

EMMA JÄÄSKELÄINEN

*Kiss kiss*

7 – 31 May 2026

**galerie anhava**

Fredrikinkatu 43  
FI-00120 Helsinki  
Fredriksgatan 43  
FI-00120 Helsingfors  
Tel. +358 (0)9 669 989  
galerie@anhava.com  
www.anhava.com  
ti-pe 11-17 ti-fr  
la-su 12-16 lö-sö

Galerie Anhava is delighted to present *Kiss kiss* Emma Jääskeläinen's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Bringing together sculptures that explore themes of farewell and the fragility of life in different ways, the show's title alludes to gentle encounters and intimacy. Focusing on inherited objects – bird whistles, jewellery, dried flowers – the works examine their significance as carriers of memory and hope, and as traces left by loved ones. Farewell is closely bound up with renewal and with transformation into a new form. In these sculptures, that process is expressed as encounters between and the fusion of different materials, and the discovery of symbolism held within objects.

Slowness, manual skill and the importance of touch are recurring themes in Jääskeläinen's practice. Her idea for a piece of stone is always a proposal; the stone responds, guides, resists or demonstrates its willingness to collaborate. According to Jääskeläinen, she transfers the movements of her body into the form of the work. The pieces are often quite large, requiring her to climb on top of them. She lies down, sits and actively changes her posture as she works on the sculptures. The juxtaposition of opposites, such as hard and soft, runs through both the materials and forms. Soft wool is transformed through felting into something as hard as stone; the surface of stone is worked with repeated, almost meditative hand movements into a soft and living form.

Emma Jääskeläinen says she thinks of people who are important to her when she makes her sculptures, and the works are often portraits of a kind. Ceramic rooster whistles inherited from her grandmother remind Jääskeläinen of her grandmother's musical home. In the exhibition, the two large bird-shaped sculptures are placed in different positions on the floor. Both of them have holes in their sides to allow sound from within to escape; they may also be openings that enable the birds to breathe. *There's a hope inside my heart that wants to get out*, a hollow bird originally sculpted from clay, is now cast in heavy bronze, the original nature of the clay preserved by the grey colouring. In its mouth, it carries a worm-eaten twig, a message from beneath the soil. The second bird, *Kiss kiss, kisses for rainy days* is carved from Noce Travertine and rests its head on its breast as though settling down to sleep, or waiting for some as yet undetermined thing. From its beak, it gurgles coins carved on its chest, like kisses blown to someone.

*Amulet (for Céline)* depicts a hand carved from stone that holds a piece of jewellery, a small Milky Way. It is an example of the magical, almost healing power of objects. The singer Céline Dion believes that a piece of jewellery she received as a gift, one that had belonged to the opera singer Maria Callas, lends her strength. Like the bird sculptures in the exhibition, the voices of these two iconic singers fell silent before their time.

*Emma Jääskeläinen (b. 1988) graduated from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in 2018. Her solo exhibitions include Long, Long, Longing, Unfolding the Night, presented in the Studio gallery at Turku Art Museum (2023); Running Up that Hill at PSM Gallery in Berlin (2021); Kiasma Commission by Kordelin prize exhibition in Helsinki (2020); In Praise of Boredom at Rauma Triennale (2019); Tizzicato at Old Town Hall Gallery in Turku (2018); and Sad Basket, HAM Gallery, Helsinki (2017). Her most recent group exhibitions include Beyond Matter at Gaa Gallery, New York (2025); Duo at Gallery Sculptor, Helsinki (2025); Kerrostumia at Kultaranta, Naantali (2025); and Le Cinquième Saison at Paris+par Art Basel, Paris (2023). Jääskeläinen's works are held in many prestigious collections, including those of the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, HAM Helsinki Art Museum, Saastamoinen Foundation, Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation and Tampere Art Museum. In 2021, she received the Finnish Art Society's Ducat Prize, and in 2022 she was named Young Artist of the Year.*