

# Dialogue + ●

## Esa Vesmanen & minä perhonen

with Alvar Aalto at Maison Louis Carré  
Bazoches-sur-Guyonne (close to Paris)

29 Sept. – 17 Nov. 2024



This exhibition opens a dialogue of Nordic Modernist ideas in relation with Japanese design as part of global design culture. minä perhonen is a Japanese design company renowned for a stylistic approach mixing craft-like techniques and organic forms in their production of homeware, fashion and textiles. Founded by designer Akira Minagawa, the company has drawn affinity towards many inspirations of Nordic countries. The company's collaboration with Helsinki-based designer Esa Vesmanen started in 2019. As interior architect and designer, Vesmanen works in a minimalist Scandinavian tradition. Including public interiors, as well as product design such as the Finom lighting range, sensory experience of space drives the creative approach of his studio Pure Design.



### MAISON LOUIS CARRÉ

2 chemin du St Sacrement,  
78490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne, France  
[www.maisonlouiscarre.fr](http://www.maisonlouiscarre.fr)  
[www.mina-perhonen.jp](http://www.mina-perhonen.jp)  
[www.puredesign.fi/en/](http://www.puredesign.fi/en/)

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As an exhibition space Maison Louis Carré provides a historical context with a sense of intimacy. The house was designed as a private residence by Alvar Aalto and Elissa Aalto for art collector and gallerist Louis Carré in 1959.



- 1 Maison Louis Carré, Photo by Jari Jetsonen
- 2 A sketch for artwork with Artek stool 60. Esa Vesmanen
- 3 minä perhonen's textile "carnival". Photo by Yayoi Arimoto
- 4 A collaboration work between Esa Vesmanen and minä perhonen, FINOM lamp "metsä". Photo by Hua Wang
- 5 minä perhonen archives. Photo by Mitsuo Okamoto

Juxtaposed to this iconic interior, contemporary designs by Esa Vesmanen and minä perhonen will show how features from Aalto's design language have found new expressive forms. Objects on display include some new designs created for the exhibition, such as woollen tufted rugs by minä perhonen, and furniture designs by Esa Vesmanen, where the classic Aalto 60 stools are used as a base for artistic experimentation with fabrics of the minä perhonen collection. The series of lights made of thin plywood by Vesmanen will be showcased alongside his chaise-longue, a prototype and example of the creative process in the flexible quality of "bent-ply". Artworks and sketches by Esa Vesmanen and Akira Minagawa will illustrate creative experiments with colours, forms and ideas inviting a new artistic dialogue, which leads to an "unconventional landscape of Maison Louis Carré", as Minagawa describes.

The exhibition is organized on the initiative of design historian and journalist Marianna Wahlsten as curator, with support from the Association Alvar Aalto en France, The Finnish Institute and the Finnish Embassy in France. In order to explore some key ideas of the exhibition theme, on the 29th September a public event will be organized at Maison Louis Carré and a discussion on the meaning of cross-cultural narratives in design.

