

**Riikka Ahlfors SNATCHED**  
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**About the art**

The following are excerpts that have been adapted from an essay by Finnish art critic Veikko Halmetoja about Ahlfors' work:

Ahlfors' paintings could be discussed purely in terms of abstract art, so smoothly are they linked to the tradition of abstract painting. Yet this would limit a fair interpretation as her paintings, which are based on mundane snapshots she's taken from various places – often simply taken through a window or from a television screen. Ahlfors uses these photos in a fragmentary way when constructing her paintings, so the views we see don't represent any one photographic view.

This sort of use of the camera connects Ahlfors with other contemporary painters who similarly acknowledge the huge influence of cinema and photography on contemporary aesthetic thinking and image perception.

Ahlfors is extremely skillful in using colours as composition tools. Her large-scale paintings are balanced combinations of clean and clear colours combined with muted earthy tones. It almost feels that Ahlfors is conducting an orchestra while she paints; her paintings often 'sound' as rich as a full symphonic orchestra – and the fierce physicality of her approach to the act of painting is clearly present.

**About the artist**

Riikka Ahlfors was born in Kirkkonummi in 1975. She lives and works in Helsinki, but resided in Canada for 13 years, studying art and completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts at York University in 2007. She graduated with Master of Fine Arts from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in 2015. Ahlfors has participated in several group exhibitions in both Canada and Finland. She is a member of the Finnish Painters' Union as well as Helsinki's Society of Artists.