



New Co-Artistic Director selected for the ANTI Festival

Writer, performance maker and academic **Gregg Whelan** from Great Britain has been appointed Co-Artistic Director of the ANTI Festival.

Gregg Whelan has worked over the last decade in contemporary performance and visual/Live Art that specifically engages with ideas of site, context and place. In 1997 with Gary Winters he formed the performance company **Lone Twin**. The company was created to look specifically at how contemporary performance could negotiate public space and work with ideas of site, context and orientation. Lone Twin has since created an internationally celebrated body of performance work and they are widely recognized as leading artists in this field. Lone Twin appeared at the very first ANTI Festival in 2002 and also received a splendid welcome in Kuopio. In February 2007 Lancaster University will hold an international conference on Lone Twin to discuss their work and its impact on performance and Live Art.

Gregg Whelan says: "This is an exciting opportunity to work with a unique team on a unique festival, the only annual contemporary arts festival dedicated entirely to context-based performance and visual art. After a decade of working as an artist, academic and researcher in contextual arts practice I hope to bring an equally unique perspective to the festival. Alongside continuing the high standard of international work presented at ANTI, I'm especially interested in working with the new generation of Finnish performance makers and artists. There's also the exciting possibility of working with projects that might develop lasting relationships with the various contexts offered by Kuopio – projects that might continue beyond the time of the festival itself. Under the artistic direction of Johanna Tuukkanen ANTI has earned a reputation of presenting innovative works by today's leading artists in challenging contexts and sites. It's a great reputation to contribute to, and I eagerly look forward to this new collaboration with Johanna and the team."

Recipient of the State Prize for the Arts in 2006, Artistic Director **Johanna Tuukkanen** and Gregg Whelan will meet in London on 7 February, 2007. Tuukkanen will also visit the National Review of Live Art Festival in Glasgow on 7-11 February and will meet a number of international artists and co-operation partners. In March, Whelan will arrive in Kuopio to proceed with the applications received by the ANTI Festival.

Call for proposals 2007 is open until 28 February

ANTI Festival will be organized in Kuopio in September 27–30, 2007. Artists from all artistic fields can submit proposals. ANTI aims to activate sites/environments selected beforehand in the city of Kuopio. The sites of the ANTI 2007 festival are Open College (Puistokartano), the editorial staff of the city paper Viikko-Savo, Uppo-Nalle children's park, Grill Teatterigrilli, skateboarding spot, Vasikkasaari Island and Kuopio OKO Bank. More information about how to apply and about the sites is available on our website www.antifestival.com. The deadline for applications is 28 February, 2007. Please send your application to ANTI – Contemporary Art Festival, Koljonniemenkatu 2, 2nd Floor, 70100 Kuopio, Finland or by e-mail: info@antifestival.com.

ANTI – Contemporary Art Festival is supported by i.e. City of Kuopio, Ministry of Education, Arts Council of Finland, Finnish Cultural Foundation and Regional Dance Centre Kuopio.

Further information:

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