

Product information  
Birds by Klenell,  
deliveries start 22nd of March, 2010:  
For prices, contact your local distributor.

Harakka Baby 170 x 100 mm	199 €
Harakka Mommy 178 x 200 mm	390 €
Harakka Daddy 170 x 305 mm	390 €
Harakka Little sister 170 x 160 mm	299 €
Harakka Brother 170 x 220 mm	339 €
Korpi Baby 170 x 100 mm	199 €
Korpi Mommy 178 x 200 mm	390 €
Korpi Pappa 170 x 305 mm	390 €
Korpi Little sister 170 x 160 mm	299 €
Korpi Brother 170 x 220 mm	339 €



#### Further information:

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#### Distribution:

www.iittala.com  
see: Stores  
or: Contact => Sales Units

## Klenell's thieving magpies hide your treasures

The inspiration for the glass birds created by Iittala's newest glass designer, the Swede **Matti Klenell**, came from the magpie. These birds are well-known for stealing jewels and other shiny objects and hiding them in their nests. Klenell wanted to incorporate the same idea of hiding something into his new pieces. In the process, he has given his glass birds a practical use alongside their aesthetic one – drawing on the varied skills of the glassblowers and craftsmen at Iittala's Nu-utajärvi glassworks. The result is an exciting new addition to the Iittala Birds collection.



**Matti Klenell** is the fourth designer to add his vision to the steadily growing Iittala Birds collection. Professor **Oiva Toikka** created his first small Sieppos in the early 1970s, and the hundreds of offspring that have followed since then continue to attract collectors worldwide. He was joined by the Italian designer Giorgio Vigna, whose sculptural creations were added to the collection in 2007. Finnish designer, Anu Penttinen's humorous 'Cartoon Chicks' followed in 2008.

Despite his youth, Matti Klenell has already made quite a name for himself, winning eg. the prestigious Ljunggren Design Prize in 2003. Klenell has designed furniture and lighting, and his customers include BRIO, Moooi, Muuto, Offecct, and Bals Tokyo.

For Iittala Klenell designed two families of birds: the Harakka (Magpie) family and the Ko-



rpi (Deep Forest) family, both with two generations of members.

### Art with a function

When Klenell was commissioned to be the fourth designer to contribute to the Iittala Birds collection, he says he was very excited: "It was an honour to be given the opportunity to be part of the tradition created by Oiva Toikka, and to work with the craftsmen at the Nuutajärvi glassworks. – It was also a special feeling to think that this was the same glassworks that had produced the Prisma glassware designed by **Kaj Franck** that I use every day!"

Klenell's birds comprise two or three parts, which add to their sculptural qualities. They also include a functional feature that is unique in the Iittala Birds collection: the hollow bottom sections of his birds can be used as handy little boxes to keep treasures, such as jewels, notes, and memories – just like the magpie.

Klenell was keen to add a functional dimension to the aesthetic qualities of his birds: "Many people often don't put flowers in a beautiful glass vase, as they feel they would detract from the beauty of the vase, and that seems a pity in many respects." "There's a long tradition of using glass objects as hiding places, and there are many examples in mythology and history of urns and vases being used for this purpose. The stolen diamonds in detective stories are often thrown into a Ming vase, and people



Korpi family

playing computer games often need to look inside an urn to find further clues for the game."

### A celebration of expert glassblowing

Glass is a familiar material to Klenell and one in which he excels, as his exhibition of unique glass pieces in Stockholm in 2008 showed. Working with the craftsmen at Nuutajärvi gave Klenell the opportunity to continue his exploration of what glass can offer.

His Birds by Klenell collection is a celebration of glass technique and colour. The black-

and-white Harakka family combines black, white, and clear glass, and depends on a range of moulds and traditional tools to make them possible. The Korpi family, in contrast, is very colourful, combining pink heads or beaks and dark blue bottom sections, or green, black, red, and white, with colour drawn on the surface in bands or blown into the body of the glass.

Both families have five members – Mommy, Daddy, Brother, Little Sister, and Baby – each with their own distinctive character. And their own story to tell.