

Marita Liulia  
*Choosing My Religion*

Marita Liulia on the trail of religion

Marita Liulia's multimedia work *Choosing My Religion* compares the world's major religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Shinto.

Liulia views religions as an artist, as a researcher, and as a woman. This integrated set of works is made up of individual artworks that draw on the stories and visual worlds of the nine religions, along with factual works that set out their founding ideas.

The exhibition at Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall incorporates photographic works, paintings, installations and religious objects. In the photographs Liulia appears in the roles of scholar and priest, not something that religions normally permit to women. The paintings reflect the influence of oriental art.

Liulia's interest in contemporary dance and technology has resulted in a video called *Jumalattaren paluu (Return of the Goddess)*, in which Virpi Pahkinen dances in a holographic projection. There are also documentary films that take us on a journey with the artist into the process by which the works came about.

The religion information pack that also forms part of the project is on the Internet at: [www.maritaliulia.com/cmr](http://www.maritaliulia.com/cmr). The website sets out the basic ideas of the religions and parallels their concepts of the world, the human being, god(s), life and death.

The exhibition and website are accompanied by the art book *Choosing My Religion* published by Maahenki. In it Marita Liulia and scholar of religion Terhi Utriainen write about the place of religion in the contemporary world.

The highly versatile, prize-winning media artist Marita Liulia is internationally one of Finland's best-known contemporary artists. Her works have been shown in more than 40 countries. Further information: [www.maritaliulia.com](http://www.maritaliulia.com)

*"My recipe is to combine art, research and technology and to spice it with pinch of humour and a considerable dose of beauty."*

Marita Liulia is a versatile visual artist and a pioneer of interactive multimedia. Her production includes media art works, photography, painting and stage performances.

Liulia studied literature and political history at *Helsinki University* and visual arts at the *University of Art and Design* in Helsinki. Her artistic career started in the theatre and she worked with various visual artforms in the 1980s.

She extended her work to include digital and interactive media in 1991 with *Jackpot*, a CD-ROM on the world of advertisements. *Maire*, a study of modernism released in 1994, was one of the first artworks to be published in CD-ROM format. *Ambitious Bitch*, a colourful CD-ROM about femininity (1996), marked her international

breakthrough. *SOB (Son of a Bitch)*, a CD-ROM about men and masculinity, followed in 1999.

*Marita Liulia Tarot* was published in six different formats and ten languages in 2000-2004. Marita Liulia's recent project, *Choosing My Religion* about the major religions of the world, had premiere in 2009.

In 2001 Liulia returned to the theatre, with the works *Manipulator and Animator*, which were created collaboratively with musician-composer Kimmo Pohjonen. Hunt, a dance performance realized together with choreographer-dancer Tero Saarinen, has become something of a cult classic.

Liulia has received numerous awards, including the *Prix Ars Electronica in Austria* (1996) and *Prix Möbius International* in France (1996, 1999). She has also received the *Finland Prize*, the *Finnish Cultural Fund Prize*, *Erik Enroth Prize* and *Stina Krook Foundation Prize* (2008) for her achievements as an artist.