

**Riikka Myllys: Building everyday life, changing society, and negotiating culture – Textile craft-making as a channel for women’s agency**

This article investigates what kind of elements of agency can be found in textile craft-making. The research is qualitative, and the data was collected in a one-year observation period and interviews. All the studied persons are women. The results show that agency produced by craft-making is oriented towards everyday life, society and existing cultural norms. Agency related to everyday life consists having one’s own time and space as well as the usefulness of craft-making. They, however, relate differently to gendered models and practices: usefulness is closely linked to gendered nature of care and nurture, whereas one’s time and space are tools to challenge them. To society women affect by mending, doing good to others and social interaction, all of which make it possible to challenge gendered cultural patterns. Finnish tradition related to handicrafts and womanhood both supports and limits the agency of women. This is what women negotiate by making crafts. All in all, by making crafts women oppose the

gender system: craft-making offers women a way to both stand and expand the boundaries of everyday life.



**Anna-Sofia Sysser: Dreaming in artificial nature – Tropicality in Finnish leisure destinations**

The phenomenon of artificial tropical is wide in Finland. Several leisure destinations and products are advertised as tropical. I collected empirical data in 16 public destinations with a multi-sensorial vacationing observation method I developed. In exploring the sites I analyze how the tropical is constructed through imagery and experience. The sites simulate and present the tropics through nature and vacationing. Warm indoor worlds offer aesthetic experiences and a break from the everyday and outside reality.

I ponder on the meanings Finnish tropical gathers within destinations and its reflections on our culture. Theoretically I apply the concept of tropicality. It depicts a centuries-old western view of tropical as an environmental other to temperate. Cultures, inhabitants and

landscapes are diverse in the tropics, still the tropical is often portrayed stereotypically. Historical, colonial conceptions echo in contemporary representations. The thematics connect to colonialism and environmental crises and reflect our complex times. Through artificial tropical and tropicality one can ponder human-nature relations and nature’s representations. Ultimately this addresses western consuming lifestyles. It is essential to reconsider our relations to the tropics, expand our cultural frame, approach global dependencies, and strengthen diversity and reciprocity.