

Aalto2

Press release August 07, 2025

Aalto2's autumn exhibition presents the life's work of Marie-José Van Hee, recipient of the Alvar Aalto Medal

I like good rooms; that's what interests me through all the ages. Houses with good rooms, good-dimensional rooms with good light coming in, and doors. What else do you need?

– Marie-José Van Hee

For Sun and Wind to Paint on

The exhibition opening in September at the Aalto2 Museum Centre's Gallery highlights the life's work of Belgian architect **Marie-José Van Hee** (b. 1950). Van Hee makes skilful use of materials, light, and proportions to create harmonious spaces where the boundary between interior and exterior becomes blurred. The exhibition's title, For Sun and Wind to Paint on, reflects Van Hee's meticulous attention to how light interacts with different surfaces and materials.

Van Hee's output spans a wide range of projects, from private houses to public spaces and cultural buildings. Her works beautifully emphasise respect for architecture, nature and handicraft, as well as an understanding of traditional and folk building methods.

Winner of several awards, Marie-José Van Hee is a revered designer. She was given the Alvar Aalto Medal in 2024, and is the first individual woman architect to receive it.

A first glimpse of Marie-José Van Hee's upcoming exhibition will be offered during an online event held at the Aalto2 Museum Centre on **Tuesday 9 September 2025, from 16:15 to 17:45 (EET)**. The event will begin with an introduction in Finnish by **Mari Murtoniemi**, Curator of Exhibitions at the Alvar Aalto Museum, live at the museum centre.

From 4:30 PM onwards, the event will continue in English. In the discussion, architects **Sam De Vocht** and **Sofia Nivarti** will explore the intersections between the architecture of Van Hee and that of **Alvar**, **Aino**, and **Elissa Aalto**, focusing on their shared design philosophy that emphasises everyday beauty.

The event provides the first in-depth look into For Sun and Wind to Paint on, the exhibition opening at Aalto2 in autumn 2025. It offers context for the exhibition and introduces key themes such as the continuity of tradition, sensitivity to materials, and the human scale in design.

The event is free of charge and takes place in the Aalto Lounge at the Aalto2 Museum Centre. You can also attend remotely by registering for the online event [here](#).

Read more about the event on [our website](#).



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The exhibition is produced by the Museum of Finnish Architecture and Design, where it was on display in spring and summer 2025. It is curated by **Jutta Tynkkynen**, Marie-José Van Hee, and Sam De Vocht.

Preview event at the Aalto2 Museum Centre

Tuesday September 9, 4.15 PM - 5.45 PM.

Warmly welcome to the exhibition opening

Thursday 25 September 2025, 6.00 PM.

Marie-José Van Hee – For Sun and Wind to Paint on

26 September 2025 – 12 April 2026

The Aalto2 Museum Centre is a meeting place for architecture, design and cultural heritage in Jyväskylä, Finland.

[PRESS IMAGES](#)

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More information on the exhibition:

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