

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence is an ongoing body of work that started off as my Final Major Project for the MA degree that I recently completed at the London College of Communication.

In this very personal project, I examine through self-portraits the division of gender roles in modern society and how traditional norms influence our perception of how we see each other. The work is largely autobiographical and focuses on the period when I left my job in finance in 2014 and took over the domestic role looking after our two daughters.

Presented below is the part of the series that was exhibited at the LCC Graduate Show in November 2023 that also currently exists in print. A complete to-date-series can be found on my website.

A more comprehensive description of the project can also be found at the end of this document.



The Cake, 2023,

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence

C-Type, Fuji Lustre Archival Paper,

540 x 680 (21.3" x 26.8") edition of 5 plus 2 AP

Signed by artist on verso.

UNFRAMED.

Suits, 2023,

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence

C-Type Fuji, Lustre Archival Paper,

565 x 455 (22.2" x 17.9") edition of 5 plus 2AP

Signed by artist on verso.

UNFRAMED

C-Type Fuji Lustre Archival Paper,

1016 x 1270 (40" x 50") edition of 3 plus 2AP.

Signed by artist on verso.

UNFRAMED.

Giclee print on Hahnemühle PhotoRag Pearl
Archival Paper,

200 x 250 (7.9" x 9.8") edition of 25 plus 2AP.

Signed by artist on verso.

UNFRAMED.





Companion, 2023,

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence

C-Type Fuji, Lustre Archival Paper.

341 x 277 (13.4" x 10.9") edition of 5 plus 2AP.

Signed by artist in verso.

UNFRAMED.

Football, 2023,

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence.

C-Type Fuji, Lustre Archival Paper,

315 x 254 (12.4" x 10") edition of 5 plus 2 AP.

Signed by artist in verso.

UNFRAMED.





Beach Toys, 2023,

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence

C-Type Fuji, Lustre Archival Paper,

500 x 403 (19.7" x 15.9") edition of 5 plus 2 AP

Signed by artist on verso.

UNFRAMED.

Giclee print on Hahnemühle PhotoRag Pearl Archival
Paper

200 x 250 (7.9" x 9.8") edition of 25 plus 2 AP.

Signed by artist on verso.

UNFRAMED.

**FRAMED IMAGES as exhibited at the LCC
Graduate Show in November 2023**

Artist Proof 1, C Type, Fuji Lustre Archival

Cake 21.3" x 26.8"

Football 12.4" x 10.0"

Suits 22.2" x 17.9"

Companion 13.4" x 10.9"

Beach Toys 19.7" x 15.9"

Bespoke archival quality frames in stained
hardwood with AR70 museum glass.

The images are dry mounted on 3mm foam and
floated on the backing board. 1.5" borders on
each side. Spacing on the sides is the same
colour as the backing board. Subframes
included.



The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence

The Admirable Fabric of Masculine Intelligence (2023 -) is an ongoing photographic project through which the artist examines the division of the roles between men and women, and how the traditional norms influence our perception, often through stereotypes, of what we expect, and more importantly, don't expect to see.

This largely autobiographical body of work sets to illustrate, through self-portraits, the experiences, and emotions the artist went through in his own life after he left regular employment in 2014, in conservative Switzerland, and took over the domestic role of looking after the family's two young daughters.

Generating ideas by using a sociological framework together with episodes from everyday life, the artist constructs narrative with a mix of humor and melancholy drawing the viewer closer to what he sees as his reality. He uses his family intensively throughout the series to emphasize the importance of family as an institution and how much of his life has been centered around it.

In addition to its empirical and sociological foundation, the work draws further inspiration from the writings of Virginia Woolf who, in her 1927 novel, *"To the Lighthouse"*, introduces the concept of *"the admirable fabric of masculine intelligence"*, which has been used as the title for this series. In Woolf's novel the admirable fabric of masculine intelligence is defined as the traditional hierarchy in which masculinity is the structure that upholds the framework for the rest of the world. In his images, much like Woolf herself, Niiranen seeks to challenge this notion by documenting himself and his family members in roles and situations where the characters and the hierarchical structure becomes blurred. With the use of close-up camera and disguise, he often leaves faces invisible thus creating a scene that refuses to accept gaze or judgement. The images are moderately staged, all set in ordinary surroundings thereby inviting the viewer to participate in the process rather than making them exclusive. Woolf's work not only largely influenced the conceptualization of the body of work but also reformed how the artist fundamentally interprets the definition of gender (himself).

The work is ultimately an attempt to break down the stereotyped male identity and gender norms that remain prevalent within our societies. It does so by turning the traditional hierarchy upside down and proposing alternative option to the viewer. The portrayal of the male character in an environment traditionally associated with women creates a representation that is uncommon yet real. By constructing this series, the artist is sharing his intimate journey to shake pre-conceived ideas and perceptions of what roles men and women should have in society.