

Authentic Nature in Charming Mosaics. Oshibana Art

Kai Lillekaardid | June 2025 in Pädaste Manor

A unique exhibition dedicated to nature features captivating patterns and mosaics made from real pressed flowers.

The works, created by Kai Tomasberg, use only local plants collected from the forests of Pärnumaa and her home garden. In addition to blossoms, the images also feature leaves, stems, needles, moss, and seeds. Even humble weeds have found their place on these cards. Each bloom and every flower is unique and unrepeatable in its beauty – this is precisely what the artist aims to convey through her work.

The art of arranging pressed flowers, known as *oshibana*, originates from Japan, where this peaceful pastime has been cherished and respected for centuries. Today, *oshibana* is known and popular in many European countries, including Estonia. Love for nature, an appreciation of its pure beauty, and a respect for the balance and harmony of the natural world are all key characteristics of this art form.

Arranging flowers into patterns is a calming, soul-soothing, and therapeutic activity that brings joy and satisfaction to the creator. Kai's floral cards have reached many foreign countries, and her exhibitions have been held in Pärnu, Tartu, and Viljandi. On Estonia's Independence Day, her creative work was recognized with a certificate of appreciation from both the City of Pärnu and the Paikuse borough.

The artist's goal is to introduce viewers to the genuine nature of Estonia – the modest yet breathtakingly beautiful plants found in forests and meadows, along riverbanks and roadsides, which often go unnoticed. Kai believes that beauty doesn't need to be sought far and wide – it is here, all around us. One only needs to take the time to notice it.

For exhibition visitors, a Flower Guide is available, listing all the plants used in the creation of each piece.

