

Welcome to ANTI 2009!

For the past seven years of the ANTI Festival artists have reconfigured Kuopio's urban, suburban and rural spaces with a truly eclectic and inspiring mix of performance and installation. Audiences arrive in Kuopio, grab a map and begin walking from project to project; the artworks functioning as nodal points on what becomes a surprisingly enjoyable long walk through the city. This year we foreground that process, the process of walking, of putting one foot in front of the other and moving at human-pace through the land in which we live. It seems fitting in a country so fond of Nordic walking and in a city surrounded by forests and lakes, for ANTI to take to the streets and look at how artists use walking in their work.

So we present a series of walks created by some of the world's most exciting artists; a full marathon will be walked through the city's commercial space, an artist will arrive singing into Kuopio, having walked 160km from Kiuruvesi, another will be blown by the wind on an unknowable path, artists will guide us on tours of virtual space and of the very real, aromatic, space of the city's perfumery counters. A new path will be created in honour of ANTI and the entire country will be invited on a treasure hunt that will take us high and low in search of buried treasure. These projects, and many others begin to show walking in all of its forms, with all of its pleasure and pain.

When we've hung up our boots there's plenty to relax us – visit Intro, the Festival Centre to eat, drink and even dance if you have the energy, at our two club nights. And after a day walking what's better than being cooked for? Make sure you visit the Town Hall on Saturday at 9pm for your pass to a quite extraordinary night of dance, wine and fine food.

So put on your walking boots, put one foot in front of the other and enjoy the 2009 ANTI Festival!

Johanna Tuukkanen and Gregg Whelan
Artistic Directors

