

EXTRAPOLLINATION

Curated by Benjamin Knock

Extrapollination explores how emotions, ideas, and sensory experiences cross-pollinate through artistic processes. In this exhibition, Bachelors and Masters students from across the disciplines of the University of Vaasa, extract emotional truths while using geology and nature as platforms for diving into the complexities of the inner-life of human existence. Here, sound meets paint, code meets stone, bodies meet data, and natural forms become conduits for psychological landscapes.

One branch of Extrapollination begins with **listening as method**. In Iiris Pernu's artwork *How can OCD really feel like*, interviews with individuals living with obsessive-compulsive disorder become layered audio - haunting repetitions such as "I can't," "I don't want to," and "What if". This is paired with an acrylic painting that moves beyond media stereotypes and toward embodied understandings of what it means to live with OCD. This is emotional extraction in practice: drawing out the nuance of lived experience and weaving it into multisensory form.

Other works turn toward **touch, tactility, and the physical textures of the natural world**. Tinja Myllyviita's *Sensory Landscape* presents 3D-printed and painted panels shaped after rocks, gravel, and mountains, inviting viewers to step close, to touch, and to feel. This breaks the usual distance of the traditional gallery setting - another institution with its rules and conventions - and rather, offers a tactile cross-pollination between nature's geology and human sensation. Oosa Sahlgren's *01110100 01110010 01100101 01100101* continues this tension between attraction and discomfort: 3D-printed elements, acrylic on wood, and an unsettling "killer tree" narrative create an experience that challenges how others expect us to look at the world versus how we choose to reveal - or conceal - its underlying scripts.

Digital works expand Extrapollination into psychological terrain shaped by repetition, looping, and distortion. In Jesse Niemelä and Onni Korhonen's *Loppuuko tämä koskaan?* 3D scans of Finnish nature fuse with layered field recordings to create a landscape that is **creepy, yet not horror**. We may even re-think reality and its boundaries. When one is confronted with the condition of loneliness, as with other all too common states such as depression and post traumatic stress disorder, it is easy to question whether indeed the world around us is real. The piece focuses on expressing loneliness, psychosis, and depression as a looping condition without escape.

In Jerome Rehn's *Tooth*, digital animation becomes "a playground which distorts your being," using Blender, TouchDesigner, and Python to warp identity at the boundaries of the virtual and material. Meanwhile, Venla Kirvesmäki's *The script of life* reflects on chronic illness as something encoded directly into the body's DNA as a quiet abnormality written into the code of existence, merging biology with digital representation. The artwork makes us question our relationship to one another, how we live through others' conditions, and how these play out within the zone of the virtual.

Across these works, **Extrapollination** reveals how creative practice becomes a site where internal states meet external structures. This is a site where disciplines unite, and the core of ecological human and environmental existence can be placed under the microscope. This is where science meets art, and individuals engage in exploring *how* the non-verbal can be arranged and expressed through various technologies to convey newer and deeper understandings of objective and subjective phenomena. Ideas move like spores between media: from interviews to sound, from rocks to fingertips, from forest scans to digital loops. Emotions - anxiety, discomfort, connection, uncertainty and even the fun and quirky - are extracted, reframed, and shared. The exhibition invites viewers to contemplate how natural forms and digital processes can together illuminate the layered, often unstable terrain of being human.

