Mail, Canada 12.11.11

"On the horizon, a sweet graceless creature appears, a Datsun 100A, propelled by a cloud of dust. The world grows broader, the journey continues bouncing and striving forward in an insanely rugged, rocky world... The main character's appearance in the film calls out: Look at me, look at me! This creature, covered in snow and struggling sightlessly forward, is at once beginning a life, and one who has seen it all... Manipulation of time has been put to skillful use as an effect... The dialogue flows smoothly between the different parts, both in terms of structure, and of sound and content." curator Marita Muukkonen, FRAME

"Very daring, to cast a car as the leading figure. But never be surprised with Finnish director Maarit Suomi-Väänänen... Unbearable? Not in the least. Suomi-Väänänen brings the film with typical Finnish humour: very dry and with a sharp bite. Thus she makes you smile." Niels Bakker, IDFA daily 26.11.2009

"... Suomi-Väänänen's film conveys a strong atmosphere. The beautiful music of Tapani Rinne and Verner Lummi is peaceful and floating, it builds an ambience of sorrow..." Kaisa Heinänen, HS 23.2.2007

"... The imagery is beautiful but also so faceted that it could, and does, awaken a multitude of feelings.

Salty Snow has been selected for Toronto's Worldwide Short Film Festival. Held in June, the festival is the largest of its kind in North America...

Jukka Kangasjärvi at Aamulehti, Satakunnan kansa and KUT 15.5.2007

"...Maarit Suomi-Väänänen makes a hilarious show of this 7 minute film, because of the camera position and bizarre dialogue that develops between the couple...The funniest is the end shot, when the tree has finally fallen down. Niels J. Bakker, Amsterdam IDFA daily 1.12.2006

"... In A bit scary really... (2005) from Maarit Suomi-Väänänen, the camera is on a tripod and doesn't move. What is on camera is great and dramatic slapstick. " Michiel van Opstal, www.tubelight.nl 1.1.2006

--- The diploma of honour, Kaunas Aquarelle Biennale, Lithuania 2008

"... The work demonstrating the greatest maturity and insight, though, is Swan Song, a video piece by Maarit Suomi from Helsinki, Finland. Suomi's prelude to the classic tale Ugly Duckling shows her to be an experienced film-maker with an original grasp of her artistic medium..."

Rainer Vilumaa, estonian culture magazine SIRP 17.9.2004

" Maarit Suomi's Swan Song provides us with an update to our dusty concept of our national bird... Her imagery is painterly and aesthetic, with a dream-like quality that gives us an alienated view of reality... The swans appear in the video as if in slow motion, in a moving picture. Even the most wretched aspects of the animals' family life appear noble and sublime within this framework..." Pirjetta Brander, Taide 1.2006

--- Anonymous was awarded at Firenze Biennale, Italy 2005

"... Maarit Suomi-Väänänen's photographs strike me as exceptionally perceptive and topical. Highly composed in both form and content, they appeal to the intellect. By juxtaposing antithetical visual and philosophical elements, the pieces challenge our views in an unbiased yet suggestive manner..." Leena Saraste PhD, reseacher, photographer