

Veera Soralahti
Piia Pöntinen
Jussi-Pekka Uusitalo
Hanna Mäkäräinen
Mari Jännetyinen
Krista Murto

Ainoinen Tapio

The first-year-students of art-education, Veera Soralahti, Piia Pöntinen, Jussi-Pekka Uusitalo, Hanna Mäkäräinen, Mari Jännetyinen and Krista Murto designed and carried out a space installation, Ainoinen Tapio. The work was produced during an art- and environmental pedagogics-camp at Kittilän Kõngäs in September 2004. In charge of the project were Timo Jokela and Maria Huhmarniemi from University of Lapland.



1. Discussion about the scale of the work
Photo: Maria Huhmarniemi

The installation was a part of environmental-arts-project, that was based on stories about the spirits of the forest, elves, goblins etc. We cooperated with a tourist enterprise, Taivaan Valkeat. They provided us with food and accommodation and we created our artworks in the forest of Aitapalo, that is one of their tourist attractions.



2. The material available in the forest.
Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä

We were divided into five groups and each group was given their own area in the forest to locate their work on. The designing began with many different suggestions but the final ideas came to us when we got to the forest and got to try out the materials.



3. Beard moss was used as a material
Photo: Timo Jokela

We came up with the ring made out of dead branches and we filled it with beard lichen, that we attached on a wirenet.

We chose the place for our 3-meter-high ring in between two trees, that are standing by the path, so that you could see the ring from far and as you walk closer, it seems like it's growing. In old stories, Tapio, the king of the forest, is told to have had the same visual effect and he's also been told to have materialized in beard lichen. Based on those tales, we created our own and named our work Ainoinen Tapio.



4. The fork from a distance
Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä



5. The Surface of the work.
Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä

We used our time efficiently by dividing into groups of two. Some would go gather beard lichen, the others would tie the branches together and the last two would attach the beard lichen on the wirenet, then we would switch parts. This way the job

was finished on Friday morning and Tapio had been placed between the trees. We were very pleased with ourselves and with the result.



6. The final work.

Photo: Tomi Lahdenperä



7. Last discussion about the result

Photo: Tommi Lahdenperä

With more time, we would have liked to experiment with more ecological materials, leaving out the wire and wirenet, but unfortunately we didn't have the chance now. The future will tell if Tapio is going to take the pressure of snow, the rain and even the hungry reindeers, but the idea of environmental art is that it becomes a part of it's environment.