Inkeri Kurkilahti

Ritual artist, butoh practitioner, musician and performer

Working with performance art, ritual and contemporary folk music, with a focus on Karelian heritage and embodied ecology.

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Performances & artistic work (selected)

2026

– *Cut Through* — performance, Käänne Festival
– *Lyylin (Offering)* — ongoing work in the forest of Ruissalo

2025

– *Kekritär* — butoh performance, University of Turku Botanical Garden
– *Venusmusic Choir* — vocal performance directed by Mareike Dobewall, ABOAGORA Symposium (performer)
– *The Rivers Chasing Us* — performance by Gaëtan Rusquet, New Performance Turku Biennale (performer)
– *Biochar Witchcraft / Biohiilinoituus* — environmental art & participatory performance, Koroisten Kyläjuhlat; Parantava puutarha / Alkuvoima
– *The Onion Eater* — performance, SATO Ritual Arts Gathering
– *The Ancestral Tree* — butoh performance, KOKKO Ritual Arts Gathering

2024

– *Tulevat elävät meissä / The Living to Come Within Us* — participatory performance, Olohuone306 Urban Art Festival
– *Ahmaliina* — performance, Ritual of Ö

2023

– *Kekri Ritual* — participatory performance, Rauhanlinna

2022

– *Sodan Kuvaus* (traditional runosong / Ika Anni) — composer & performer
– *Untitled* — butoh performance, Mustionkatu midsummer gathering
– *Kekritär* — butoh performance, Morbacka

2019

– *Tuonenmarja* — butoh solo, Turku Night of the Arts

2017

– *Diurnal Animal / Päiväeläin* — butoh performance by Osku Leinonen & MO-Teatteri, Galleria Rajatila (performer)
– *Keko* — butoh performance by Osku Leinonen & MO-Teatteri, Taidetila Pelto (performer)

Teaching & facilitation (selected)

– Weekly butoh classes — Kirkastamo, Manilla, Turku (2026–)
– *Butoh and Connection to Nature* — workshop on butoh and ecological grief, in collaboration with Pauli Jyrkinewsky, Croquis-hoitola, B-Galleria, Turku (2026)
– Fokus Playback Theatre — co-director (2025–2026)
– *Soul Lab / Sielun laboratorio* — ritual art evenings, Alkuvoima and Kirkastamo, Turku (2025)
– Butoh workshop for the playback theatre group Läikähdys (2025)
– *SATO Ritual Arts Gathering* — co-organiser and facilitator with Meri Karhu, Alkuvoima, Turku (2025)
– *KOKKO Ritual Arts Gathering* — co-organiser and facilitator with Meri Karhu, Alkuvoima, Turku (2025)

Music (selected)

AS SINGER, SONGWRITER & COMPOSER

– *Inkeri Syväinkerä* — solo singer-songwriter, contemporary folk (2022–)
– *Karjalaine iäni* — short film by Anne Kalliola & working group, composer & runo singer (2022)
– *Ikävän maa* — theatre production by Vilja Lehtonen & Sara Koiranen, composer & assistant sound designer, mentored by Aino Lehtovaara (2022)
– *Käärmikkä* — vocals, flute, traditional wind instruments (2019–2021)
– *Piispa Henrikin Surmavirsi* — vocals, traditional wind instruments (2018–2019)
– *Nikola Sakko* — singer-songwriter and translation project with performances on anarchist working-class folk songs (2015–2017), related to the publication of *Anarkistisia työväenlauluja / Anarchist Working-Class Folk Songs* (Kolera Kustannus, 2016)

AS MUSICIAN

– *Bhajan Ensemble* — devotional music, vocals & flute (2017–2021)
– *Juudas Iskariotin Suudelma* — progressive world music, flute (2018–2020)
– *Sheliak* — world music, flute (2017–2020)

SELECTED CONCERTS

– *Inkeri Syväinkerä* — Alkufest (2024)
– *Käärmikkä* — Kekrijuhla, Tehdas108 (2021)
– *Käärmikkä* — Kaustinen Folk Music Festival (2021)
– *Käärmikkä* — Turku Cathedral (2020)

Training, mentorship, residencies & programs (selected)

– *Course in Story and Storytelling* — World Storytelling Institute, Chennai (online), led by Dr. Eric Miller (2026–2027)
– *The New Symposium* — online residency program and mentorship for artistic research in music, .abeceda Institute (2025–2026)
– Playback Theatre directing mentorship — Vesa Purokuru (2025–2026)
– *Dance Medium* workshops — Seisaku & Yuri Nagaoka, two 24 h intensives (2025, 2026)
– *Butoh foundations* — Tashi Iwaoka, weekly classes (2024–)
– Mentorship — Aino Lehtovaara, sound design (2022)
– Karelian language and culture studies, University of Eastern Finland (2021)
– Mentorship — Gabriela Ariana, traditional healing practices & ancestral rituals (2017–2021)
– Trance dance practice — Gabriela Ariana, about 50 h (2019)
– *Butoh advanced* — Ken Mai, 54 h intensive (2018)
– *Butoh foundations* — Ken Mai, 27 h intensive (2017)
– *Butoh Laboratory* — Osku Leinonen, 50 h intensive (2017)
– Additional workshops in butoh, ancestral practices, Karelian culture & language, somatic practices, contact improvisation, Playback Theatre, musical improvisation, composition, folk music & traditions

Publications & exhibitions

– Group exhibition, *Galleria Alkuvoima* (2022)
– EP: *Käärmikkä – Suvet ulvoot suon perällä* (Art Safari Records, 2021)
– Songbook: *Anarkistisia työväenlauluja / Anarchist Working-Class Folk Songs* (Kolera Kustannus, 2016)