



Photo: Pili Rüber

Kertu Sillaste

ESTONIA

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Kertu Sillaste (1973) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in textile design in 1996 and from the Tallinn University with a Master of Arts in Education in 2017.

Sillaste has illustrated books and textbooks; written and illustrated seven picture books and one silent book; designed books, posters and more; and has collaborated with children's magazines. She teaches art to kids in the Estonian Children's Literature Centre. Kertu Sillaste is a member of the Estonian Graphic Designers Association and the Estonian Section of IBBY.

I studied to become a textile artist. After graduating from the Estonian Academy of Arts, I love quite a number of big tapestries and painted metres and metres of silk. It was by a pleasant stroke of fate that I started illustrating books, and now I like doing it more than anything else. I enjoy drawing (painting, cutting, pasting), coming up with pictures, and positioning them in books.

I wrote and illustrated my first solo book a few years ago. Since then, I've enjoyed the simultaneous creation of text and illustration. Creating an author's books gives me the freedom to choose the topics for my own books. I have created two books about art and one about ethnography.

As an art teacher I run quite a lot of workshops in schools and libraries introducing different aspects of book art to kids.

Selected awards:

2021 IBBY Honour list for the illustrations of the book (Kertu Sillaste. *The Prettiest Skirt*). Koolibri, 2019

2020 International Illustration and Book Design Competition 'Image of the Book/Obraz knigi', Moscow, laureate

2019 25 Best-Designed Estonian Books, Certificate of Merit

2018 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children's Books, special prize of the Estonian Children's Literature Centre

2018 Good Children's Book (Kertu Sillaste. *I Am an Artist*)

2017 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award candidate

2016 The White Raven (Kertu Sillaste. *No, It Isn't So!*)

2015 5 Best Designed Estonian Children's Books, Special prize of the Estonian Graphic Designers' Union

2015 Raisin of the Year Award (Kertu Sillaste. *No, It Isn't So!*)

2015 Good Children's Book (Kertu Sillaste. *No, It Isn't So!*)

Selected exhibitions

2021 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), Slovakia

2020 Tallinn Illustrations Triennial (TIT), Estonia

2019 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), Slovakia

2017 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), Slovakia

2017 Tallinn Illustrations Triennial (TIT), Estonia

2016 Exhibition of Estonian illustrators "Fairy Tales Come to Visit", New York
Estonian House, USA

Selected illustrated books

Mürsepp, Mare. *Vanataadi kinnas* (Old Man's Mitten). Tammerraamat, 2022

Sillaste, Kertu. *Appi! (Help!)*. Koolibri, 2021

Saksatamm, Markus. *Tere-tere, täheloomad!* (Hi There, Letter Animals!), Koolibri, 2020

Sillaste, Kertu. *Kõige ilusam seelik* (The Prettiest Skirt). Koolibri, 2019

Sillaste, Kertu. *Loomakesed läksid linna* (The Animals Went to Town). Hea Lugu, 2019

Sillaste, Kertu. *Mina olen kunstnik* (I Am an Artist). Koolibri, 2018

Vainola, Kätlin. *Nähh Pariisis* (Naa in Paris). Päike ja Pilv, 2017

Sillaste, Kertu. *Igaüks teeb isemoodi kunsti* (Everyone Makes Art Their Own Way). Päike ja Pilv, 2016

Sillaste, Kertu. *Ei ole Nii!* (No, It Isn't So!). Päike ja Pilv, 2015

Vainola, Kätlin. *Kus on armastus* (Where is Love?). Päike ja Pilv, 2014



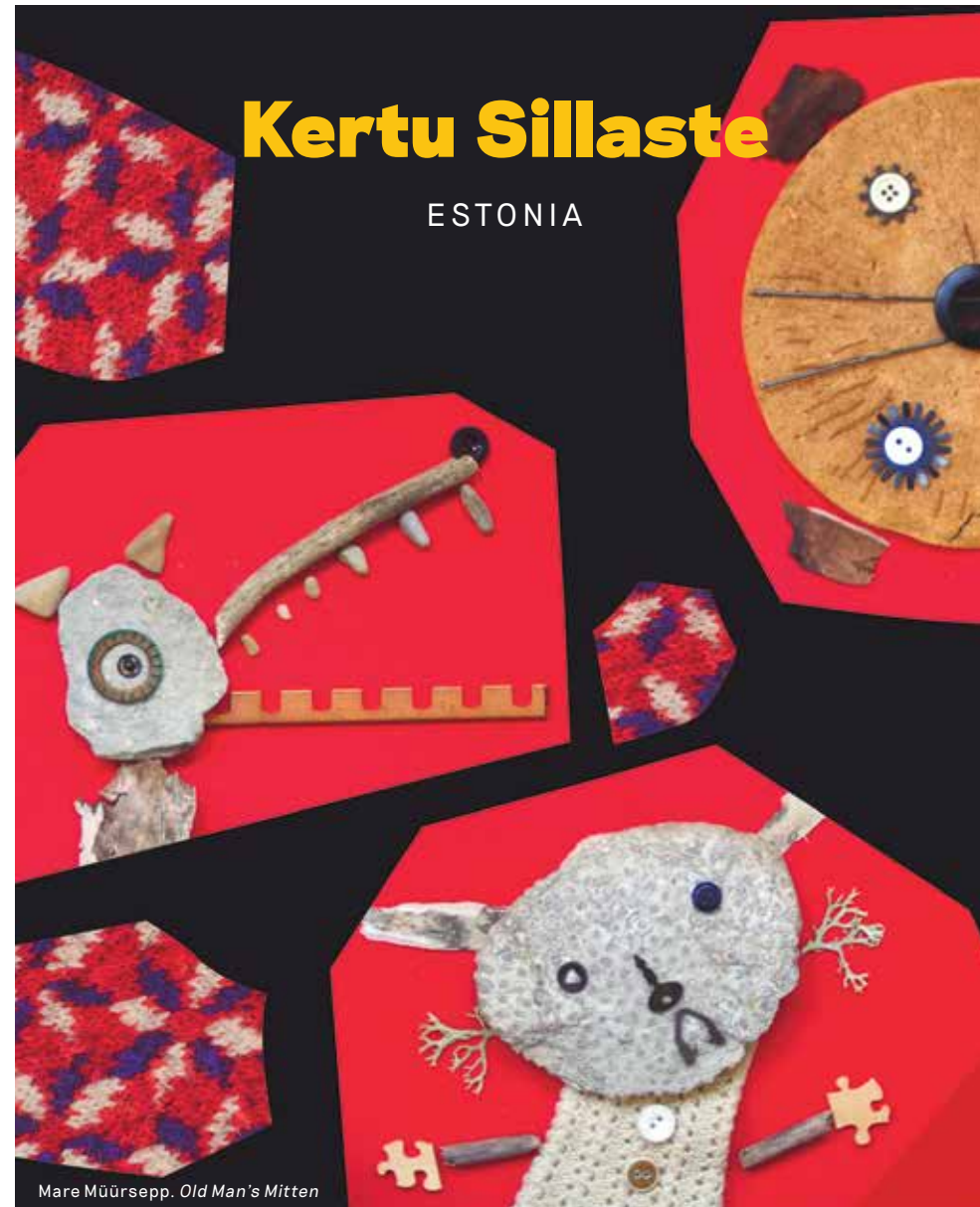
Kertu Sillaste. *No, It Isn't So!*



Kertu Sillaste. *No, It Isn't So!*



Mare Mürsepp. *Old Man's Mitten*



Mare Mürsepp. *Old Man's Mitten*



Kertu Sillaste. *The Prettiest Skirt*



Kertu Sillaste. *Help!*



Kertu Sillaste. *Help!*

