

Kaisu Koivisto:

*Capriccio* – the whimsical forms of a garden and memory

As a musical term, 'capriccio' means a short, lively composition of free form. It is an apt description of my own working process for this exhibition, characterised by playful and free experimentation.

I understood in the museum's collections how personal and important the objects were for their owners. A cutting pattern sheet for making a pair of gloves attracted my attention already on the first visit to the archives. A hundred years ago, it was important to know how to make things like clothing and furniture and to grow food in the garden.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mary Gallén. The museum's collections include objects that she owned and documents related to everyday life, such as lists of her piano students and plants to be bought for the garden. These fragments tell their own story of the busy life of Mary and Akseli Gallen-Kallela's family. Their relocations to different localities and abroad, all the way to Africa and the United States, is reflected in the objects.

Dialogues with museum staff, the building with the experience that it offers, its surroundings, the objects of the collection and my artist colleague Claudia Pell have led me to new forms and materials. Making arts is building, dismantling, and building again – at both the symbolic and concrete levels. My set of works found their form when the museum gave me deaccessioned materials, with which I began to make my *Formal Garden* installations.

The archive and museum visits led to the thought of the unfinished nature of the collection. I felt it was a good thing as it offered opportunities without cemented approaches and ways of thinking in a world that is never finished. I was fascinated by the opportunity to inquisitively hearken to the objects of the collection and their worlds and to construct my works by experimenting, as a synthesis, by combining them with materials such as wood, plaster, soap, tree lichen, fabric, steel and my own discarded work gloves.