

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ESTONIAN ARTIST: VANESSA CROSBY-RAMSAY
HAMILTON ARTS COUNCIL'S EUROPEAN ARTIST EXCHANGE
PROGRAM 2021**



Tallinn, ESTONIA – 15 August 2021 – Multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker **Vanessa Crosbie Ramsay** will be hosted by the **Estonian Artists' Association** in October 2021, as part of the European Artist Exchange Program in partnership with Hamilton Arts Council, and the Cotton Factory (Ontario, Canada).

Vanessa is an award-winning Hamilton-based artist and arts-educator whose practice includes film and video, storytelling, visual experimentation, installation, sculpture, and collage. Gender-based barriers, marginalization, and social equity are constant themes in her work. Vanessa's current project considers the disproportionate impact of land issues and climate change on women and other oppressed communities who face pervasive inequality.

“On daily walks through this difficult year, I've thought a lot about what it means to be ‘Canadian’ – about stolen land, settler colonialism, generational trauma, and Indigenous understandings of our relationships to one another and to the land. I've thought about cultural memory, and an artist's role in confronting their country's shameful history. How do we live collectively as citizens of a place? What is our responsibility to future generations, and to this land which sustains us?”

While in the city of Tallinn, Vanessa plans to spend her time creating a multimedia ‘walking diary’ comprised of photos, visual art, and media inspired by hikes in the city's green spaces and other daily experiences. Upon her return to Canada, a culminating mixed-media installation will include a collage of these audio and visual elements.

Vanessa holds a BFA (Film & Video) from York University, and recently completed an MA in Gender Studies and Feminist Research at McMaster University.

Estonian Artists' Association

The Estonian Artists' Association's main goals are to promote and enhance the visual arts in Estonia; to support its members; and to create good working and exhibition conditions for them.

Hamilton Arts Council

Hamilton Arts Council envisions an arts community that is professionally sustainable, innovative, diverse, and impactful.

The Cotton Factory

Built in 1900, the former site of the Imperial Cotton Company has been transformed into a creative industries complex with space for studios, workshops, and office space for artists, photographers and creative professionals.

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**ESTONIAN ARTIST: BRITTA BENNO
HAMILTON ARTS COUNCIL'S EUROPEAN ARTIST EXCHANGE
PROGRAM 2021**



Tallinn, ESTONIA – 15 August 2021 – International laureate and lecturer [Britta Benno](#) is a printmaker, visual artist, and all-round alchemist of layers, texture, and media. Britta will be hosted by [Hamilton Arts Council](#) at [the Cotton Factory](#) as part of the European Artist Exchange Program. Britta is a Tallinn-based artist whose creative voice has exhibited and lectured across the globe, including Finland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Iceland, and Australia.

Britta is interested in various hybrid techniques and materials that open up new perspectives. "Conceptually, I work with and depict dystopic urban landscapes... As an artist, for me the most important question is not 'Why?' or 'How?' but imagining 'What if ...?' What if humankind is extinct and nature has reconquered urban landscapes?"

Her work often extends the 'what if' question into her drawing, "What happens if a drawing becomes a print, becomes an animation, becomes a three dimensional virtual reality?"

Britta graduated with bachelor and master's degrees from the printmaking department at the Estonian Academy of Arts and has also studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and Tallinn University. Currently, she is studying for a doctorate at the Estonian Academy of Arts, her artistic research is about, 'Thinking in Layers, Worlding in Layers: Posthuman Landscapes in Extended Drawings and Prints'.

Britta has established an independent art and printmaking studio, Grafodroom. She is a co-founder and organiser of Estonian international printmaking workshop Muhu Print. She has been an art teacher for over ten years in Tallinn Old Town Art School, while leading printmaking and drawing courses at the Estonian Academy of Arts.

An exciting addition to the 2021 European Artists Exchange program is the partnership of **Smokestack Studio**, located at the Cotton Factory. Smokestack specializes in collaborative analog printmaking & limited editions, working in etching, intaglio, silkscreen, relief, monoprint, and experimental printmaking projects.

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