

Beloved Moomins and their creator presented at National Children’s Museum

*This fall, National Children’s Museum in Washington, D.C. features a special visiting exhibition from Finland, dedicated to the beloved Moomin animations. In this exhibit, kids can learn about Moomin values, the hugely popular animated series featuring these cuddly creatures – and the woman behind it all, **Tove Jansson**. Throughout the autumn, special hybrid programming will be hosted at the Museum and online.*

The exhibition presents digigraphs of Jansson’s original artwork, photos of her life, and episodes of five different Moomin animations.

As part of the annual [Kids Euro Festival](#) in D.C., organized by the EU Delegation to the United States, the Embassy of Finland and National Children’s Museum will give out **400 free tickets** to the exhibition on October 10, 16, 17 and 24 (100 tickets/day). For those that are not able to attend in person, the Festival offers a variety of free online programming for all to enjoy at home. In addition, special Meet & Greets with Moomintroll, a central character in Moomin books and animations, will be held during the Festival in October.

Throughout the autumn, families can enjoy these special hybrid events either at the Museum or online:

- **Who is Moomintroll? (Saturday, September 25, 10:30 am EDT)**
How and why did Tove Jansson invent the Moomintroll character and how has he changed over the years? Join Minna Honkasalo, who works at the world’s only Moomin Museum in Finland, as she tells the story of how Moomintroll was born. [More info.](#)
- **The Animation Behind Moominvalley (Saturday, October 16, 10:30 am EDT)**
Join a livestream with director Jay Grace to hear all about how the award-winning *Moominvalley* TV series (Gutsy Animations, 2019) came to life. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process of Moominvalley’s animation. [More info.](#)
- **The Music of Moominvalley (Saturday, November 20, 10:30 am EDT)**
Composers Samuli Kosminen and Jarmo Saari share how they made the music for the hit TV series *Moominvalley* (Gutsy Animations, 2019). Find out the most bizarre instruments that were used. [More info.](#)
- **Christmas in Moominvalley (Saturday, December 11, 10:30 am EDT)**
Join us to hear and discuss a lovely Moomin story written by Tove Jansson and learn about the holiday traditions of her native country Finland. [More info.](#)

Tove Jansson, the creator of the Moomins, was ahead of her time

Finnish artist and author Tove Jansson is one of the most successful and best-known Finns of all time. Her books have been translated into more than 55 languages. Jansson wrote her first Moomin story during the Winter War (1939–1940). She wanted to bring joy and comfort in the middle of the darkness of war by creating a harmonic fantasy world independent of time, place or religion: Moominvalley.

Born in 1914, Jansson grew up in a Finland that looked completely different from that of today. Women had gained the right to vote eight years before her birth and it was not common for young women to build careers. Homosexuality was considered a crime in the country until 1971. Despite this, Jansson lived bravely and openly as a queer woman and a working artist with a successful career. She was an artist full of creative energy, a true cosmopolitan, who embraced freedom in life.

The recent biopic of the artist's life, [TOVE \(2020\)](#), was Finland's Oscar candidate at the 2021 Academy Awards.

Moomin stories and animation series have been an immense success in Jansson's native Finland and globally. Although 20 years have passed since Jansson's death, her legacy lives on, as new generations of children discover Moomins and their beautiful life lessons about friendship, inclusion, and equality. The stories continue to inspire new adaptations: Finnish production company Gutsy Animations published the latest Moomin animated TV series, *Moominvalley*, in 2019.

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About the exhibition

Moomin Animations – Thrills and Cuddles is produced by the world's only Moomin Museum in Finland where it was first shown two years ago. The exhibition is brought to the United States by the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., in cooperation with the Moomin Museum, Moomin Characters Ltd, Gutsy Animations and National Children's Museum.

For general audience: To enter the Museum and visit the Moomin Animations Exhibition, adults (18+) are to be accompanied by a child (0-12). To inquire about adult-only tickets, please email the Museum at ticketing@nationalchildrensmuseum.org. Children aged 13-17 are welcome with an adult-only ticket or as a close relative of a child (0-12).

Press visits can be arranged for media interested in experiencing the exhibit. Please contact Meredith Hamme [mhamme\(at\)nationalchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:mhamme(at)nationalchildrensmuseum.org) for more information.

Find more information about the exhibition online:

[Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C.](#)

[National Children's Museum](#)

[Download images of the exhibition here](#)

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