



**Ptarmigan**

## Who we are ...

*Ptarmigan seeks to operate in a post-subcultural space, emphasising participation and enthusiasm.*

*Ptarmigan -- named after a bird ('lumepüü' in Estonian and 'riekko' in Finnish), for no particular reason except we like strange words -- has brought international artists and producers to Finland and Estonia for a diverse range of performances, short and long term residencies, workshops, lectures, and other projects.*

*Over 160+ events have happened through the two Ptarmigans.*

*The philosophy has shifted gradually to being a community-based culture centre with a strong aesthetic sense.*

*In Helsinki we work as mobile curatorial platform working in collaboration with various artist-run entities. The Tallinn Ptarmigan works from a fixed project space located in the Old Town, and hosts everything from contact improvisational dance workshops to academic anthropology seminars.*

*Ptarmigan is a space for experimentation, gathering, and for challenging notions of creative production. It is a laboratory for experimental ideas and projects that don't fit within easy-fit-categories.*

## A bit of history ...

*We began as a project and performance space in Helsinki to offer a non-commercial alternative to cultural production, with an emphasis on challenging artistic scenarios and participatory events.*

*In late 2010 the decision was made to close our space in Helsinki and open a physical location in Tallinn, to explore the creative world of Estonia and build connections between arts and culture alternatives in both cities.*

*In Helsinki, Ptarmigan exists now as a nomadic project, curating events in other venues, and challenging the notion of a fixed site for event development.*

*Ptarmigan functions financially through volunteer efforts -- the rental of the premises has been paid for by the organisers (who also use the space as their own studios), and events are financed through small ticket charges and donations for food and drink. Some residencies have been funded through the KK Nord residency program, though most are self-financed.*

*Ptarmigan has a sister space in Tallinn called Tiib (translates in Estonian as wing) which has a strong focus on visual art. More information about Tiib can be found at [tiib.net](http://tiib.net)*

## Proposals

*Our websites contain a proposal form where we welcome ideas from anyone for potential activities.*

## What we like!

*We support forms of interaction that blur the lines between audience and presenter. At some point we stopped seeing the people who came to events as an audience, but instead as a diverse community who are the real operators of the space.*

*Ptarmigan looks to this community to propose ideas, events and other projects; we value participation in both events and management. The most valuable events are ones that are inclusive and welcoming, yet strange and idiosyncratic; we love to see cultural boundaries destroyed, and new spontaneous networks form.*

*We are constantly developing cross-over between Helsinki and Tallinn, and in Tallinn have introduced some of the recurring projects begun in Helsinki. We have also reached out to our friends in Finland and provided a venue for their own performances and projects in Tallinn, and we likewise hope to bring new Tallinn friends across the Gulf to work in Helsinki.*

## Ongoing projects include

**Svamp** improvisational sound gathering with changing facilitators

**perfhop** a monthly gathering of performance art enthusiasts

**Labyrinths and Rings** international artist presentations

**Durational Relational** a performance in response to an exhibition, event, or situation

**artHOP** guided tours exploring art-charged sites and potential sites for creative happenings

**GFYP** a monthly culture variety night which takes place in Ptarmigan Tallinn

**Liminal Images** an alternative film night which looks at transformative movements in 20th century film culture

**Fake It Till You Make It** a work group which convenes monthly to build and create randomly chosen objects, such as inflatable decorations, stop-motion animation and synthesisers



*Ptarmigan is a project which has operated in Helsinki since 2009 & Tallinn since 2011*

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# Ptarmigan

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