

Press release 26 January 2016

**ILKKA SUPPANEN**  
**Design Museum Gallery**  
**29 January –27 March 2015**

**The Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Prize is awarded annually in Sweden to an active Nordic designer or craftsperson. Designer Ilkka Suppanen of Finland is the recipient of the Söderberg Prize of 2015.**

***Welcome to the opening of the prize exhibition on Thursday 28 January from 6 to 8 p.m. Ilkka Suppanen will attend and will be available to answer questions. The invitation is for two.***

*Ilkka Suppanen's design is characterized by time and thought. Time for thought. With trust and a humanistic eye, he puts substance before style and the person before design. In Ilkka Suppanen's world the complicated is made simple, and the simple large. (The award committee of the Söderberg Prize, 2015)*

Designer Ilkka Suppanen (born 1968) graduated as an architect from the Helsinki University of Technology and studied interior and furniture design at the University of Art and Design Helsinki. He completed his studies in design at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam in 1992 and went on to establish his own design agency, Studio Suppanen a few years later.

Over the course of his career, Suppanen has designed furniture, lamps and other products for numerous Finnish and international companies, such as Artek, Marimekko, Iittala, Woodnotes, Vivero, Cappellini, Leucos and Zanotta. He also has a strong commitment to environmental issues and is a co-founder of the international Club of Helsinki network. The prize exhibition displays examples of his wide-ranging work.

*– An important feature of Ilkka Suppanen's exhibition is the ceiling installation "Wood Cloud", specifically made with the prize exhibition in mind. It consists of approximately a thousand thin pieces of wood "freely" hovering above the exhibits placed in frames filled with quartz sand. The restrained and harmonious nature of the exhibition reflects Ilkka Suppanen's thinking concerning the environment and social responsibility, says Curator Katarina Siltavuori of Design Museum, who has also curated the exhibition.*

Design by Suppanen has also been shown at the Venice Biennale and in MoMA in New York. His work is included in the collections of several leading museums, such as the Stedelijk in Amsterdam.

**The Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Prize** was instituted in Sweden in 1994 by the Torsten Söderberg Foundation and the Ragnar Söderberg Foundation. These foundations are among

Sweden's leading funding bodies of research. Amounting to SEK one million, the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Prize is the largest of its kind in the world.

*Design Museum is a national specialist museum of Finnish design. The museum researches, collects, acquires and documents design, and displays it in Finland and in touring exhibitions abroad.*

**Street address:**

Korkeavuorenkatu 23, 00130 Helsinki  
[www.designmuseum.fi](http://www.designmuseum.fi)

**Opening hours:**

Summer season, 1 June – 31 August  
Mon. – Sun. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Winter season, 1 September–31 May  
Tuesdays 11 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Wed.–Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Mondays closed

**Entrance:**

Adults €10, pensioners €8, students €5, visitors under 16 free of charge.  
Free entrance with the Museum Card (initial cost €54)  
Joint ticket to the Museum of Finnish Architecture and Design Museum €12.

**Further information and interview requests:**

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**Press photos:**

<http://media-bank.designmuseum.fi/fi/>

**Bulletins and press releases:**

<http://www.designmuseum.fi/fi/media/#tiedotteet>