

# HTTP opens with The Future Is Not What It Used To Be

**Artists' Private View**  
**Tuesday 19th October 2004 7pm**

**exhibition opening hours:**  
**October 22nd -14th November 2004**  
**Friday- Sunday: 12 noon- 5pm**



## **Mika Taanila - The Future Is Not What It Used To Be** **Erkki Kurenniemi - DIMI-A**

**HTTP is London's first dedicated gallery for networked, net art, new media & sound art.** It will provide a public space for experimental approaches to exhibiting relational, technologically termed art. Dosensos and Furtherfield have joined forces to work with artists from around the world to develop alternative means of exhibiting online and screen-based projects in the gallery context. Artists' projects on DVD, real-time, net-cast and live art will also play a major role in the curatorial work of HTTP.

**HTTP's debut exhibition brings you work by two extraordinary Finnish artists.** This show offers London audiences an exhilarating introduction to the intriguing and dynamic world of technological art practice. The first of a series of exhibitions and events showing mixes of screen-based and physical artworks.

Mika Taanila's documentary film 'The Future Is Not What It Used To Be' entwines the past with the present. In this exhibition, his representation of Erkki Kurenniemi's philosophical journey through digital possibility is juxtaposed, projected in the same space with a physical artwork from that same history, in the form of DIMI-A machine (Digital Music Instrument, Associative Memory).

**We invite you to come to the opening of the exhibition and the gallery and to meet the artists in person. 7pm Tuesday 19th October 2004.**

Mika Taanila and Erkki Kurenniemi in will be conversation with Ruth Catlow and Tobi Maier on Resonance 104.4FM - **live from Frieze Art Fair, Monday 18th October 3-4pm GMT**

**Gallery URL - <http://www.http.uk.net/>**

**Gallery address:**

Unit A2, Arena Design Centre  
71, Ashfield Rd  
London N4 1NY  
Tube: Manor House  
Buses: 341, 141,  
Train: Haringey Green Lanes  
Car: Free parking facilities

**for further information contact:**

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**Ruth Catlow** ruth.catlow@furtherfield.org 0208-8022827

**HTTP is a dosensos.org and furtherfield.org project**

**FRAME**  
Finnish Fund for Art Exchange

This exhibition is supported by the Finnish Fund for Art Exchange (FRAME) and the Finnish Institute in London

## **The Future Is Not What It Used To Be (Finland 2002)**

This documentary by Mika Taanila, the director of *Futuro – A New Stance for Tomorrow* (1998), features never-before-seen archival material from the early years of electronic art, including excerpts from Kurenniemi's unfinished experimental short films.

The documentary entwines the past with the present, i.e. with the protagonist's manic archival project, in which Kurenniemi records his thoughts, everyday observations, images and objects, constantly and obsessively. All this in an effort to combine man and machine to reconstruct the soul of man. (avanto festival, 2002)

house of technologically termed praxis  
<http://>

**Mika Taanila** Born 1965 in Helsinki where he lives and works.

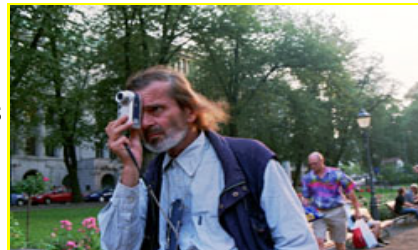
Mika Taanila is an artist working fluently in the fields of documentary filmmaking and visual arts. His films deal with the the significant and alarming issues of human engineering and urban artificial surroundings. Taanila specializes in the futuristic ideas and utopias of contemporary science.

## **DIMI-A (Digital Music Instrument, Associative Memory)**

The first "automated instrument" he invented was the Andromatic, a synthesizer purchased in 1968 by the Swedish composers Leo Nilsson and Ralph Lundsten. That same year, an old friend, M. A. Numminen, invited him to design a new kind of electronic "collective instrument". The result was called the Sähkökvartetti ("Electric Quartet"), a mind-boggling combination basically made up of four instruments rolled into one: a drum machine, violin machine, voice machine and melody machine. After that, Kurenniemi developed a range of digital instruments. The first in the series was the DIMI-A (Digital Music Instrument, Associative Memory), which was played using two 'electric pens'.

**Erkki Kurenniemi** Born 1941 in Hämeenlinna, Finland  
A pioneer of electronic art in Finland, Erkki Kurenniemi, composed computer-based music and designed his own instruments as early as the 1960's. His career embraces music, film, computers, robotics – in other words, both art and science – with natural ease.

He is a nuclear scientist/inventor/artist, whose projects and ideas have been surprisingly ahead of their times. He is best known as a designer of unique electronic instruments at Helsinki University's Department of Music during the 1960s.



Erkki Kurenniemi. Film still from *Future Is Not What It Used To Be*, 2002, by Mika Taanila. Courtesy of Kinotar Oy.

He subsequently had an impressive career as a pioneer of industrial automation at Rosenlew in the 70s, an automation designer in Nokia's cable division in the early 80s, and as head of exhibition planning at the Heureka Science Centre in 1987-1999. An exploratory search for totally new kinds of user interfaces for musical instruments and the semiautomatic generation of music have been among Kurenniemi's main goals throughout all these years.

"According to Kurenniemi's own "principle of unity", all his projects - articles, plans, visions of the future, films, home videos, lectures, TV interviews, his work at the Heureka Science Centre, musical compositions and the fantastic electric instruments he has built - reflect the same holistic ideas."(Mika Taanila)- copied with permission from Frame