

*An Old-World warbler dreams of the south. In Helsinki.*

2012

drawing installation (diaz paper exposed to the sun [presentation architecture varies])

45x53 cm

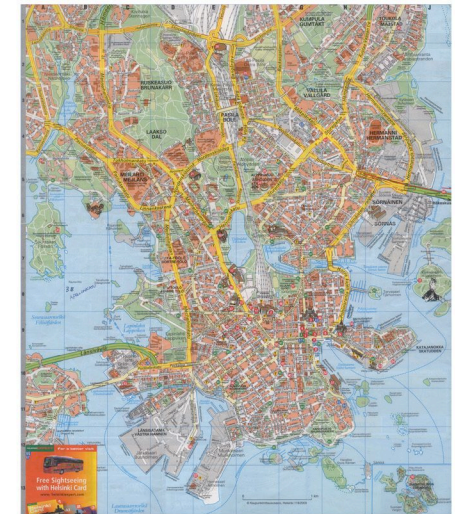
It is a work where I modified a tourist map of Helsinki to look at the North-South divide in an alternative way, tracing the local anecdotes on the nomenclature of an area and streets and reflecting life qualities and values seen through the naïve imagination.

**ARABIA IN FINLAND** I visited Helsinki in May 2010 and during my stay, I came to know about an area called Arabianranta (Eng: Coast of Arabia) in northern Helsinki. It used to be far out of the city and therefore they named the area referring to the distant countries in 1800s. Later when it became a suburb where people have holiday houses, they named the streets after any exotic places such as India, Korea, Syria and Congo. All from Asia, Middle-East and Africa, and mixed up geographically. In the naming of these streets, I saw the Scandinavians longing for the sun and fantasising warmer countries during long winter.

**MIGRATING IMAGINATION** I modified the tourist map of Helsinki to pick up only street- and area names, and marked the streets that are named after warm and distant lands. Then I developed a Diazo (UV sensitive paper) copy of the modified map, using the Scandinavian winter sun as light source. The result is a blueprint of Helsinki map where the streets with the names of warm places are more “suntanned” during the process.

The title of the piece refers to migrating birds found in Helsinki that live/travel to Asian, Arabic and African countries during wintertime.

**HIGHLIGHT** The drawing is presented as drawing installation in various formats. At the exhibition at Arts Maebashi museum, I presented it on a podium covered with Plexi box, with a magnifying glass on top. The magnifying glass was placed on a fixed spot on the Plexi box to offer detailed view on the Coast of Arabia area, and also to collect the light on the area to make it brighter.



(left page) diazo copy of the “intervened” map made through exposing to the Scandinavian winter sunlight (right page, from top to bottom) original map of Helsinki; the area called “the Coast of Arabia” and the streets named after places from Asia, Middle-East, and Africa; installation view with a magnifying glass highlighting the Coast of Arabia.

