

13-10-2009

INVITATION TO PRESS VIEWING WITH LUNCH AND ACCREDITATION FOR PRIZE CEREMONY

On Wednesday 4 November, the Finnish designer Harri Koskinen will receive the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Award for 2009.

Functional Scandinavian design with a tight and simple design language is the Finnish designer Harri Koskinen's hallmark. Harri Koskinen was born in 1970 in Karstula in central Finland. Since 1998 he runs his studio Friends of Industry in Helsinki as a product designer with a mandate to, among other things Iittala, Muji, Panasonic, Artek, Swarovski and Seiko. He is the 2009 recipient of the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Award, a prize amount of SEK 1 million. The exhibition at the Röhsska Museum shows his breadth as a designer; furniture, textiles, glasses, clocks, lamps, etc, and includes examples from what has already become classics to the very latest.

Press viewing on Tuesday 3 November at 11.00 am, followed by a press lunch.

Attended by Harri Koskinen, Tomas Söderberg and Ted Hesselbom.

Please contact Birgitta Wåhlander to register for the press viewing and lunch no later than 12.00 pm on Monday 2 November.

At 6.00 pm on the same day the prize-winner will give a lecture.

The prize ceremony takes place on Wednesday 4 November, starting at 4.00 pm, the University of Göteborg, Vasaparken.

The prize will be awarded by Pam Fredman, Chancellor of the University of Göteborg.

Press accreditation for the prize ceremony, including photo coverage, can be obtained by contacting Birgitta Wåhlander no later than 12.00 pm on 2 November.

Exhibition opening: Thursday 5 November at 12.30 pm, attended by Harri Koskinen.

The exhibition will run from 5 November 2009 until 28 February 2010.

Photographs, biography and curriculum vitae can be downloaded from:

<http://www.lammgard.se/rkm/twsp09/press.htm>

More information: www.harrikoskinen.com

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The following page contains the foreword by Ted Hesselbom, Director of the Röhsska Museum, in this year's exhibition catalogue.

“A Finnish star.

Since 1994, the Röhsska Museum has awarded one of the world’s major art and design prizes - the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg’s Award – using funding from the Torsten and Ragnar Söderberg Foundations. As the director of the Röhsska Museum, it is with great respect and admiration for this award that I would like to thank all those who have taken part. The prize reinforces the status of the Röhsska Museum, Göteborg and the region of Västra Götaland as players in the fields of fashion, design and decorative arts.

In 2007 the amount of the award was raised to SEK 1,000,000, making the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg’s Award the largest of its kind.

The prize committee consists of: museum director Bodil Busk Laursen, Danish Museum of Art and Design in Copenhagen; chief curator Widar Halén, National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo; former museum director Jarmo Peltonen, Helsinki; interior architect FHI and design consultant Stefan Snaebjörnsson, Reykjavik; Ph.D Tomas Söderberg, Torsten and Ragnar Söderberg Foundations, and the undersigned as jury chairman. The jury was unanimous in its decision to award the prize for 2009 to the Finnish designer, Harri Koskinen.

Justification of the award reads as follows:

“Harri Koskinen is one of the foremost designers now occupied with the task of continuing the Nordic design tradition. His extensive body of work in a unique, strict design is consistently expressed within the Nordic tradition of function and simplicity of form, as well as in the choice of materials. These elements combine to create lasting values. Enjoying successful partnerships with design-intensive companies around the world, he is also participating in the renewal of his homeland’s design industry.”

This year’s prize-winner is an internationally renowned designer who, despite his young age, is perhaps Finland’s greatest contemporary designer. After Alvar Aalto’s strong design generation, there has been talk of a shadow that has made it particularly difficult for up-and-coming designers to find a foothold in the Finnish design arena. However, Harri Koskinen’s subtle design has given a natural place here. His design is a perfect combination of cultural and historical tradition and innovation. It is a genuine pleasure to display his outstanding and varied repertoire to the public at the Röhsska Museum. Harri Koskinen touches many people through his ingenious products: future designers, demanding design consumers and those who visit a design exhibition for the first time.

Welcome to the Röhsska Museum and Harri Koskinen’s exhibition, which runs from 5 November 2009 to 28 February 2010. The exhibition will be opened in conjunction with the formal awarding of the prize. The ceremony will take place on 4 November in commemoration of Torsten Söderberg’s birthday.

The Röhsska Museum wishes to thank the Torsten and Ragnar Söderberg’s Foundations for the privilege of being able to award this prize, as well as our partners Happy F&B, Göteborgstryckeriet and Arctic Paper.”

Ted Hesselbom
Jury Chairman, the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Award.
Museum Director, the Röhsska Museum.

The Röhsska Museum

Design, Fashion and Decorative Arts

Vasagatan 37–39, Göteborg, Sweden

www.designmuseum.se