

Press release 24.5.2024

## The Embassy of the imaginary Republic of EGS opens its doors at the Didrichsen Art Museum on 7 June 2024

The Didrichsen Art Museum's summer exhibition *Embassy of EGS* transforms the museum into an embassy of the imaginary state the Republic of EGS. The exhibition brings together the principal themes of the work of EGS (b. 1974), who began his career as a graffiti painter, and showcases also new works created especially for the exhibition. Embassy of EGS extends from the exhibition halls to the museum's courtyard and sculpture park. The exhibition is open 7.6.–25.8.2024.

**A media event will take place at the Didrichsen Art Museum on Thursday, 6 June at 11 am. The artist will be present at the event. Registration: Maria Didrichsen, tel. 0405521000, [maria.didrichsen@didrichsenmuseum.fi](mailto:maria.didrichsen@didrichsenmuseum.fi).**

The Republic of EGS is a territory in the artist's mind, a place that encompasses his entire creative output, including graffiti, site-specific works and installations, as well paintings created in the studio and art glass. The embassy offers visitors six entry points to the Republic of EGS: geography, folklore, language, identity, landscape and subterranea. In the spirit of the underground, there is even a Kuusisaari metro station on the bottom floor of the museum. The publication *Republic of EGS – Travel Guide / Matkaopas / Reseguide* (Didrichsen 2024), produced by the Didrichsen Art Museum and the artist, is a further introduction to the republic, richly illustrated with colour images and maps.

The imaginary state allows the artist to address the dynamics between state, community and individual. EGS's art is very much about imagined geopolitics – many of the works with their English titles highlight social issues. EGS's social commentary is no stranger to humour.

*Through the exhibition I want to create faith in the future. I got to spend my youth and grow up into a young adult in a world where walls were broken down and borders opened up. It felt as if we had come to the end of history, where the blocs and the threat of war were gone. But history goes round in circles and cycles. We now live in a polarised world with many threats: wars, climate change and growing inequalities, but I believe that a change like 1989 is still possible. Each of us can pick up a hammer and start chipping away at the pieces of the wall that divide us.*

EGS and the Didrichsen Art Museum crossed paths in connection with the artist's gallery exhibition in Berlin in 2021. The island where the museum is located, Kuusisaari in Helsinki, is famous for its embassies. For the duration of the exhibition, they are joined by the Embassy of the Republic of EGS. In the artist's eyes, Villa Didrichsen (1958), designed by Viljo Revell, was an architecturally archetypical embassy.

The Didrichsen Art Museum likes its summer exhibitions to be a departure from the norm – at best, they will reach new audiences or at least shake up the way our museum thinks about exhibitions. During the exhibition, tickets for 18–30-year-olds will be available at the promotional price of 5 €. To celebrate the summer, works from the museum's own collection will be on display in the Villa Didrichsen and in the smaller exhibition hall of the museum's bottom floor.

---

The career of EGS, Finland's most internationally renowned graffiti artist, began in the late 1980s with Finland's first graffiti wave. The subculture took over the scene without asking permission, and graffiti's status as an art form is still not necessarily accepted by the general public. To some extent, graffiti has become part of the urban landscape and exhibited in museums and galleries around the world. The artist's adventurous spirit has placed him in the ranks of graffiti painters who have expanded their expression, transposing the site-specific nature of traditional graffiti into new spaces and media – and appealing to a wider audience.

## **EMBASSY OF EGS**

**7.6.–25.8.2024**

### **Contact**

Maria Didrichsen  
Museum Director  
tel: +358405521000  
maria.didrichsen@didrichsenmuseum.fi

**Mediabank:** [www.didrichsenmediabank.com](http://www.didrichsenmediabank.com)

password: didrichsen2024

### **Didrichsen Art Museum**

Kuusilahdenkuja 1, 00340 Helsinki  
office@didrichsenmuseum.fi / 010 2193 970  
Website: [didrichsenmuseum.fi](http://didrichsenmuseum.fi)  
Facebook: [didrichsenmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/didrichsenmuseum)  
X: DidMuseum  
Instagram: [didrichsenartmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/didrichsenartmuseum)

### **Opening hours**

7.6.–25.8.2024  
Tue–Sun 11–18  
Mon closed

### **Tickets**

16 / 14 / 10 / 5 €  
Free admission for children under 18  
Campaign: 18–30-year-olds  
Museum Card  
Free admission to the Sculpture Park

### **Guided tours**

In Finnish Sat and Sun 1pm, Wed 3pm  
In Swedish Sun at 12 noon  
In English on 15 June, 6 July and 3 August at 12 noon

### **Exhibitions**

7.6.–25.8.2024 *Embassy of EGS*  
7.9.2024–26.1.2025 *Carl-Henning Pedersen*  
8.2.–1.6.2025 *Reidar Särestöniemi*