

## Foreword

In 2006, Erkki Kurenniemi's vast archives were donated to the Central Art Archives of the Finnish National Gallery. The archives include photographs, videos, diaries and drawings, but also other material, such as old computers and computer technology. The multitalented Kurenniemi (b. 1941) is best known as a pioneer of electronic music, and he has been at the vanguard of media culture from the 1970s to the 2000s.

There have been many people in the history of art and culture who have carefully documented the course of their lives. In many cases, their biographies have continued to exist in a cultural institution. In art research, the traditional, biographical "life and works" point of view to artists and their work was abandoned already in the 1950s. On the other hand, the notion of the inseparability of art and life, cherished in the European avant-garde rhetoric, has produced cases like Erkki Kurenniemi, whose life has ended up as a work of art.

In this respect it is not surprising that the boundary between an artwork and a document is not fixed in art or art exhibitions. In fact, this fuzzy boundary has recently been the topic of several works and exhibitions. This was evident, for instance, in the

dOCUMENTA(13) exhibition organized in Kassel in 2012, where a collection of Erkki Kurenniemi's works and archival material were displayed.

An exhibition on Erkki Kurenniemi will be opened at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Kiasma, on November 1, 2013. The exhibition is accompanied by this publication, which comprises the work of researchers working at the museum and the Central Art Archives, as well as articles by invited researchers. The publication is part of a larger website, which presents a selection of the archival material that was donated to the museum in 2006.

The material can also be accessed at the Finnish National Gallery's website after the conclusion of the exhibition at [www.lahteilla.fi/kurenniemi/](http://www.lahteilla.fi/kurenniemi/).

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