

Matilda Aaltonen

<https://www.matildaaaltonen.com/portfolio.html>

<https://elainoikeusakatemia.fi/>

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Photo: Joonatan Aaltonen.

Matilda Aaltonen is a Helsinki-based Finnish dancer and choreographer actively working in various dance and performance arts collectives. Her work explores the relationship between dance and ecology, human-animality, and performative interactions with other animals. Matilda holds a Master's degree in Dance Art (2020) from the Theatre Academy of Uniarts Helsinki and a degree in Art Pedagogy (2022) from Uniarts Helsinki. In August 2025 she has started artistic doctoral research at the University of the Arts Helsinki Theatre Academy with title *Dancer's practices for performing with nonhuman animals*.

Matilda has participated in two multidisciplinary research projects combining science and art: *Speaking on Behalf of the Biospheric Voiceless: The Impact of Language on the Emotions and Attitudes Concerning Non-Human Animals* (2022–2023) and *Can Animals Be Expressed? The Challenges of Conceptualizing Animals in Sciences and Arts* (2020–2021), both led by philosopher Elisa Aaltola. Currently, Matilda works as the art content curator for organization Eläinoikeusakatemia [Animal right academy] with artist Laura Gustafsson. Matilda's recent artistic works include *Susi hukassa*, a performance on performing the wolf (2024, Barker Theatre); *What Kind of Animal Are You?*, a solo performance exploring human-animality (2024, HAM Helsinki Art Museum); and *Nature Untitled*, a performance on ecological poetics by choreographer Veli Lehtovaara (2022, Entirely Moved, Zodiak – Center for New Dance, and Moving in November festival). In 2021, Matilda created the performance *Lokkijuttu* in collaboration with the seagulls of Helsinki's Market Square.



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