

Maarit Tuhkala
Eeva Halmila
Liisa Pöllänen
Priita Pohjanen
Saija Latvakoski
Ilkka Vuojala

The Gate

We were given an assignment to make a piece of environment art in the forest near Kittilä. We were given three days time. Touko Issakainen visited our cabin as a guest lecturer. He told us ancient fairytales about gnomes, goblins, etc. Every group was to get an idea from the lecture for the future work of art. Our group concluded six students, five women and one man.



1. Old gate was a wood construction

Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä

We began by choosing a place and a theme for our artwork. In the end we chose to

make a gate on the edge of the forest, which was to be the gate between the worlds of men and goblins. There already was an old gate in the place we chose to make our work. So we decided to use the old gate and to continue to turn it into a small tunnel.



2. New Gate was a cousy tunne

Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä

After drawing some sketches of the basic structure and the decoration, we chose the tools and went to see the actual place. After a while we decided to divide the group in two pieces. The first group was to make the structure of the gate and the other to make the cover of the tunnel part. The first group consisted of two and the other of four persons. It took a little more than two days to finish the work.

The first group made 'the skeleton' from simply chopping down trees. We put two trees vertically and three horizontally. So that after combining them with the old gate

it looked like a quadrangle without the walls. The other group made a carpet out of willow. This handicraft work took a lot of time and energy because it had to cover the whole structure.



3. Plaiting willows together

Photo: Maria Huhmarniemi

Because of the size of the gate it would have been too hard to put only one huge carpet on the skeleton. The group decided to make many smaller carpets and put them on the structure. This made it easier to cover the roof.



4. Collaboration in covering the roof

Photo: Maria Huhmarniemi



5. Roof should be strong enough

Photo: Maria Huhmarniemi

While working on the structure and the carpet we had to keep in mind the future weather conditions. For example in the winter the roof has to be strong enough to carry a huge amount of snow. We had to estimate the height of the roof so that in the winter, when there will be about one meter snow on the floor (of the tunnel), the people riding motor sledges can use the gate.

We finished the work by decorating the tunnel's walls and floor with beard lichen and spruce branches. This gave the gate a kind of gloomy and impressing look.



2. The Gare in the edge of the forest

Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä