

The Forging Days in Fiskars Village 2015

The Forging Days in Fiskars Village 2015 is a common name for two happenings, arranged by the two blacksmithing associations in Finland, Suomen Sepät ry and Taidesevät ry. The two events are:

The exhibition "My Kalevala"

June 14th to September 20th, 2015 in the old Granary in Fiskars Village

and

The Nordic Championships in Forging 2015

July 30th to August 2nd, 2015 in the old Plough Smithy in Fiskars Village.

A working committee has been responsible for the carrying through of the project. The group has consisted of master blacksmith Upi Anttila as chairman, master blacksmith Pertti Virta as a member and blacksmith Martina Lindberg as secretary.

The exhibition "MY KALEVALA"

14.6 - 20.9.2015

The Granary, Fiskars Village

The My Kalevala exhibition at the Granary in Fiskars Village displays contemporary blacksmiths' interpretations of the Kalevala, the Finnish national epic that has strongly influenced our cultural heritage.

Forge a fortune

As late as the mid-1900s there was a blacksmith in nearly every village in Finland, but today only few people make a living as village blacksmiths. Surely a blacksmith's job description includes subcontracting work on e.g. construction sites, but the majority of blacksmiths make artisan products for sale. Some of them create art.

Strike while the iron is hot

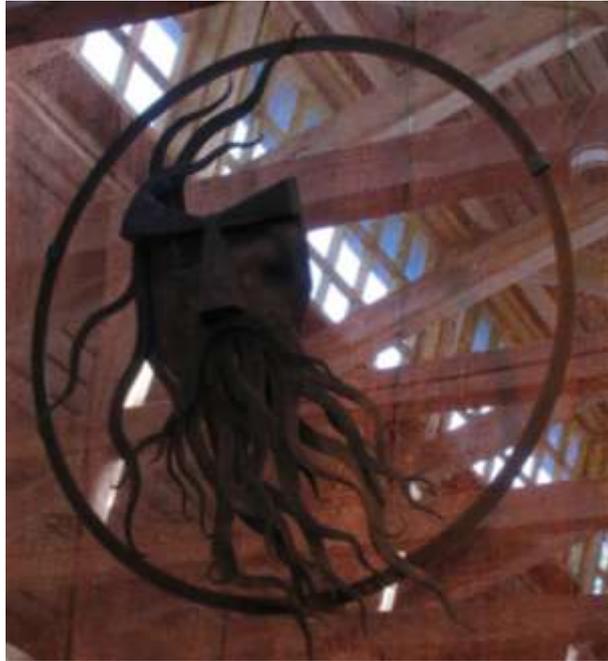
Invitations to submit proposals for the My Kalevala exhibition were sent in autumn 2014 to all Nordic Countries and Estonia, and 55 proposals were received. The exhibition works were selected by a jury, whose members were interior designer Eero Haikala, sculptor Kim Simonsson and master blacksmith Teo Mero.

The exhibition features many splendid interpretations of characters and conceptions very familiar to Finns – heroes with superb mental powers and craft skills, hard quests, tragedies, wars and wooings – simultaneously bringing smithery to the third millennium.

No one is born a master

The majority of those who participate in the exhibition are blacksmiths and master blacksmiths – professionals and highly skilled craftsmen, which shows in their work. Some are artists and design students.

The participants are: artist blacksmith **Lars Larsson** from Sweden, artist blacksmiths **Steven Carpenter** and **Tobbe Malm** from Norway, blacksmith, MA **Jokum Lind Jensen** from Denmark, blacksmith **Heigo Jelle** from Estonia, and sculptor **Päivi Aho**, master blacksmith **Upi Anttila**, master blacksmith **Jorma Dahlström**, metal artisan student **Vesa Halmerinne**, designer and textile artist **Maarit Hirvonen**, sculptor and master blacksmith **Risto Immonen**, master blacksmith **Jarkko Kaartilanmäki**, blacksmith, graphic designer **Ari Karhu**, metal worker **Timo Karjalainen**, master blacksmith **Juhani Krappe**, master blacksmith **Antti Kuikka**, blacksmith **Veini Lehtonen**, master blacksmith **Iro Mäntykorpi**, artist blacksmith **Antti Nieminen**, master blacksmith **Jouko Nieminen**, artist **Taina Pailos**, blacksmith **Pasi Petomaa**, art forger **Jorma Putkonen**, artist blacksmith **Kimmo Tulimetsä**, master blacksmith, designer **Kirsi Vahtera**, master blacksmith **Tuuli Wirman**, master blacksmith **Pertti Virta** and Studio Ilmarinen's team: interior architect, professor **Simo Heikkilä** with artisan students **Pekka Korhonen**, **Else Märkjärvi**, **Lauri Niilahti**, **Krista Niinimäki**, **Mika Rautasaari** and **Juha Tokkari** from Finland.



The "Väinämöinen" by master blacksmith Kirsi Vahteras welcomed the visitors to the exhibition.



General picture from the exhibition. In the front bowls by the Swedish blacksmith Lars Larsson.



General picture from the exhibition.

In connection with the exhibition there was a shop for forged products, mostly produced by participating blacksmiths.

On the second floor of the Granary an axe-exhibition was displayed, showing axes and tools produced by Fiskars Corporation in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The exhibition My Kalevala was opened to the public on June 14th and it was open until September 20th. During the summer the exhibition had a total of 5681 visitors, of which 4054 paid an entrance fee.

NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FORGING 2015

July 30th to August 2nd, 2015

the old Plough Smithy in Fiskars Village



The Nordic Championships in Forging were arranged at the turn of July-August in Fiskars Village. The visitors could enjoy forging at its best, as the Nordic blacksmiths showed their skills in the competition.

During the competition days there were approximately over 1000 visitors.

History

In 2000, the first Nordic Championships in Forging were arranged in Finland in Kimo Ironworks in 2000. In 2008 the competition was arranged in Sweden, in 2011 in Norway and in 2013 in Iceland.

The main goals for the competition are to maintain the traditions of forging in the Nordic countries, to strengthen the cooperation between the blacksmiths and to inspire especially younger blacksmiths to strive for good quality in their work.

There were three series in the competition: Young blacksmiths, Blacksmiths with Certificate of Competence and Master Blacksmiths. In each serie there can be a representative from each Nordic Country. In Fiskars there were no competitors from Denmark.



Young blacksmiths forging...



...Mats Pedersen from Sweden checks how the numbers match each other...



... and here we have the four participants in the Masters series.

The participants of the Nordic Championships of Forging 2015 – with the results.

Young blacksmiths:

- 1 **Veini Lehtonen, Finland**
- 2 Ingvar Matthiasson, Iceland
- 3 Magnus Vartdal, Norway
- 4 Andreas Oster, Sweden

Blacksmiths with certificate: 1 **Pekka Korhonen, Finland**

- 2 Tobbe Malm, Norway
- 3 Mats Pedersen, Sweden
- 4 Einar Gunnar Sigurdsson, Iceland

Master blacksmiths:

- 1 **Beate Stormo, Iceland**
- 2 Sami Ryhänen, Finland
- 3 Henke Levay, Sweden
- 4 Benjamin Kjellman-Chapin, Norway



All participants in the picture.

The competition jury had a members from each Nordic country. They were: Kay Vikström from Finland, Gudmundur Sigurdsson from Iceland, Janne Hansson from Sweden, Paul Clay from Denmark and Jan Remøe from Norway.

The Birdsnest – a joint sculpture

All blacksmiths were welcome to take part in the making of the joint sculpture, the Birdsnest. The nest with one bird of all participants was placed outside the forge in Fiskars and will remain there as a memory of the Forging Days in Fiskars Village 2015.

The Birdsnest was designed by master blacksmiths Sami Ryhänen and Juhani Krappe.

The program during the competition weekend

Thursday, July 30th, 2015

At 1 pm the mounting of the Birdsnest started after which the task and rules of the competition were announced to the participants. The competition task was the same in all series – to make the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0. The competition time was 4 hours for each series.



Here all the made numbers are displayed to the public.

In the evening there was an opening ceremony with a dance performance by Saine Ensemble and Slag Brick Project in the old Foundry, after which there was a grill and beer party in the Plough Smithy. Approximately 50 persons attended the party.

Friday, July 31st, 2015. Competition Day

The first competition day started with a pouring rain. In the afternoon the sun came out and with the sun also came the public to watch and follow the competition. The first group out were the Young Blacksmiths and in the afternoon the Blacksmiths with Certificate of Competence competed.

Outside the Plough Smithy Antti Kuikka had arranged a nail making competition, in which anyone could take part. A total of 15 persons participated and the winner was Pekka Korhonen from Finland.

At the end of the day there was a sauna evening for all participants.

Saturday, August 1st, 2015 Competition Day

The Master Blacksmiths competed from 9 am to 1 pm and thus the official competition was over.

In addition to the competition series, there was also an unofficial team competition between the countries. Here the task was to make a bird. No winner was appointed, it was more of a show for the public.

The following persons participated:

Iceland: Arnar Hafsteinsson, Saemundur "Orn Kjornested, 'Asgeir Jónsson and Robert Kristiansson.
Norway: Tobbe Malm, Steven Carpenter, Magnus Vartdal, Paul Marino and Jan Remøe.
Sweden: Mats Pedersen, Andreas Oster and Janne Hansson.
Denmark: Rickhard Rothen, Gudmundur Sigurdsson, Ilkka Pyötsiä and Kristian Vainio.
Finland: Pekka Korhonen, Seppo Korhonen, Aaro Kaasinen and Ville Lehtonen.

In the evening we had dinner at restaurant Kuparipaja. 64 persons participated and the food was excellent and the feeling was very warm and nice. After dinner Eero Hanhikoski & co performed a fantastic fire show outside the restaurant!

Sunday, August 2nd, .2015

From 10 am many of the participating blacksmiths gave work demonstrations and at 2 pm the competition award ceremony was held.

Economy

Thanks to all the grants and support we received, the Forging Days of Fiskars Village 2015 was a success.. The results for the Forging Days was 0 €, the costs and incomes equaling to approximately 87 050 €.

The accounting was handled by accountant Heidi Lindström.

THANKS

Thanks to all participants for making the competition weekend an unforgettable experience!



We also want to thank all our supporters:

Aktia Oyj Abp, Alfred Kordelin foundation, Ampers Busstrafik Ab, Andelsbanken Raseborg, Axxell Karis, Bergsrådinnan Sophie von Julins stiftelse, Celsa Steel Service, Eugène, Elisabeth and Birgit Nygrén foundation, Fastighets Ab Kustregionens utbildningsfastigheter, Fiskars Oyj Abp, The Cooperative of craftsmedn, designers and artists in Fiskars, Fiskars Village Association, Fiskarsin Laatupuu, Hotel Restaurant Fiskars Wårdshus, Juminkeko foundation, Kalevala Koru, The Kalevala Society, Karis Järn, K-Rauta Passeli Salo, Lyreco Finland Ab, Mainostoimisto Nallegraf, Olof Ekman Oy Ab, Pajahiili Ky, Påminne Oy, The City of Raseborgs, Restaurant Kuparipaja, Rekola Brewery, The Cultural Foundation for Norway and Finland, The Cultural Foundation for Sweden and Finland, The Cultural Foundation for Finland and Denmark, Suomen Kotteria, The Finnish Cultural Foundation, The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland, Tibnor Oy and Waldemar von Frenckell foundation.

In Fiskars Village 2.4.2016

Upi Anttila, Pertti Virta and Martina Lindberg