This exhibition presents textile art works by six master’s degree students from the University of Art and Design Helsinki. They are Ainomaria Haataja, Taru Laakso, Sara Lundén, Dorothea Rosenstock, Tia Taivalmäki and Midori Tsunoi. The course and the resulting exhibition are an example of cross-disciplinary studies between art and design education at TaiK. The teachers are Mrs Helena Lupari, Lecturer in Textile Art at the School of Design and Mr Harald Arnkil, Lecturer in Colour and Head of General Studies in Fine Art at the School of Visual Culture.

The theme of the exhibition, TIME (aika in Finnish, jikan in Japanense), has sprung from the concept of CU (emptiness), which is the main theme of the CUMULUS KYOTO 2008 conference.

As concepts time and emptiness are linked in many ways in Eastern and Western philosophy and art. During the course the students were introduced to some of these concepts and were encouraged to make further investigations of their own. The result is six works of art in textile that reflect both universal and highly personal thoughts about how we experience time, emptiness, eternity, the past and the present.

The medium of textile is in itself a metaphor for time: the thread of life running in the spinning wheel, life as a tapestry of past events, and the time-consuming and laborious process of weaving by hand. The loom was cleverly used to stall time by Odysseus’s wife Penelope in Homer’s epic story of the Odyssey. Waiting for an interminable twenty years for her husband to return from his adventures, she had to fend off no less than 108 suitors. Her excuse for not acquiescing to them was a seemingly endless weaving job, a burial shroud for her father-in-law, which had to be finished before she could make her choice. The faithful, but cunning, wife resorted to unraveling by night part of what she wove by day.

Harald Arnkil

Ainomaria Haataja, b.1981
In Thoughts (Woven paper, metal, monofilament, linen and fluorescent fiber)

Taru Laakso, b.1971
When Time Stands Still (Printed silk)

Sara Lundén, b. 1967
Margareta (Knitted polyamide)

Tia Taivalmäki, b.1971
Carpe Diem – Sheize The Day (animal gut, crochet)
Dorothea Rosenstock, b.1979
Sundays (Pixels and woven paper fabric)

Midori Tsunoi, b.1965
Repeated Time (Paper fabric, metal)