

Lifelong Learners or Eternal Students?
Different roles in the field of art, disability and education

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In Finland people with disabilities don't have equal opportunities to take an interest in art or study art under the guidance of professionals in the field of art. Artists with disabilities is usually seen as eternal students which is totally different from lifelong learning. We need more reasonable and supported possibilities to take an interest in art, study art and work as a professional artist. Therefore the roles of the mentors should vary as well. There's a big difference in teaching, guiding and mentoring. Besides having more possibilities in the path of art making, people with disabilities should have an access to other roles in the field of art. Art instructor, curator, community artist, specialist, decision maker and why not a researcher?

Bios:

Päivi Lilja is an Executive director in Kettuki. Lilja is a producer who has been working in the field of art and culture in many different roles. In Kettuki she has been developing the participation and ethical practices in Outsider Art. Kettuki is Finland's nationwide network for artist with learning disabilities. Kettuki acts in several ways to reach its goals for equal opportunities to make art. Kettuki can be seen as a culture political policy maker, network maintainer, actor in the field of art and as an international partner.

Sami Helle is a journalist, musician, and activist who works in Lyhty organisation, and is a member of the board in Kettuki. Helle acts in several ways for human rights and culture. He was also well-known bassist in Finnish Punk band Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät.