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Moomins Come Ashore in Seattle

Two exhibitions from Finland's Moomin Museum arrive at the National Nordic Museum, March 28–Sept. 6, 2026

Beloved characters bring messages of empathy, adventure, and hope in uncertain times

Seattle, WA (March 3, 2026) — This spring, the National Nordic Museum will present two joint exhibitions—*The Moomins' Sea Adventures* and *Tove and the Sea*—opening March 28 and running through September 6, 2026. This presentation marks the first time these exhibitions from Tampere, Finland, home of the world's only Moomin Museum, have ever traveled across the Atlantic, bringing one of the Nordic region's most beloved cultural icons to the United States.

At a moment marked by global uncertainty, fear, and division, these exhibitions highlight the enduring relevance of Tove Jansson's Moomins—stories rooted in kindness, resilience, curiosity, and a deep respect for nature. Together, the exhibitions explore the sea as both a literal and symbolic force: a space of adventure, danger, refuge, and transformation that shaped Jansson's life and creative vision.

Produced originally by the Moomin Museum, *The Moomins' Sea Adventures* immerses visitors in the imaginative world of Moominvalley through vibrant illustrations, life-sized characters, and an interactive island environment featuring a towering lighthouse and red rowboats visitors can sit in and imagine adventures of their own. Sometimes mistaken for hippopotamuses, the Moomins are trolls, although of a very different kind than recycled wooden one that stands outside the National Nordic Museum. Designed for visitors of all ages, the exhibition invites play, exploration, and emotional connection.

Tove and the Sea offers a more intimate counterpoint, tracing Tove Jansson's lifelong relationship with the Finnish archipelago through large-scale photographs and reflective texts. The exhibition explores Jansson's evolution from a curious child to a fiercely independent artist, shaped by creativity, travel, and her life with partner Tuulikki Pietilä on their island in the Finnish archipelago. This presentation marks the premiere of a new photographic exhibition, including images of their shared life by the sea. Pietilä was born in Seattle before returning to Finland with her family as a toddler, creating a meaningful local connection.

“The Moomin stories bring a message to Seattle which the world deeply needs,” said Låth Carlson, Executive Director of the National Nordic Museum. “Their stories remind us that gentleness can be powerful, that imagination helps us survive uncertainty, and that community matters most when times feel unstable.”

Created by Swedish-speaking Finnish artist, author, and illustrator Tove Jansson (1914–2001), the Moomins have captivated generations through books, comics, and animation. Drawing from the collections of the Moomin Museum, the exhibitions feature illustrations, photographs, film, and immersive environments that reveal how Jansson used storytelling to explore belonging, emotional honesty, and coexistence with nature. Interest in the Moomins continues to grow globally, with a new animated film written and directed by Rebecca Sugar currently in development and a new Moomin video game scheduled for release this year.

“As the home city of the Moomin Museum, we in Tampere are proud to see the Moomin exhibition — and the message and values it carries — travel beyond geographical borders. This exhibition and collaboration are once again a wonderful example of that,” said from the City of Tampere's Deputy Mayor Anne-Mari Jussila.

Developed by the Moomin Museum in Tampere—the official home of Tove Jansson’s original works—*The Moomins’ Sea Adventures* and *Tove and the Sea* examine the central role of the sea in Jansson’s art and philosophy, from storm-tossed journeys to quiet island life. Their presentation at the National Nordic Museum reflects a shared Nordic commitment to storytelling that connects humanity, nature, and imagination.

The Moomins’ Sea Adventures and Tove and the Sea

- National Nordic Museum, Seattle
- March 28–September 6, 2026
- Included with museum admission—family programs, public events, and community celebrations, including Moomin Day in August, will take place throughout the exhibition run.

Learn more

For exhibition details, tickets, and related programming, visit nordicmuseum.org or follow the National Nordic Museum on social media.

Sponsorship

Moomins’ Sea Adventures and *Tove and the Sea* are made possible with support from 4Culture, Anna Louise Falck Family Foundation, the Nysether Family Foundation, ArtsFund. Media sponsors include The Seattle Times, KUOW, and The Stranger. Additional support is provided by ArtsWA, The Barbaro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture.

About the National Nordic Museum

The National Nordic Museum is the only museum in the United States that showcases the impact and influence of Nordic values and innovation in contemporary society and tells the story of 12,000 years of Nordic history and culture, across all five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) as well as three autonomous regions (Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and

Åland) and the cultural region of Sápmi. The Museum shares Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences, and serving as a community gathering place. For more information, please visit www.nordicmuseum.org.

About the Moomin Museum – Tampere, Finland

This exhibition is produced by The Home of Moomin Museum Tampere, Finland. The Moomin Museum is the world's only museum dedicated to the beloved Moomin characters, created by Finnish author and illustrator Tove Jansson (1914–2001). Located in Tampere, Finland, the museum offers an immersive experience for Moomin fans and art lovers of all ages. Visitors can explore Tove Jansson's original Moomin illustrations and discover dozens of captivating 3D tableaux – detailed scenes that visualize Jansson's enchanting Moomin stories.

In 1986, Tove Jansson donated her collection of over 2,000 original works to the city of Tampere – now the home of the world's only Moomin Museum.

Press Assets

[Moomins Press Kit—National Nordic Museum](#)

Media Contact:

Marney Freeland press@nordicmuseum.org

206.789.5707 x7022