

Rough translation of Swedish article in newspaper Abo Underattelser (1-06-2016) - the oldest newspaper in Finland: 193 years old!).

A celebration of the archipelago

“ Alison Wiklund fell in love with the Abo/Turku archipelago. Now she is showing a part of her work at Hotel Nestor in Korpo.”

Alison Wiklund is something of a nomadic artist. Born in the UK, brought up in Portugal; studied in London, Mongolia, Tibet, India and China; a teacher in Malawi, Tanzania and Nicaragua. But it is in the Abo/Turku archipelago that her restless spirit finds peace..

It was in 1982, with her friend and fellow artist, Anitra Lucander, that she first beheld the beauty of the archipelago. “We had heard about Jurmo but knew nothing of the island. When we got there – it was love at first sight.” Said Alison

Over the years there were many visits to the outskirts of the archipelago. She took with her a camera and sketch pad. Alison met islander characters such as Jurmo Per, Borsto-Lasse and Gunnar Andersson from Uto. She also had the use a little hut on Sandvik Harun – south of Jurmo - to which she always returned.

Rocks, sea, peace and people were an endless source of inspiration for Alison. Now she is showing about 65 of her art-works at Hotel Nestor.

“This is a celebration of the archipelago and of the people I met. They have been so generous with their time and opened their homes to me. The islanders have their own character, they are independent survivors. There are not many who have that approach to life. The rhythm and life-style is simpler than in town where everything seems more complicated.”