

## Merja Nieminen – CV & Biography

Date of Birth: 1972

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### Biography:

Merja Nieminen is a Finnish visual artist working primarily in ceramic sculpture. Her current practice investigates themes of architectural fragility, transformation, and collapse, often using porcelain and stoneware in combination with wood-firing processes. Nieminen holds academic backgrounds in architecture and media art, having studied at Aalto University and Edinburgh University. Her work evolved from abstract 3D animation installations (2009–2014) to ceramic-based sculpture since 2017. In 2024, she completed a 3.5-month residency at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park in Japan. Nieminen is a member of the Association of Finnish Sculptors (since 2022) and the Finnish Artists' Association (since 2004).

### Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2024 – Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park and Contemporary Museum

2024 – Gallery G12, Helsinki

2022 – Galleria Laterna Magica, Helsinki

2012 – Gallery Titanik, Turku & Gallery Katariina, Helsinki

2011 – Gallery NK Projekt, Berlin & Gallery Aarni, Espoo

2009 – Gallery Forum Box, Helsinki (performance)

### Selected Group Exhibitions:

2025 – C14-Paris Contemporary Ceramic Salon; Finnish Sculptors' Association Annual Exhibition, Helsinki

2024 – Project Anagama, Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park; CICA l'Alcora, Spain; Manises Biennale, Spain

2023 – Wiurila Summer Exhibition; Savio Temporary (MIX, Kattaus)

2022 – Billnäs Ruukki Summer Exhibition; Savio Temporary

2014–2010 – Exhibitions in UK, US, Germany, Spain, Italy, Argentina, and Finland

**Education:**

2000–2005 – MA studies in Media Lab, Aalto University

1999 – Architecture studies, Edinburgh University

1995–2000 – Architecture studies, Aalto University

1994 – Architecture studies, University of Oulu

**Selected Grants, Awards, and Residencies:**

2024 – Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park residency, Japan

2022 – Finnish Cultural Fund grant to build an anagama kiln

2021 – Guldagergaard Ceramic Center residency, Denmark

2014 – Lumen Prize, 1st Prize (Creative Coding); Destellos Honorary Mention

2012–2010 – Grants from TAIKE, AVEK, FRAME, and residencies in Paris, Athens, Berlin

**Other Projects:**

2012–2019 – Ran an organic vegetable farm in Tammisaari

2018–2019 – Co-founded 'Farm to Table Helsinki' fine dining pop-up

2019–2020 – Organized monthly plant-based fermenting workshops