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**Apurahasta vanhuudenturvaksi.
Valtion ylimääräiset taiteilijaeläkkeet vuosina 1970-2011.**

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SUPPLEMENTARY STATE ARTIST PENSIONS IN FINLAND IN 1970–2011

BACKGROUND

State artist pensions have a long history in Finland; they were awarded for the first time in the 1830s. At that time pensions were working grants by nature because they were allocated only to artists of high national importance and renown. The artist's age had no impact on pension decisions. In fact, they were lifelong working grants awarded by the State.

Artists' pensions kept their grant-like status until the 1960s. In its report in 1965 the Government Committee on the Arts suggested emphasising the nature of pensions because so many older artists lived under very poor conditions. In 1974 the Council of State announced the Decision on Extraordinary Artists' Pensions (75/1974), in which the regulations for supplementary pensions for senior artists were set for the first time. According to this decision artists' pensions finally became artists' old age pensions.

Nowadays supplementary state artist pensions are awarded to artists over 60 years of age.³² The Finnish government distributes fifty-one (full) supplementary artists' pensions each year in recognition of the special particular achievements of creative or performing artists. The decision on artists' pensions is approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture. From the beginning of 2011 the appropriations for this scheme are included in the cultural budget (i.e. the sector of the Ministry of Education and Culture). Previously, payments were conducted through the State Treasury.

³² Artists under 60 years of age can be awarded a supplementary artist pension only by exemption (e.g. disability).

A person must apply for an artist pension. In recent years, the Ministry of Education and Culture has received some 500 applications annually (see Table 1). The applications are considered by the national art councils representing different art forms. These councils give their proposals to the Central Arts Council, which proposes the final list to the Ministry. The final decision-making power resides with the Minister of Culture. However, the decisions have rarely differed from the proposals of the Central Arts Council.

TABLE 1 *Applicants and recipients of supplementary state artist pensions in 2000–2011 (%)*

| Year | Applicants | Receivers* |
|-------|------------|------------|
| 2000 | 419 | 50 (12) |
| 2001 | 374 | 52 (14) |
| 2002 | 418 | 37 (9) |
| 2003 | 418 | 37 (9) |
| 2004 | 453 | 45 (10) |
| 2005 | 462 | 43 (9) |
| 2006 | 454 | 42 (9) |
| 2007 | 467 | 45 (10) |
| 2008 | 502 | 44 (9) |
| 2009 | 507 | 45 (9) |
| 2010 | 526 | 42 (8) |
| 2011 | 481 | 64 (13) |
| Total | 5 481 | 546 (10) |

* Both full and half pensions.

Recipients are selected on the basis of artistic merit, and the sum (whole pension or half pension) on the basis of the recipient’s financial situation. Financial need is taken into consideration in every decision. The pension is lifelong and includes the right to a dependent’s pension (spouse, children). The pension is taxable income.

Artists who apply for the pension may work in all areas of the arts. The art forms within the system of arts administration are: architecture, cinema, circus, comic art, dance, design, literature, music, media art, photographic art, theatre, visual art and “other”.

There are currently about 1,000 individual beneficiaries of these pensions and the total sum paid as artists' pensions in recent years has been about € 11–12 million. The full pension is (in 2011) € 1,260/month and half pension €630/month.

Those artists who are awarded a half pension can later apply for a full pension. There is no maximum number of artists who can receive a pension at any given time; however, no more than 51 (full) pensions are awarded annually.

RECIPIENTS OF SUPPLEMENTARY STATE ARTISTS' PENSION IN 1970–2011

Between 1970 and 2011 most of the pensions were awarded to musicians, visual artists, actors and writers; on the other hand, they also filed most of the applications. This is normal, because the fields mentioned are the four biggest fields of art in Finland.

The number of annual applicants has increased steadily from the beginning of the 1970s. This is noteworthy, because no changes in appropriations took place in 1995–2010. The growth may result from the fact that the artists belonging to what is known as the baby boom generation have reached the age of sixty and are now applying for pensions.

During 1970–2011 a total of 12,913 applications were filed. Supplementary state artist pensions were distributed to 2,564 artists (some 20 per cent of the applicants) (see Table 2).

TABLE 2 Recipients of supplementary state artist pensions in 1970–2011 (%) by field of art

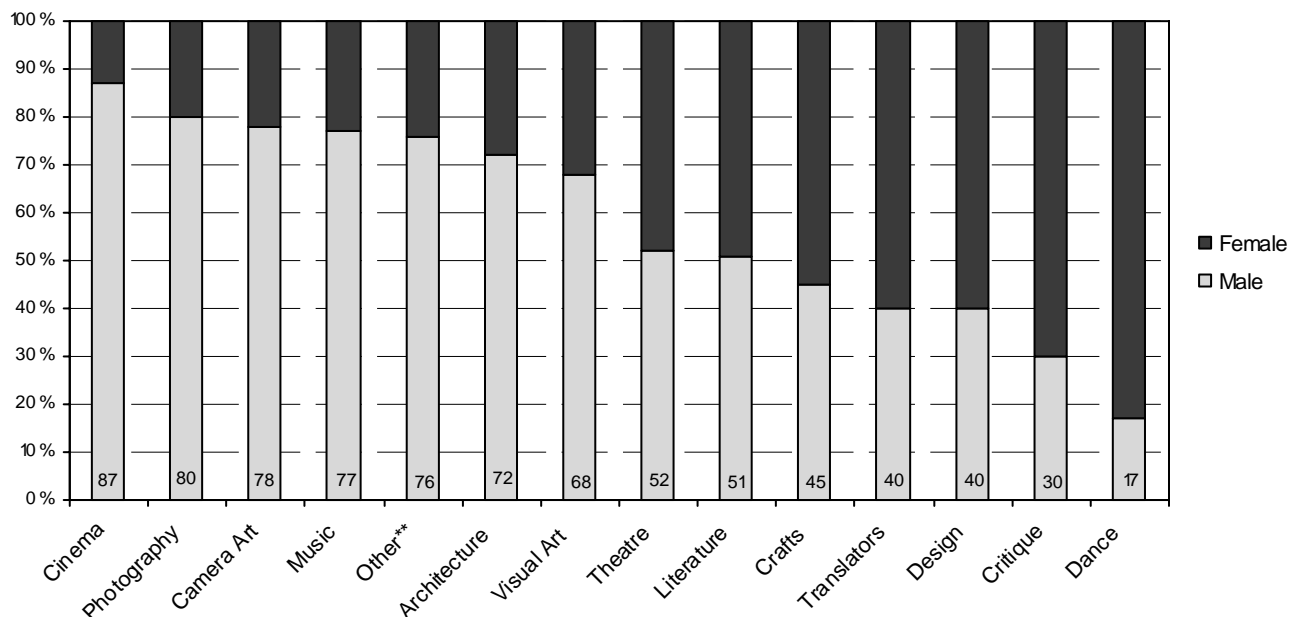
| Field of Art | Recipients of supplementary state artist pensions (n=2.564)* |
|-----------------|--|
| Music | 630 (25) |
| Visual Art | 523 (20) |
| Theatre | 434 (17) |
| Literature | 338 (13) |
| Crafts & Design | 212 (8) |
| Cinema | 109 (4) |
| Photography | 102 (4) |
| Other** | 72 (3) |
| Dance | 72 (3) |
| Camera Art | 39 (2) |
| Architecture | 14 (1) |
| Critique | 10 (0) |
| Translators | 5 (0) |

* Both full and half pensions.

** Includes circus, acrobats, entertainers, instrument builders, magicians as well as artists who cannot be classified in a single art form.

Of the recipients, 1,629 (64%) were male and 935 (36%) female. The differences between the fields of art are somewhat notable. Male artists tend to receive more supplementary state artist pensions in the fields of cinema, photography, music, visual art and architecture, whereas female artists are allocated more state artist pensions in the fields of dance, critique, design and translated literature (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1 Supplementary state artist pensions in 1970–2011 by recipient's field of art and gender*



* Both full and half pensions.

** Includes circus, acrobats, entertainers, instrument builders, magicians as well as artists who cannot be classified in a single art form.