



(top) detail of the slide film strip that contained 32 witness photos
 (middle) installation view at Gallery Mors Mössa in Gothenburg
 (bottom) photos of meetings with M at restaurant Seahorse and H in Punavuori area
 (right) 32 photos from Helsinki and two stories from the meetings



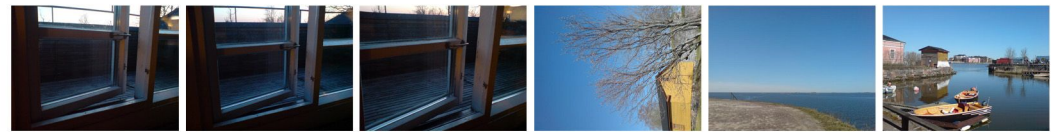
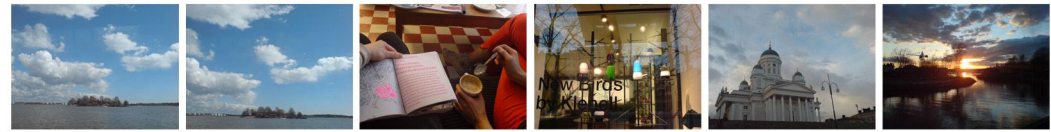
Following Paths

location: Helsinki, Finland
 witness of act: 32 digital photos

Mako Ishizuka was accumulating the feeling towards Helsinki. One of her first grade classmates was from Helsinki. She had been hearing about the city from the people who lived or visited there. It is not far away from Stockholm where she resides, but the chance to travel to the city did not come until spring 2010, right after she met a curator from Helsinki. The curator recommended the artist to be on Suomenlinna, an island with the traces of medieval time where time flows slowly, of which rhythm she thought would suits to that of the artist.

Before travelling to Helsinki, she received tips and photos from a friend who had been there. With his tips and images of the city in her mind, she visited the city and took photos for four days. While recognising the places that were told by this friend, which made her feel as if she was following him, the artist walked around and experienced the city in her own manner. She also met two local people. She spent a day individually with them, and got to know the city through their eyes and their life stories. The result is a set of 32 photos that witnessed her act, including two photos that correspond to each meeting.

A sequence of the witness photos was presented together with two stories that tell her experiences from the meetings, which could be the tips for next visitors to Helsinki.



Seahorse

I met M. We walked around the city while I learnt that he grew up in different parts of the world due to his father's work, but decided to live in the city where he is originally from, and he just turned 40 in February that year.

We were last customers left in the restaurant. While we were finishing our dinner, a local guy approached our table with a slide in his hand. He said that he was writing a book about this restaurant, Seahorse. The day before, he received a letter from a guy who painted the wall 40 years ago, in February 1970. The envelope contained eight slides from the time the wall was painted. The slide captured a guy who painted the wall and an unfinished painting on the wall. The colours in the slide were so vivid; it looked as if the slide was taken just a few days ago.

Punavuori

I met H. She fetched me from the metro station and walked around her neighbourhood, Punavuori. We dropped by and said hi at a fur coat shop. We went into a restaurant for lunch and there she found her childhood friend and her mother, sat at the next table. She showed me a restaurant on her street where there is mixture of customers, with local workers and Japanese young tourists who were looking for the site of a Japanese film shot in Helsinki. We went into a café for coffee and there we joined some of her friends.

I picked up one of the coffee table books, and opened to a page. There it said "There are people living in Punavuori who haven't left the area for years."