



Kari Kola

 **Photonics Joensuu**

VALOPARTA oy 

Light artist and entrepreneur

kari@valoparta.com
+358 44 0574555

Kari Kola is a light artist and the CEO of Valoparta Oy and the art and event garden Botania Oy. He has over 20 years of experience in light art and is globally recognised as a pioneer in the art form and a trailblazer of large-scale outdoor installations. Kola has worked in a leading role in over 2,000 different projects.

At the start of his career, Kari Kola worked as a lighting designer for theatres and performing arts projects, including designing and executing lighting for operas, concerts, and dance performances. Since 2008, Kola has focused particularly on creating large-scale outdoor installations.

Kari Kola is best known to the general public for his large light art installations, such as the Luminous Finland 100 project, which celebrated Finland's 100th anniversary. The Luminous Finland 100 installation consisted of six major light artworks across the country, including the extremely challenging lighting of Saana Fell.

Additionally, Kari has worked at significant historical sites, such as the UNESCO headquarters and Stonehenge. Kari Kola is the only person in the world who has done light art at these locations. He is also the only Finnish artist to have created the main artwork for the European Capital of Culture (Galway 2020). Kola has visited over 70 countries in pursuit of science, research, and light art.

In 2018, Kola acquired the operations of Botania, the northernmost botanical garden in Europe, located in Joensuu, Finland. Kari Kola's vision is to develop Botania into an internationally appealing event garden and tourist destination. His work combines art and nature, which has been a central theme in his projects.

Areas of expertise:

- Light art and light installation design
- Installations that combine nature and art
- Cultural and international art collaborations
- Event art and celebratory installations
- Creative leadership and innovative light art