

# *Maecenas Kilta*

## **What is Maecenas Kilta?**

Maecenas Kilta ry was founded in Helsinki in 1954. The name refers to the Roman patron of the arts and sciences, Caius Cilnius Maecenas. The term "patron" (or "mecenat") originates from his name and denotes a supporter of art and culture.

Maecenas Kilta (Maecenas Guild) is a community of art enthusiasts whose purpose is to support Finnish visual art and to promote its members' knowledge and appreciation of art. During its more than 70-year history, Maecenas Kilta has taken part in several art policy initiatives, often together with the Artists' Association of Finland. Kilta is not an advocacy or lobbying organization.

Maecenas Kilta provides concrete support to young artists. In practice, more than half of the membership fees are directed to this purpose. Since 2001, Kilta has awarded a grant to a young artist in connection with the Young Artists Exhibition produced by the Artists' Association of Finland. In addition, Kilta may acquire an artwork from the exhibition. All acquired works have been deposited with the HUS Art Committee.

For over 70 years, the original mission of Maecenas Kilta has been to make art accessible to everyone – especially in public spaces. We also aim to deepen our members' knowledge of and interest in art. This is achieved through an active program of diverse events based on members' interests. We visit exhibitions and artists' studios and organize art-related trips both in Finland and abroad. Through these activities we offer meaningful experiences, broaden artistic understanding, and strengthen our sense of community.

New members join Maecenas Kilta by invitation. The number of members is established at approximately 90. Members and their spouses/partners may participate in events and activities. Members represent a wide range of professions and share an interest in visual art, with several also being art collectors. Membership has also fostered many lasting friendships among people who share an interest in art and culture.

Kilta finances its activities primarily through membership fees. Any sponsorship agreements or commercial cooperation are considered and decided separately by the Kilta board.

[www.maecenaskilta.fi](http://www.maecenaskilta.fi)

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