

ARTIST STATEMENT

Memories, fantasies, facts, and fiction intertwine and melt together in my art. They create a connection to poetry, stories, and fairy tales.

I love swimming and the seashores, as well as the soft water of the lake. Expressing the movement and essence of water in three-dimensional sculptures fascinates me.

The ideas for my artworks stem from memories, imaginations, and stories related to water. My artwork reflects my personal encounters with water and the memories they evoke.

In my latest works, I return to the story of the water spirit, a mythical creature from Finnish folklore. When I was a child, the splashing water made me see and imagine the water spirit.

The water spirit, traditionally seen as frightening, has been given a sympathetic and cute presence in my art.

Clear, simplified forms, vibrant colors, humor, and a positive attitude are characteristic of my art.

For my sculptures, my primary material is ceramic. Oil-like, splashing, flowing ceramic glazes and metallic shimmering details complete the painterly result. The universal concern for the state of waters and the phenomena brought by climate change influence the surface treatment of my artworks. My sculptures combine the enchanting beauty of waters and seas with the mess and repulsiveness of environmental disasters.

Johanna Rytkölä