# SLICE OF LIFE

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## Santeri Lehto

March 6–April 2, 2026

**Santeri Lehto**'s paintings unfold like poems about life. Minimalist yet resonant, his works are subtle and enigmatic, recalling hieroglyphs, haiku, or jazz improvisation. They propose a way of experiencing the world that is at once metaphysical and playful.

Lehto's both delicate and assured handling of spray paint lends his work its distinctive character. Meaning and mystery emerge through the tension and interplay of compositional elements: what first appears gentle and harmonious gradually reveals a deeper, more contemplative dimension. Within the works' apparent spareness, viewers often discover an unexpected sense of shared experience.

Recurring forms in the works in this exhibition suggest associations with nature, growth, home, and human relationships – modest, everyday motifs that are, at the same time, among the most important and wondrous aspects of human existence, even its mysteries. In Lehto's works, life appears as a small miracle – which, in fact, it truly is. He approaches the canvas with a light yet attentive touch, his soft, diffused lines conveying both weight and airiness.

Santeri Lehto's artistic practice reflects the dual meaning of simplicity: on the one hand, a sincere, almost naive directness; on the other, a distilled clarity of visionary wisdom. The serial titles of individual works – such as *LIFESTYLE* – and the exhibition title *SLICE OF LIFE* mirror the openness of his paintings. The repeated word "life" serves as a salient verbal clue, pointing to a holistic sensibility that underpins the artist's way of living, reflecting, and making.

*SLICE OF LIFE is Santeri Lehto's (b. 1982, Lappeenranta) first solo exhibition at Helsinki Contemporary. His work was previously shown at the gallery in 2024 in 'Not Enough Room to Swing a Cat', a group exhibition alongside Jussi Goman and Anton Alvarez.*

*Thank you to Arts Promotion Centre Finland for supporting the artist's work.*