

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition of artist Eero Järnefelt at Tikanoja Art Museum is open from Nov. 23, 2024 to May 25, 2025. This extensive overview covers Järnefelt's whole career exhibiting his well-known works like "Under the Yoke" (Burning the Brushwood) (1893), and his masterful portrayals of landscapes and people. The exhibition offers a perspective on Järnefelt's role in the evolution of Finnish art and culture, and his interest in portraying nature and folklife. The exhibition has moved to Vaasa from the Ateneum Art Museum of Helsinki where it was displayed in the spring of 2024.

## ART PROJECT BASED ON THE EXHIBITION

Make an art project based on Vaasa's Järnefelt exhibition, in which you concentrate on landscapes. You can paint a Finnish landscape using either watercolours or gouache colours. The size of the paper is A4. If you want to frame your work, you can tape around the edges of the paper. For drawing you can use watercolours, gouache colours, or watercolour pencils.

Task Idea:

1. Study Järnefelt's paintings, especially the landscapes of Koli.
2. Draw or paint your own Finnish landscape using Järnefelt's colouring and lighting styles.
3. Discuss what kind of emotions and stories the artworks convey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYq9e30hvlo>

Taidevartti: Eero Järnefelt – Maisema Koliilta

15 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGEk5lshHLM&t=13s>

Eero Järnefelt: Masterpieces of Finnish Art

6 min. In English, a lot of artworks

## INFORMATION SEARCH:

1. When and where was Järnefelt born?
2. Which of Järnefelt's paintings was the most famous, and what does the artwork depict?
3. What art movement did Eero Järnefelt represent?
4. In which countries did Järnefelt study the arts?
5. What other artists belonged in Järnefelt's friend group?
6. What kind of themes did Eero Järnefelt often paint?
7. What was Järnefelt's family like, and which of his siblings were famous?
8. Why are Eero Järnefelt's paintings regarded as important in Finland's history?
9. In which museums can you see Järnefelt's paintings today?
10. What do you think about Järnefelt's artwork Burning the Brushwood? What in it evokes emotions and thoughts?

## Information search

Here are the answers to the questions about Eero Järnefelt:

1. When and where was Järnefelt born?

Eero Järnefelt was born in Vyborg on November 8, 1863.

2. Which of Järnefelt's paintings was the most famous, and what does the artwork depict?

His most famous painting "Under the Yoke" (Burning the Brushwood) depicts people doing hard slash-and-burn work, especially an exhausted woman and child.

3. What art movement did Eero Järnefelt represent?

Eero Järnefelt represented realism and naturalism.

4. In which countries did Järnefelt study the arts?

He studied in Finland, Russia (Saint Petersburg), and France (Paris).

5. What other artists belonged in Järnefelt's friend group?

In his friend group belonged, among others, Akseli Gallen-Kallela, composer Jean Sibelius, visual artist Venny Soldan-Brofeldt, author Juhani Aho, Maija Halonen, and visual artist Pekka Halonen.

6. What kind of themes did Eero Järnefelt often paint?

Järnefelt was a well-known portrait painter and often also painted Finnish landscapes, nature, and ordinary people at work.

7. What was Järnefelt's family like, and which of his siblings were famous?

Eero Järnefelt's family was sophisticated and cultural influencers. His brothers were author Arnold Järnefelt, and composer Armas Järnefelt. His mother, Elisabeth Järnefelt, was an important figure in Finnish cultural life. Eero's wife was actress Saimi Sibelius (née Swan).

8. Why are Eero Järnefelt's paintings regarded as important in Finland's history?

His paintings reflect Finnish folklife and the beauty of Finland's nature. They helped to build an image of Finnish identity and are a part of Finland's national cultural heritage.

9. In which museums can you see Järnefelt's paintings today?

Järnefelt's paintings are often on display at the Ostrobothnian Museum and especially at the Ateneum Art Museum in Helsinki. You can also see his paintings at other Finnish museums.

10. What do you think about Järnefelt's artwork Burning the Brushwood? What in it evokes emotions and thoughts?

(This is an open question for students, in which they need to ponder what kind of thoughts and emotions the artwork evokes withing them. Artwork Burning the Brushwood can evoke thoughts about hard work, poverty, income caps, and Finnish perseverance, for example.)