

Hertta Kiiski
Fever Dream

August 1 – 30, 2025



NOON Projects
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NOON

NOON Projects Presents

Hertta Kiiski *Fever Dream*

August 1–30, 2025

Opening Reception:
August 1, 2025
6–8 pm

August Gallery Hours:
Thursdays & Fridays: 7–10 PM
Saturdays: 12–5 PM

NOON Projects is honored to present *Fever Dream* by Finnish artist Hertta Kiiski. In her second exhibition with the gallery in Los Angeles, Kiiski presents a constellation of sculptural works, photographic assemblages, and the premiere of two new films. The installation evokes a gentle collapse—quiet, recursive, and strangely tender. It unfolds as a soft hallucination, tracing the slow erosion of form, the porous boundaries between species, and the unexpected warmth found at the end of things. *Fever Dream* moves like a lucid dream—nonlinear, looping, and without hierarchy—where softness replaces spectacle at the edge of collapse.

At the core of the exhibition, two new video works unfold Kiiski's ongoing inquiry into ecological poetics, and the entangled mythologies of embodiment and environment. *Nox Rosae* is atmospheric and sensorially charged. Structured at 17 minutes—the average duration of a REM sleep cycle—the film resists conventional narrative, offering instead a drifting, affective experience that mimics the fluidity and disorientation of dreaming. Created collaboratively by Hertta Kiiski and visual artist Janne Punkari, the work builds on their shared interest in poetic form, symbolic objects, and spatial ambiguity. At its center is a rose, one of humanity's most universal metaphors for love and natural beauty—yet also a symbol of human control: cultivated, hybridized, and rigorously manicured. In the film, a mummified tin rose becomes an unlikely protagonist, moving through textured spaces where material and meaning blur. The sound, composed by Anniina Saksa, acts as the film's ambient nervous system—her audio-textures framing silence as much as sound, teasing memory, and heightening sensation.

In *Not not a metaphor*, Kiiski doesn't dramatize collapse but tunes into its frequencies. The film unfolds like a long exhale—soft, slow, and saturated with the minor chords of grief, wonder, absurdity, and care. Its narrator, a carrion crow—part oracle, part sidewalk prophet—riffs: “*You want salvation, but also takeout. You want tenderness, but flinch at the bite. You want to save the dolphins, but you still fly. And yet. You love.*”

What do we do with ourselves now that we are no longer at the center?

Filmed across zoos, aquariums, ancient ruins, and distribution centers, a monkey sits still—indifferent and alert. The artist's daughters, long-time collaborators, appear as jesters without an audience, drifting through a glowing warehouse. Kiiski offers neither symbols nor solutions but casts out echoes suspended in a fluid, flickering ecosystem.

Surrounding the films, Kiiski's sculptures are made from found, used, and inherited materials—ceramic dolphins, home decor, shoelaces, and wilted painted flowers—objects pre-charged with the residue of personal histories, consumer cycles, and cultural kitsch. Rather than purify or explain, Kiiski allows these materials to remain in their in-betweenness: awkward, sentimental, and animate. The works explore an aesthetic that sits at the crossroads of crumbling modern civilization and its detritus. Kiiski's readymades become emblematic: Maslow's triangle, the mug as a vessel of comfort, the dolphin as a symbol of intelligence, play, and captivity. On the back wall are two photographic assemblages, presented in ultramarine blue frames. Created with a printed passe-partout, each contains four images arranged like holiday snapshots, hung on the wall like a family heirloom.

Fever Dream does not present any manifestos; instead, it creates a space—and a suggestion—to pay close attention to the contradictions we live inside. Kiiski presents a landscape shaped by entropy: the slow undoing of categories, systems, and species. Civilization doesn't end with drama. It frays. It leaks. It dreams.

Biography: Hertta Kiiski

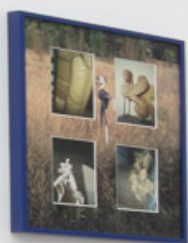


Portrait by Janne Punkari

Hertta Kiiski (b. 1973, Turku, Finland) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work unfolds within a framework of love, embracing the magical, mythical, and esoteric. Working across photography, film, installation, textiles, and spatial interventions, Kiiski constructs environments that dissolve the boundaries between the natural and the constructed, the everyday and the imaginary. Her work is rooted in collaboration—over the past 13 years, with her daughters, as well as other artist partners, dogs, and more-than-human companions—foregrounding interspecies communication and feminist modes of world-building. Her practice draws on ecology, posthumanist theory, and the unruly textures of lived experience.

Her solo and group exhibitions have been presented at major institutions internationally, including the 14th Gwangju Biennale (Korea), Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art (Helsinki), the Finnish Museum of Photography, Photographic Centre Peri (Finland), Hafnarfjörður Museum (Iceland), the Icelandic Photo Festival, and NOON Projects (Los Angeles). Her work is held in numerous public and private collections, including the Finnish National Gallery / Kiasma, the Finnish Museum of Photography, and the Turku Art Museum.

Kiiski has published three acclaimed photobooks—*Archive Play* (2014), *I Was an Apple and I Got Peeled* (2016), and *Otherworld* (Kehrer Verlag, 2023)—each further developing her interest in the intersection of photographic storytelling, dream logic, and spatial practice. In addition to her studio practice, she is an educator and is active in several artist-run initiatives. She lives and works in Turku, Finland.







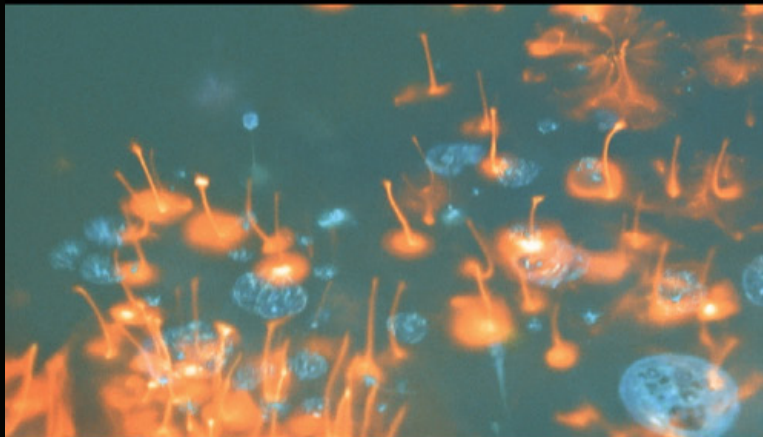
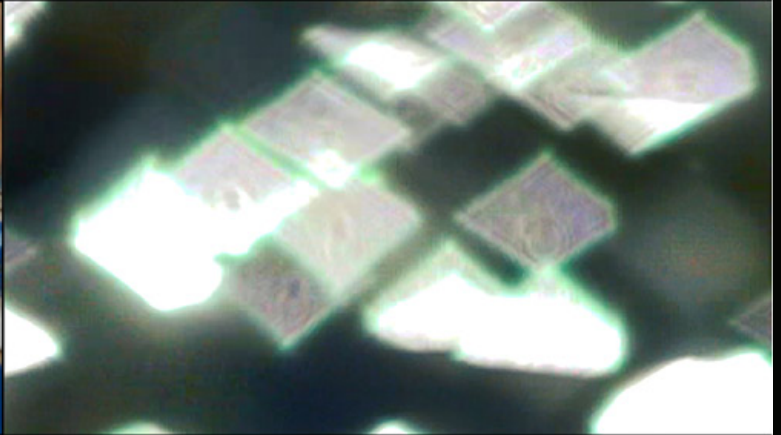






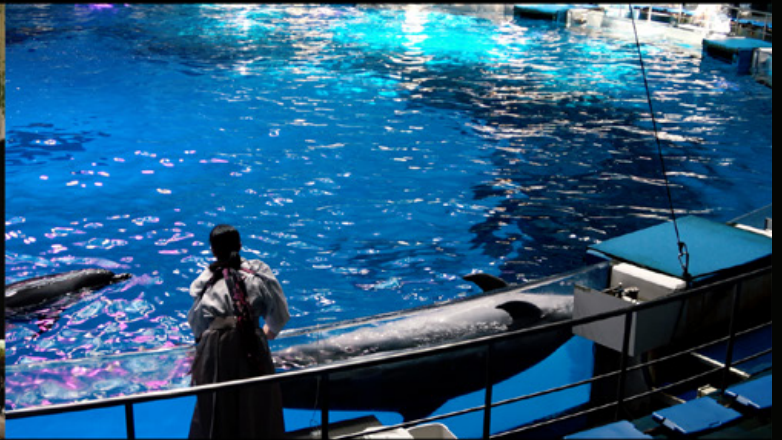


Hertta Kiiski and Janne Punkari
Nox Rosae, 2025
HD video (16:9), color, sound, Sound by Anniina Saksa
17 min 17 sec
Edition of 3 + 2 AP





Hertta Kiiski
Not not a metaphor, 2025
4K video (16:9)
13 min 13 sec
Edition of 3 + 2 AP





Hertta Kiiski

Desire sticks, honey thick on fingers. You reach to pet, but the bite still lingers, 2025

Chromogenic print with pigment print passe-partout, beech ultramarine artist's frame with museum glass

18 1/2 x 14 9/16 in. | 47 x 37 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP



Hertta Kiiski

Like a dream you almost forgot, but not quite. We stack things until the air hums, stirring quiet corners wild, 2025

Chromogenic print with pigment print passe-partout, beech ultramarine artist's frame with museum glass

18 1/2 × 14 9/16 in. | 47 × 37 cm

Edition of 3 + 2 AP







Hertta Kiiski

Fever Archive, 2025

Chromogenic prints, tape, sticker prints made in collaboration with Janne Punkari

6 x 4 in. | 15 x 10 cm

Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Hertta Kiiski
Fever Dream, 2025
Chromogenic print, tape
6 × 4 in. | 15 × 10 cm
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Hertta Kiiski

The jester ghosts through the space like an algorithm searching for relevance, 2025

Mixed Media

28 3/8 x 4 3/4 x 2 3/4 in. | 72 x 12 x 7 cm



Hertta Kiiski

*The world is ending, but not with a bang, more like the slow corrosion of memory,
like forgetting your childhood phone number or the texture of a banana, 2025*

Mixed Media

7 1/8 x 5 1/8 x 6 3/4 in. | 18 x 13 x 17 cm



Hertta Kiiski

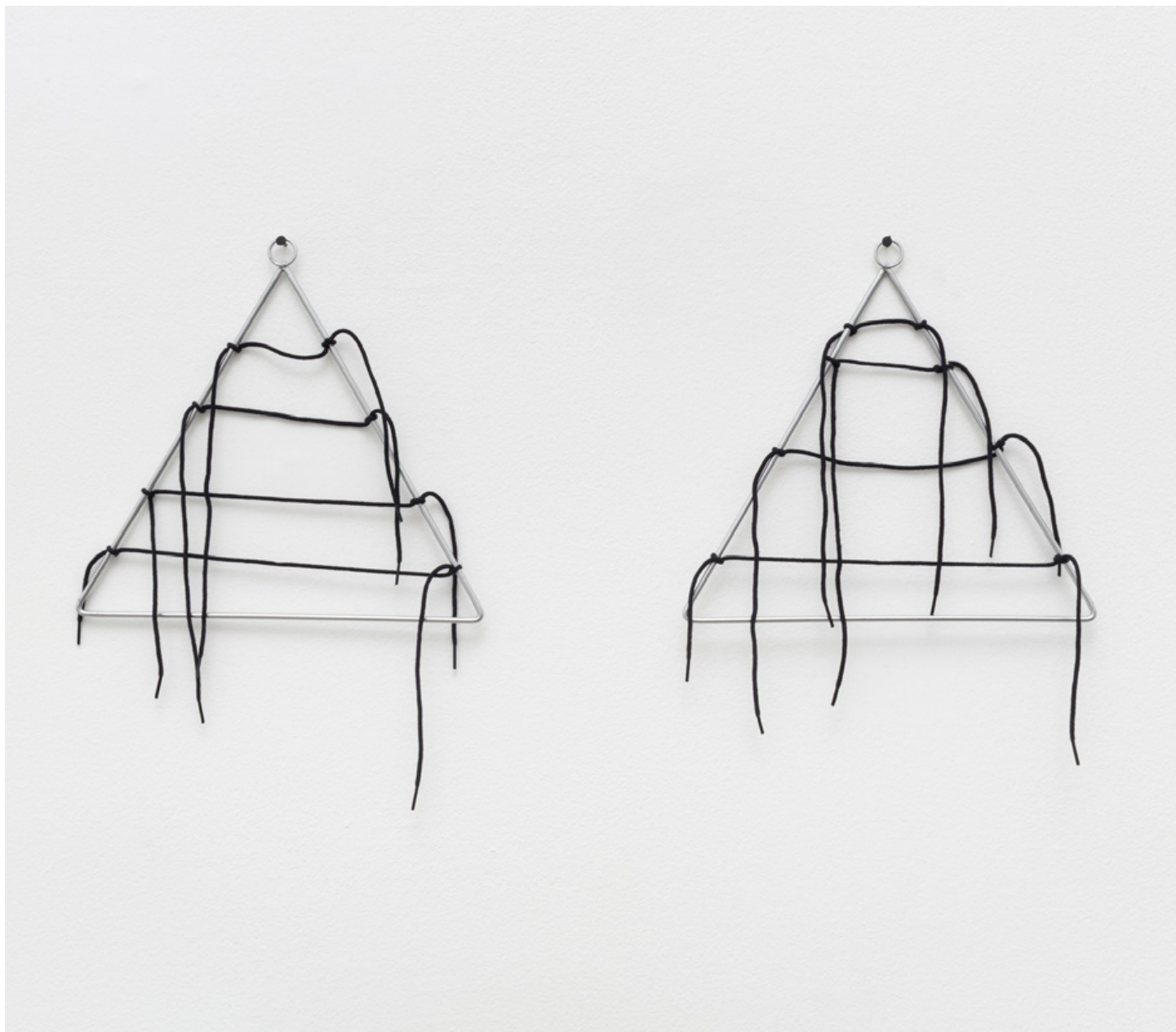
Sentences left mid-air, time drips through capitals, soft fruit in the bowl, 2025

Mixed Media

11 3/8 × 7 1/2 × 2 3/4 in. | 29 × 19 × 7 cm



Hertta Kiiski
As if decay was just another form of intimacy, 2025
Mixed Media
18 7/8 × 2 3/4 × 2 3/4 in. | 48 × 7 × 7 cm



Hertta Kiiski
Need is not a ladder, it's a loop. A loop shared by beak, fin, fingertip, 2025
Mixed Media
9 1/4 × 23 5/8 in. | 23.5 × 60 cm



Hertta Kiiski

The love that binds shoes, digs a hole, glues heads, and still cannot stop time, 2025

Mixed Media

30 × 2 × 2 in. | 76 × 5 × 5 cm



Hertta Kiiski

We were told there would be music at the end, 2025

Mixed media, sticker prints made in collaboration with Janne Punkari
10 × 8 × 1 1/2 in. | 25 × 20 × 4 cm



Hertta Kiiski
Jester's Souvenir Mug, 2025
Mixed Media
3 × 3 × 3 1/2 in. | 8 × 8 × 9 cm





CV Hertta Kiiski

b. 1973, Turku, Finland
lives and works in Turku and Västanfjärd

Education

2015 MFA, Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki
2012 BA in Photography, Turku Arts Academy

Solo Exhibitions

Studies at University of Jyväskylä, Arts Education, Art History, & Museology
Studies at University of Turku, Latin and Ancient Roman literature

2026 *Yet Untitled*, Photo North, Oulu, Finland
Yet Untitled, with Janne Punkari, K17, Sipoo, Finland

2025 *Andra våningen*, with Janne Punkari, Raseborg Fotocentrum, Karjaa, Finland
Fever Dream, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, USA
Plasticenta, Acts of Care, Kana Kawanishi Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Skyworm's Secret, with Janne Punkari, Fischersund, Icelandic Photo Festival

2023 *On the other side of the mirror*, Sea Foundation, Tilburg, Netherlands
VERY CORE, Hippolyte, Helsinki, Finland
still-life_1193233, with Janne Punkari, XS-festival, Turku, Finland
Age-old, newly made, semi-fresh and new works, with Adele Hyry, Spring Roll, Turku, Finland

2022 *Plasticenta*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, USA
Hydra, Taiteen talo, Turku, Finland
Critical decorator with Jaakko Pallasvuo, Spring Roll, Turku, Finland

2021 *Milky Way*, Project Arts Centre, Photolreland, Dublin, Ireland
Labyrinthe, with Sauli Sirviö, Studio, Turku, Finland
Primeval Soup, Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland

2019 *Violet Sea*, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland

2018 *Kiiski & Sutela*, with Jenna Sutela, WAM Art Museum, Turku, Finland

2017 *MELANKOLIA2047*, Vanha Raatihuone gallery, Turku, Finland

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Thursday to Saturday
Noon–5 PM
And by Appointment

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CV
Hertta Kiiski
(Continued)

- 2016 *Wash*, Hippolyte studio, Helsinki, Finland
- 2015 *ONE SECOND CAN*, Fafa Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2014 *Art History Brush*, Such Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- Archive Play*, Golden Thread Gallery with Niina Vatanen, Belfast, Ireland
- Glimpses of the Unattainable*, with Niina Vatanen, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland
- Mnemosyne*, Galleria Å, Turku, Finland
- 2013 *Musing*, Free Arts Space, Helsinki, Finland
- 2012 *Primavera*, Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland
- 2011 *Siena, ten years later*, Northern Photographic Center, Oulu, Finland
- 2010 *Horreur*, Napa gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2009 *New Wave*, B-gallery, Turku, Finland

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Corpus*, Gerðarsafn - Kópavogur Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Homage to Older Women*, Public space, Copenhagen
- 2024 *Mörkhet*, XS-festival, Turku, Finland
- Acts Of Care*, Finnish Pavillion Gwangju Biennale, South Korea
- Lush*, Cité des Arts, Paris
- Feels Like Home*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
- 2023 *MOTHER*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, USA
- Handle with care*, Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland
- Empathy Muscle*, FCINY, New York, USA
- This Nest for Us to Rest*, Pitted Dates, Helsinki, Finland
- 2022 *Moving*, WAM Art Museum, Turku, Finland
- Vyöhyke*, Haukkavuori observation tower, Kotka, Finland
- 2021 *Avantgarden*, Nuottaranta Villa, Turku, Finland
- 2020 *The Factory*, Herring Factory, Djúpavik, Iceland
- Bird Feeders*, Public space, Tammisaari, Finland
- Pesception Games*, Pärnu City Gallery, Pärnu, Finland

CV
Hertta Kiiski
(Continued)

- Silent Spring*, Hafnarborg Museum, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland
- 2019 *Salon de Normandy by the Community*, Hotel Normandy, Paris, France
- Rauma Biennale Balticum*, Rauma, Finland
- Sandstorm / Porin Kulttuurisäätö*, Yyteri, Pori, Finland
- 2018 *Dinner with Cyclone*, Forum Box, Helsinki, Finland
- Listening to the Sound of the Shell*, Nykyaika, Tampere, Finland
- 2017 *Fluid Matter*, Art Station Dubulti, Jurmala, Finland
- Still Searching*, Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece
- Automated Curation*, The Community, Paris, France
- Truth About Finland*, Pavillion, Pori, Finland
- Chestnut Flower Ball*, The Kirpilä Art Collection, Helsinki, Finland
- 2016 *Basic Photography*, SIC, Helsinki, Finland
- Parantola*, Paimio Sanatorium, Paimio, Finland
- Kilometer of Sculpture Sculpture Triennale*, Rakvere, Finland
- S.O.S Art for a time of urgencies festival*, Soul Cyclone 3, Gallery Titanik, Turku, Finland
- 2015 *Reframing memory*, Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece
- 2014 *Nothing thicker than a knife's blade separates happiness from melancholy*, Museum de Pont, Tilburg, Netherlands
- Cyclone*, LA Art Museum, Iceland
- Kuvan Kevät*, Kuva/Tila, Helsinki, Finland
- Valokuva II*, Kuva/Tila, Helsinki, Finland
- Nothing thicker than a knife's blade separates happiness from melancholy*, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China
- By Chance in Berlin*, Suomesta galerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 *Summer School*, TR1, Tampere, Finland
- Connecting the Dots*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
- Summer School*, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland
- I'm12*, Galleria Huuto, Helsinki, Finland
- And Then With Powers Combined*, Gallery Fafa, Helsinki, Finland
- The Allure of Light*, Lahti Art Museum, Finland

CV Hertta Kiiski (Continued)

- 2012 *Venus*, Kutomo, Turku, Finland
Sin, Photographic Centre Peri, Turku, Finland
Ereignis, Social Fotofest, Piombino, Italy
This way!, Jukka Male Museum, Cable Factory, Helsinki, Finland
I'm not writing any story, Photographic Center Peri, Turku, Finland
- 2011 *2000 and 11 self-portraits*, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland
CAA Contemporary Art Archipelago, Sattmark, Finland
Spirit Level, Fondazione Marangoni Gallery, Firenze, Italy
Spirit Level, Umass Gallery Lowell USA
What else was there?, Gallery U, Helsinki, Finland
Myrkkyoppi, Gallery Tilanne, Tampere, Finland
Looking forward, Jukka Male Museum, Helsinki, Finland
- 2010 *Borders*, Gallery Detroit, Stockholm

Publications

- 2023 *OTHERWORLD*, Kehrer Verlag, Germany
- 2016 *I Was an Apple and I Got Peeled – But It Was a Good Thing*, Kehrer Verlag, Germany
(Finalist in Finnish Photobook of the Year 2017)
- 2014 *Archive Play*, with Niina Vatanen, Kehrer Verlag, Germany

Grants

- 2025 Arts Promotion Centre Finland / 5-year working grant
Finnish Cultural Foundation
- 2024 Frame Contemporary Art Finland
Turun Taideyhdistys
- 2023 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
Frame Contemporary Art Finland
Grafia
- 2022 Finnish Cultural Foundation / 2-year working grant
Frame Contemporary Art Finland
- 2021 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2019 Arts Promotion Centre Finland / 3-year working grant
Finnish Cultural Foundation
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

CV
Hertta Kiiski
(Continued)

Turun Taideyhdistys

- 2018 Turun Taideyhdistys / three-year studio residency
- 2017 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
Kone Foundation
- 2016 Finnish Cultural Foundation / 1-year working grant
Frame Contemporary Art Finland
Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2015 Finnish Cultural Foundation
Frame Contemporary Art Finland
Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2014 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
Frame Visual Art Finland
Arts Promotion Centre South Finland
- 2013 Kone Foundation
- 2012 Arts Promotion Centre South Finland
TOP Foundation
- 2011 Finnfoto
Kone Foundation
Eemil Aaltonen Foundation
- 2010 Patricia Seppälä Foundation

Works in Collections

Kiasma, Finnish National Gallery
Finnish Museum of Photography
Finnish State Art Commission
Turku Art Museum
Turku City Art Collection
Finnish Academy of Fine Arts
Private collections

Educator Experience

Adjunct Lecturer – Art Theory and Studio Practice
Turku Arts Academy, Turku
2020–present

Thesis Supervisor & External Examiner
The Academy of Fine Arts, The University of the Arts, Helsinki
2020–present

Thesis Supervisor & External Examiner
Aalto University – School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Helsinki
2019–present